

Somersworth, NH  
April 4, 2011

The meeting was called to order by His Honor, the Acting Mayor Brian Tapscott and upon roll call the following members were present: Pepin, Watman, Spainhower, McCallion, Messier, Witham, Jarvis and Sprague

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON 03/21/2011 ON RESOLUTION NO. 18-11 TO ESTABLISH A CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, OR REHABILITATION.

Councilors said that they did not receive these minutes. They will be voted on at a subsequent meeting.

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 03/21/2011.

The Council passed these minutes unanimously. (Witham/Watman-second. McCallion abstained.)

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP HELD ON 03/28/2011.

The minutes passed unanimously. (Spainhower/Pepin-second. McCallion abstained.)

COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

There were no comments by visitors.

COMMUNICATIONS.

COMMUNICATION FROM WALTER L. ROSS

March 24, 2011

To all members of the Somersworth City Council!

Once again it is time for you to consider next year's City budget, and once again I ask that you pass a budget with NO TAX increase.

For the past two years we the seniors and retirees have had no raises or cost of living increases. All seniors and retirees are having a very difficult time in making ends meet.

It is most important to all the taxpayers of this City to have a balanced budget with no TAX increase.

I have been reading the articles in the paper about the up and coming City budget with increases in the school and town budgets which, if allowed to stand, will increase our taxes. I urge you to consider a NO tax increase for the good of our taxpayers who are all struggling to keep afloat.

Walter L. Ross  
73 Maple Street  
Somersworth, NH 03878

#### MAYOR'S REPORT.

There was no Mayor's report for this meeting.

#### REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

##### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilor Jarvis reported that the Finance Committee met last Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. They approved the previous minutes. They discussed and then voted unanimously to move forward with land and building sales on four parcels. The investment policy was discussed by Scott Smith, the Finance Director. They will monitor it. No action was taken. They motioned to adjourn at 9:35 am

##### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Councilor Watman reported that the Public Safety Committee met on March 22, 2011 at 9:00 am; all were present, as well as the City Manager and Captain Timmons. There was an AMR (American Medical Response) presentation by Operations Manager, Paul Robidas and Scott Schuler, AMR Shift Commander, relative to their emergency services. They gave an informative power point presentation and there were questions. The committee will meet at a later date to discuss recommendations.

Councilor Watman said that Councilor Witham discussed the resolution he filed, No 19-11, to authorize the prompt purchase of one police cruiser to be funded in the next fiscal year's budget. They are cognizant of the timing issues involved and the committee voted to recommend that they approve that resolution. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

#### REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

##### SCHOOL BOARD

Councilor Pepin attended the School Board meeting on March 22, 2011. One of the major things that they discussed is creating a new position of assistant principal at the new elementary school. They re-appropriated funds from Special Education, estimated at about \$100,000. Also the Building and Grounds Committee made a list of what repairs

could be made after May 1, 2011. They are looking at unspent revenue and using 50% of that for building repairs. There was discussion about maintenance personnel; they decided to stay with three part time people.

### JOINT BUILDING COMMITTEE

Councilor Messier gave the report for the Joint Building Committee:

Idlehurst School  
Somersworth, NH  
17 March 2011  
Joint Building Committee

#### ON SITE CURRENT & COMPLETE

Brick veneer continues at Administrative area  
Metal stud and smoke walls complete at Administration  
Gypsum sheathing complete at A & B wings  
Boiler installations ongoing  
Casework installation on going at B wing  
Ceiling grid 80% complete at B wing  
Ceiling grid has begun at A wing  
Primer coat ongoing at C wing  
Snow/weather management  
Walk in coolers installed

#### ON SITE NEXT TWO WEEKS

Gypsum sheathing at cafeteria soffits  
Masonry veneer complete  
Boilers expected to be operational the third week of March  
Painting ongoing through C wing  
Tile floor at kitchen

#### ONE MONTH OUT

Mechanical, Electrical & sprinkler trade rough-in ongoing  
Painting ongoing  
Casework through A & B wings  
Gypsum wall board at Administrative area  
Floor preparations at A & B wings

