

Somersworth, NH  
February 21, 2012

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

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2012 CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor McCallion made a motion to pass the minutes of the February 21, 2012. Councilor Sprague wanted to amend the minutes saying that on the first page he wanted the workshop vote to reflect that he was present and did not abstain from the vote and on page 5, change 30 “inches” to 30 “feet”. All agreed to the amendments and the motion passed to approve the minutes as amended.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

Bill Connor, 41 Pinewood Drive, Ward 2, submitted and read the following:

Honorable Mayor & Council and any School Board members in attendance.

After viewing the city council meeting of 02/06/2012 regarding the maintenance and repair of our school buildings, I would offer a few feedback comments along with a suggestion for your consideration.

It is a well-known fact that some of our school buildings are in a state of mediocre at best. We should bring about our focus on what systems are in disrepair or most likely to fail. They should be documented on a new real-time software program for the planning of their remedial action.

This new real-time software program ought to be professionally generated, then utilized and updated by those who accomplish the maintenance and repair of the schools, thus allowing for its immediate real-time review by higher authorities. I assume that we have a central depository for our databases.

It would also appear that the indispensable facilities supervisor in charge of the maintenance and repair of the city’s schools has already completed most of the fieldwork data collection needed for input into such a new program.

In relation to this new program, it was recently announced by our current school board chairman that the State of New Hampshire would now only have limited funds available to support for the rehabilitation of schools. So that those communities, which might be thinking of applying for such limited funds, must have a history of self-improvement with

their schools, be able to provide records of maintenance and repair of their facilities, and possess a verifiable long-term plan of action for such a funding request to the State of NH.

Many would assume that the new Idlehurst schools reputation in energy efficiency, Architectural & Engineering construction excellence would carry some credence into the states decision making process and possibly award Somersworth such funding for the repair of other facilities.

Now some are going to sing that long-standing song of “We can not come up with the money” for any school C.I.P. projects.

I say we cannot afford not to! Least we forget what occurred with our Hilltop School’s inattention and neglect, finale in costly consequences.

However, if you do decide to fund and bond the schools C.I.P., I would not want to discover any indulgence or wasteful expenditures or deviations in this component of the school board budget.

Finally I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Honorable State Representatives who attended the most recent city council meeting to provide constituents with information as to what is currently ongoing with the county and state governmental affairs.

I am sure others, as well as myself, would most welcome you in the future and I thank you and your families very much for your time and efforts.

COMMUNICATIONS.

EMAIL FROM MARTIN DUMONT.

**From:** Martin Dumont [mdumont57@comcast.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 3:27 PM

**To:** Matthew Spencer

**Cc:** Elise B. Brelis

**Subject:** Resignation as ward 3 Moderator

Mayor Spencer Please consider this my notice that effective immediately I am resigning as the ward 3 Moderator. I will copy you on my notification to the City Clerk

Martin P. Dumont

MAYOR’S REPORT.

**Mayor’s Report of Monday, February 21, 2012**

- The Wire interview
- Skyhaven Airport meeting w/City Manager

(Note: Mayor Spencer appointed himself as an interim member of the SkyHaven Advisory Committee until he can find another interested person. Please let him know if you are interested.)

- NH State Attorney General's office in regards to Somersworth Housing Authority (SHA)
- (Note: It was confirmed that there are supposed to be six Commissioners on that Board: five appointed by the Mayor and one resident.)

- Traffic Safety meeting
- University of Phoenix visit
- Sustainability Committee
- Media Outlets for City publicity
- SHA appointments

(Note: The Mayor made his appointments based on what is best for the City and the image of the City.)

- Cemetery Board of Trustees

#### REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

##### FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Councilor Jarvis said that the Finance Committee has not met since the last meeting.

##### PUBLIC WORKS AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

Councilor Sprague said that they have not met recently but he would like to meet at the end of the week.

##### GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE.

Councilor Tapscott said that the Government Operations Committee met at 8 AM on 02/10/2012. He referred to the meeting minutes that were distributed. They discussed the "lame duck" committee membership and they discussed City Charter amendments with respect to City Council vacancies and the two changes proposed. He would like these items on next week's agenda for discussion purposes. They also discussed Ordinance No. 9-12 which they recommended to approve to Council. They also discussed recycling bins at the City Hall.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

Councilor McCallion reported that the Economic Development Committee has not met since the last Council meeting.

#### RECREATION COMMITTEE.

Councilor Pepin reported on the Recreation Committee meeting which was held on 02/14/2012. He noted attendance. They talked about the Nobel Pines Improvement plan and described it being done in three stages: the pavilion, the skateboard park and the misting station. They discussed recreation programs and fee structures which they will keep as they have in the past. They brought up baseball field upgrades by users and commended them for the work they do. He said there are soil erosion problems near the dug-out and the concession stand. He also talked about the Valentine's father/daughter dance which was well attended.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE.

Councilor