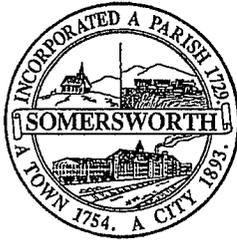
### COAST

Councilor Watman reported that the COAST Board of Directors met on March 23, 2011 at 8:30 am. He noted that the Board voted to purchase four used busses. He said that these busses service Dover commuter routes and at times, Route 2. They replace 1988 busses with brand spanking new 1995 busses for a total of \$176,000. Used busses have

proved satisfactory as they do not get the full use of the other busses and there is a savings.

He said that there is a report of municipal savings; some towns came in under their assessment. He said that Farmington was about \$250 short of what they had been asked. Newington appropriated the full amount without discussion. He was glad to hear that. As he has mentioned before, these funds leverage a federal match of four or five times as much.

CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER.



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

**TO: Mayor Lincoln Soldati and City Council Members**

**FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager**

**DATE: Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011**

**SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
City Council Agenda**

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**6:45 p.m. Public Hearing on Ordinance 9-11  
Amend Chapter 19, Zoning Ordinance, Section 13  
Riparian and Wetland Buffer District Ordinance.**

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***Unfinished Business (under Section 12 of the Agenda):***

**Ordinances:**

- A. Ordinance No. 9-11 Amend Chapter 19, Zoning Ordinance, Section 13, Riparian and Wetland Buffer District Ordinance.** I would request that City Planner Dave Sharples handle any questions from City Council. I recommend he give a brief explanation prior to start of the Public Hearing.

**Resolutions:**

- A. Resolution No. 19-11 To Authorize the City Manager to Order One Police Cruiser which will be Funded in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget.** Chief

Crombie and Captain Timmons plan to attend and they will be prepared to address any specific cruiser questions.

- B. Resolution No. 20-11 Resolution for the City of Somersworth to Encourage/Participate in Regionalization Efforts.** Presently, the City is engaged in some limited regional efforts such as salt purchasing as well as our involvement with the NH Public Works Mutual Aid Program. I welcome the opportunity to continue to explore further cost saving regionalization efforts with staff and the Council.

**Other:**

- A. Discussion Item – Hilltop School Reuse.**

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

**A. Informational Items:**

1. **Vision 2020 Committee Logo Design.** The Committee met with the Somersworth High School marketing class and narrowed the choice down to two designs which will be reworked by the students and revisited in the future.
2. **City Website.** We will be switching the website's banner photos to more current ones in the next week or so. (Thank you Councilor Watman for the suggestion.) We will be adding to it as we move forward perhaps with an eventual seasonal approach to the photos. Also, in April we will be launching a survey (see attached) so that we might gather public input towards future website improvements.
3. **Nobile Pines Project.** To date, we have received \$2,200 in donations. We have received word from three more local businesses for financial donations (total of \$2,600 pledged) as well as a donation for materials and labor from a local business for the pavilion.

**Note: they are also submitting an application to Home Depot in regards to the possibility of them supplying the labor to actually build a pavilion which would save them \$10,000 to \$14,000.**

**B. Attachments:**

1. Attorney Certification (3).
2. E-Newsletter – April 2011.
3. City Manager Memorandums (4): Fire Department Recalls, Sale of Surplus City Property, Project Coordinator for Superfund Site, Comcast Cable Franchise Agreement Renewal.
4. Rollinsford Planning Board Notice for April 5, 2011 Hearing.

Councilor Spainhower noted that the Fire Chief is giving them a lot more information. He appreciates that. He asked if they can also get a break down of recalls and how many personnel are coming.

Councilor Witham concurred.

#### NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS.

##### CEMETERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- David Eastman, Term to Expire 02/16.
- Frank Kennedy, Term to Expire 04/15.

Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Messier, moved to accept these appointments. The motion passed.

##### CONSERVATION COMMISSION

- Frank Richardson, Term to Expire 04/14.
- Imants Millers, Term to Expire 04/14.
- Elizabeth Wilson, Term to Expire 04/14.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Messier, moved to accept these appointments. The motion passed.

##### PLANNING BOARD

- Erwin Grant, Term to Expire 04/14.
- Ron LeHoullier, Term to Expire 04/14.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Pepin, moved to accept these appointments.

Councilor Witham said that it may appear that they are just rubber stamping these candidates, but that he would vote no if needed. He certainly endorses these candidates.

The motion passed.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

##### ORDINANCES

##### ORDINANCE NO. 9-11 AMEND CHAPTER 19, ZONING ORDINANCE, SECTION 13, RIPARIAN AND WETLAND BUFFER DISTRICT ORDINANCE.

Councilor Watman understands the purpose of this change in ordinance, but notes his concern that ...Bay State Forestry (representatives), who were at a meeting where this

was discussed, and expressed concerns with our ordinance ... (do) not have Somersworth on their radar screen casually: they probably have some project in mind. Councilor Watman wonders if any application has been made to do any forestry activities ...covered by this ordinance that has previously been denied.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to allow Planner Dave Sharples to answer this concern.

Planner Sharples answered that no applications had been submitted.

Councilor Watman asked if these people were present at the meeting at someone's request or whether they actually requested that the Commission consider this matter.

Planner Sharples said that the way he understands it, they looked at our ordinances because they were looking to conduct forestry activities on a parcel that a client owned and realized that they needed a conditional use permit. They called Planner Sharples to confirm that, and asked if there was an exception for forest management activities. They asked who to contact and he told them to start with the Conservation Commission, so they were the catalyst for it.

Councilor Witham said that when this was passed by the Planning Board, he was the only member that did not support it, which is why this ordinance is by request. He said that the question is, "Why would we want to allow additional timber harvest?" The ordinance as written would limit timber harvesting; as a lay person that seems like a good thing.

Planner Sharples said ...that this doesn't allow it in the buffer, it just allows access. Access is allowed now, he said that he figures that they would get approval now, but they would go through the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board to secure a conditional use permit for the two examples outlined to get to get to an area of jurisdictional wetland.

Councilor Witham said that we have had some instances of a fair amount of timber "harvested", and he said he uses that term loosely, where it doesn't look like forestry management practices were employed. He said that they have to get approval from State DES in order to harvest in these wetlands and he assume that that is fairly tightly regulated and would not be clear-cutting of those areas.

Planner Sharples said that it is a "permit by notification", ...but you have to follow extensive rules, i.e. time of year, not taking out any roots or stumps, or removing any ground cover over three feet. It is just going in and cutting the timber during frozen conditions in a wetland. He said that second scenario about crosses, they have stream crossing rules; you need to follow all of these minimum requirements and need a permit to do so. He said there ... are erosion control measures etc, and they are fairly stringent, the requirements that you have to comply with.

Councilor Witham asked about staff time involved. He asked if he was correct that staff would need to monitor the Riparian crossing, but nothing further.

Planner Sharples answered in the affirmative, saying that they would pay attention to the buffer making sure that they stayed in the (appropriate) area.

Councilor Spainhower said that he has red flags in his head. He asked why a company of a certain size would come in wanting us to change our rules; is it money, he asked? Is it easier for them? It seems like they can do it now. Why would we want this to be a little easier for a giant company?

Planner Sharples said that outside of notification of abutters, there is about a \$100 filing fee as well as a \$35 advertising fee, so you are talking about a couple of hundred dollars. He said the process can take a couple of months because you have to go through the Conservation Commission and then on to the Planning Board. He said then there would be Site Plan requirements, where you would have to delineate the wetlands. That would take some funds to do that.

Councilor Spainhower clarified that that is the way it is now. If we pass this ordinance they would not have to go through this process. Abutters wouldn't have to know about it, they couldn't complain.

Planner Sharples said if they did complain, they would have to go out and investigate it and make sure that they comply. If they comply, there would be no violation, but abutters would not be notified if this amendment passed.

Councilor Spainhower said that with that answer he has made up his mind that he is not in favor of it. He thinks it is nice if things are easier and less restrictive, but if an abutter doesn't know about it and can't complain about it, he guesses he wouldn't be in favor of it.

Councilor Sprague doesn't know what is wrong with making things easier and cost less. As a property owner, what are his rights? Just to pay taxes? He said he doesn't get this. If he has trees, and wants to cut trees down, he should be able to cut trees down, whether it is all of them or one of them. This is just making this a little more streamlines, a little easier. It is allowed anyway by the State. It is going to cost the contractor or the company a little bit less. You getting shaken up about abutters and they can buy the land; if they don't want the trees cut down, buy the land.

Councilor Messier agrees with Councilor Sprague, this still doesn't take away best forestry management practices. The people own the land. He said that we as a community have done some forest cutting and taken the trees and taken the revenue. He doesn't know why we want to keep it restrictive for a landowner. He was happy to see the Planning Board do something that made things streamlined and less restrictive. These are tough times and people ought to have the right. As the Councilor said, the neighbors and abutters can purchase the property. ...It is not as if they are going to go in and clear-cut;

there are still some rules that they have to follow. ...It has to go through a process, let alone that this thing tonight went through the Conservation Commission, it seems to him that Dr. Richardson and some of those people, if they thought this were negative to the community, that they would (not) support it. It went through a process of the Planning Board where it was said one member did not support it ...and it is here in front of us. There are enough restrictions that he does not think it is going to ruin the community. He supports it.

Councilor Pepin will support this simply because they are going through the proper channels, they've gone through the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board. He has complained about timbering being done in his zone, but that is because it was not done legally and that is his biggest thing...If people go through the proper channels and they are supported by the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board, then he would vote in favor of it.

Ordinance No. 19-11 passed. (Spainhower opposed.)

## RESOLUTIONS

### RESOLUTION NO. 19-11 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ORDER ONE POLICE CRUISER WHICH WILL BE FUNDED IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012 BUDGET.

Councilor Witham said that this allows us to get a jump start on the acquisition of a police cruiser which will be funded by the budget which we have yet to pass. To be clear, they are committing themselves to at least \$32,000 for the next fiscal year budget. Typically the Police Department has been on a 2-1-2-1 cycle for the purchase of police cars, where they would purchase 2 one year and 1 the following year. This Council, for legitimate reasons, derailed that last year; though it was a year for two cruisers, they only allocated one. That allocation was made when they passed the budget in June: here we are in April of the following year that cruiser has still not yet arrived because of difficulty in acquiring it. This allows us to get a head start and get that vehicle quicker than we might otherwise.

Councilor Messier said that another reason to support this is that in the past budget cycle, we did not pass that until the end June. By that time, the Police Department has a tough time finding them because most town meetings are done and vehicles are ordered and they are taken up. What this does is at least get us in the front end of that line, so maybe we can catch up to the (2-1-2-1) scenario.

Resolution No. 19-11 passed unanimously.

### RESOLUTION NO. 20-11 RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH TO ENCOURAGE/PARTICIPATE IN REGIONALIZATION EFFORTS.

Councilor Sprague said that this was one of the goals that they had in goal setting. It says to “encourage”, not “have to.” ...At the County level they are doing things like the salt purchases and trash contracts put out to bid, so at the very least, he thinks that Somersworth, Rochester and Dover need to get together. He thinks we would be the biggest benefitter of the three, with trying to regionalize some of their services. Health inspection, assessing, code enforcement; (it) makes sense that we could streamline. How the specifics would get ironed out, they have yet to see, but at least they could talk.

Councilor Witham agrees with any effort that would urge them to look at regionalization efforts. His only concern with this ordinance, he said, is the terminology that says “participate in”. It seems to imply that we will participate in and he doesn’t like the idea of being held hostage by that language. He would like to make a motion to amend Resolution 20-11 by removing the term “/participating in” the resolution title and in the final paragraph, “now therefore” paragraph, to eliminate in the third line- “and participate in”.

Councilor Watman seconded the amendment saying that before any actual reconfiguring of how services are supplied or purchases are done, and although he thinks in this case “participate” means “discussions” it could be taken to mean that we go one step further and carry that out without further discussion. ...It doesn’t hurt ...to retain our prerogative as representatives to the taxpayers of this City, that’s why he supports this amendment.

Councilor Sprague said that he is comfortable with that, suggesting other changes to the ordinance.

City Manager Belmore asked for clarification. He said that they currently do some procurement, and he used salt as an example. He is concerned about limiting his authority to work with certain department heads on certain issues that may not rise to the level of coming forward with a resolution. With regards to sharing a health officer or dramatic service delivery to the community, he can understand that, but there are other issues that bog down how they move forward on certain day to day, year to year functions of the community.

The amendment to Resolution No. 20-11 is to eliminate the words “/participate in” the title and the words “and participate in” in the in the final paragraph.

The amendment to Resolution No. 20-11 passed. (Spainhower and Messier opposed.)

Resolution No. 20-11, as amended, passed unanimously.

#### OTHER

#### DISCUSSION ITEM-HILLTOP SCHOOL REUSE.

There was no discussion

### COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

Real Roseberry hoped that people picked up the paper this morning and read the Census bureau (information). The prediction that he made to the last City Council is coming true. From 2000 to 2010 they seem to have lost 281 kids. The population went up by 299 people. The units went up by 358 units but our taxes didn't go down ...we're spending more money than we are taking in, let's look at that. Growth percentage from 2000 to 2010 for "under 18" was -9.3%. We lost a lot of kids. And the units that were built was 7.4. If we have all these units, our taxes should be going down. I don't see our taxes going down.

...The schools should be worrying about their retirement, not fighting me. The schools have got to smarten up and we have got to buckle down and ...tell the union to go jump. He's not afraid to say it. This union has ruined this City, he said.

He said another state voted, (5 of 9), that "vouchers" are legal to go to school where they want. You better watch it, he said, those vouchers are coming back. Let's go for the vouchers. Let's tell some of these people that enough is enough.

Why do you think that taxpayers made such a big change? He hates to say it, we had a lot of good democrats; knocked 'em all out. That should have told the democrats, "You're all done." The unions support the democrats and the democrats are falling for the unions. The unions, all they want is their dues, they don't care about you small people. He's always said if you belong to a union; keep your dues and your money at home. Use it for yourself, but when you have to send it to Cincinnati so that they can get rich! ...Acht! Get's him mad. The unions are on there way out and he is right about that the way he has been right about everything. The unions are using the poor teachers the same as the government uses the people and it is the taxpayers that pay. Who pays for the union? It is the teachers, the firemen, policemen; the low class are paying their dues to get these guys richer. You ought to see the money that they are making. It is unbelievable. Start checking them and you will be amazed like I have been amazed. Remember, let's keep the taxes down. He still says we didn't need that new school. They call it the "mausoleum of Somersworth". If we are stuck with this school, he suggests that instead of the grammar school, they make that the high school and turn the high school into a grammar school, the older kids would do much better down there and less dangerous than the small kids coming out of there. It is going to be dangerous for the small kids. Making that the grammar school is ridiculous.

He doesn't want no problem but he is telling it the way he sees it. He will tell you to your face, not to your back. Let's start smartening up, He said.

### CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Councilor Watman was happy to see the efforts by the students relative to the Vision 2020 logo. He thought the submissions were great. He was impressed. He thinks they will be excellent and forward looking designs that mean something to us, he said...

He was also wildly ecstatic that after a year someone from Comcast has actually read over the proposal from the City of Somersworth for the renewal of the agreement with them! It only took a year! He thought that was really good of them and he appreciates that. Put it on the public record that that was very nice.

Relative to the upcoming budget workshop, he hates to say this, but it is the direction that he thinks things will have to go. He would hope that City Manager and Department heads will do something similar to what the school administration did and list a series of priority cuts from something, down to what would in fact be a zero increase in the tax rate, because he thinks this difficult situation is being made more difficult by the State, and he is not quite sure what will happen, finally, in our State government but, from the looks of it already, there is a heck of a lot of shifting coming down. Don't tax the poles, the utility companies; they can't really afford that- so residential property taxpayers will pay it instead. Regrettably he would ask and formally request ...for something like that to be done to make the best decision he can in difficult circumstances.

Relative to the Hilltop School, he will be one of the sponsors of a resolution that will be submitted at the next meeting. The only way to make progress is to bring items forward and have Council make decisions on which direction it would like to go and he thinks it is about time to ponder all the recommendations and comments.

Councilor Watman said he does not want to criticize another body, but he is somewhat disturbed by a sequence of events from the School Department, relative to after submission of the budget, creating a new position, revising expenditure projections and having in the background, Gee! Exactly enough money to cover the revised expenditure projections in case they don't come out to be true. He doesn't draw any conclusions, but is made somewhat uneasy by that and doesn't think it was done as transparently and openly as he would hope. Things that happen at the last minute and somehow fit into a little puzzle bother him at times. He expressed his unease, not his criticism.

Councilor Witham would also comment on the upcoming budget. He predicts this will be a most difficult and challenging time for this Council. Although it will only be his second budget, he will suggest that this will be ...difficult for everyone. There was a communication from Mr. Ross asking for a zero increase in the tax rate. Although he thinks he understands the need to control spending, he thinks that arriving at a zero increase in the tax rate is impossible unless they horrifically cut City services and he thinks "horrifically" might be an understatement. He said that things could change, but frankly he does not see them changing for the better. If they were to tell Department heads to come in with a zero increase in their budget, they would still need to cut another \$2M+ from their City budget in order to arrive at a zero increase in the tax rate. They could eliminate entire departments in this City and still not arrive at \$2M so he is not quite sure what that means other than that it is going to be a tremendous struggle for this body to come up with what might be an affordable increase. He thinks getting to zero is impossible; not without horrific consequences. That is the reality of the situation so it is going to be critically important for them to be prepared for that challenge.

On a more positive note, he echoed the comments of Councilor Watman regarding the designs from the high school students. He thought they were exceptional and loved the idea that they reached out and tried to partner with others instead of trying to dream something up on their own. These ideas are tremendous.

He commented on ...initial results of the U.S. Census. The last charter commission made a change that was approved by the voters with regard to examining ward boundaries. "Every ten years, in conjunction with the U.S. Census a review of Ward boundary lines shall be conducted." The impetus behind this was to use census data to review ward boundaries. Now that the data is available, does that not now trigger this? Perhaps the City Manager would offer an opinion and consult with legal counsel.

Councilor Pepin said that as representative of the City Council on the School Board, he sits in on all the School Board meetings. He listens to parents, students, and School Board members. He has the utmost respect for them but in turn when he looks at the budget, he looks at the students and says, "What can I do and how can I get these students to college?" Can I get them there in a Cadillac in our community? No. Can I get them there in a beat up pick-up truck? That's what he looks at. When he looks at the School budget he is trying to decide what kind of cuts to make to satisfy the taxpayer and keep a good education in our community and keep our community flourishing and have our students keep on going to achieve their objectives in life. He struggles.

It does bother him when the School Board brings up making another position. Maplewood and Idlehurst Elementary Schools will basically be the same amount of students, activities and the School board is really struggling with that. They don't know how much fuel or electricity the new school will take. It bothers him that as a City, they have made two positions in their community Fire Chief and Public Works Director and they have not increased their pay. They have gone out for a school superintendent and increased the pay to try to get a more qualified person. He is not sure if that worked or not...the other thing that really burns him is every time he comes to the end of the year, when he asks if they are going to have any money left over in their budget, so he can judge the next budget and he has been told they can't know until they close their books out at the end of the year. And low and behold the building maintenance people can get that number on May 1<sup>st</sup>. He hasn't been able to get it in his time here as a City Councilor member, it makes him a little upset. It is going to be very, very difficult for him to come up with a proposal of how much to cut out of the School Budget. They have given him a list of proposed reductions, as far as he can see this is not valid with what they have done in changing the budget.

Councilor Sprague said that it is going to hurt this year. He said to the School Board that bonding is now included in the amounts so they don't have to increase because of the bonding, it is figured in. When he talks about regionalization, they don't need five SAU's in this county and he is telling them that it is coming down the road. He said they don't need five superintendents or five assistants. If you want to find some cost measures

and ways to cut, he believes that down the road there will be regionalization in this county as for SAU's. It is going to happen. It's coming.

As far as the City side. He is going to start with zero, he believes it should be down to zero and it will come with some big cuts and it is going to hurt. It hurts at home too, he said. It has to stop. We need to seriously look at the way we do business. ...We really need to look at the way we do things. You need to come out during the public hearing and tell us what you don't want for services. We hear that you don't want taxes, but what can you live without? Do you need City Hall to be open five days a week? Can you live with it being open three days a week, like other communities do? Let us know what you can go without. You can't have it status quo the way it is; ...you can't have it both ways. He knows we are sandwiched between Rochester and Dover and they have a lot of different services. They are hurting, too. Other communities are feeling it. He really wants to hear from the public what you are willing to go without.

Councilor Messier said that concerning the budget we have a ways to go. He doesn't think we are getting any help from the county delegation ... but you know there is going to be a downshifting of cost. The House hasn't helped communities. ... So now we wait for the Senate, because in the budget they have to wonder what is going to be coming from there. This year there may not be any revenues, but a downshifting of costs. He doesn't know if it is realistic for them even to obtain a zero percent budget. They might as well just incorporate with Dover or Rochester because he doesn't see any help coming from above. ...It is going to interesting. It is still their community and they can't just let it deteriorate. People are paying taxes, we have to give something. ...We still have our community to look after and try to do the best they can.

Councilor McCallion said that four years ago he was waking up in night sweats because of some of the stuff he saw coming on, now ...the sad part is, it should not all be gloom and doom. There has got to be a way. Where there is a will, there is a way. Yes, we all want to see zero budget. And he likes one of the Councilor's comments about come down and say what you can do without. Realistically, that may be a way. It may have to be concessions on both sides. Who knows, but if you look at Somersworth in general, there are some things that we're on a good track. We've made some good investments. We do have a long way to go, roads and things we want to get done, but there are a lot of good things happening in this City: Sports teams and everything else, the marketing department. He just spent a couple of weeks in southern California for work. They are in the same boat. Google the video "Waiting for Superman", it's amazing. You've got to think outside the box. Be creative. Other cities have done it. We all need to be united in something and making it work. That's what we have to do. We've got to find ways to consolidate costs, services, and make it work.

Councilor Spainhower said that when people come out and say don't cut this or don't cut that, he hopes others will come out and say, this is what I want cut. If we are doing a zero budget this year, there are going to be a lot of cuts. He listens to people all the time complain about the roads. He can guarantee that if you want a zero budget, they aren't fixing any roads. Another thing that amazes him is, he is a democrat and he is at the State

house. He sits around a whole bunch of democrats. There are about a hundred of them up there, he said, so they didn't all get voted out. He is also a union member and a public servant and he doesn't know where he became an enemy, because no matter where he goes, he is an enemy. What people want to do is say he has something that he doesn't have. Please! Public servants are not enemies! So please stop saying that!

Councilor Jarvis wanted to get to what Councilor Watman had said and hopes that the City Manager as well as the Department heads do look at the budget and come in with some ideas of some of the cuts that would have to occur to bring it down to a zero budget, in that it not only gives them insight, but also the residents insight as to what the services would be inhibited by those cuts.

Acting Mayor Tapscott said that it looks as if it will be a very interesting Saturday morning.

Acting mayor Tapscott said that everybody can contact the City Clerk's office with future agenda items

ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm. (Witham/Watman-second. Motion passed.)

Respectfully submitted,



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Elise B. Brellis, Deputy City Clerk

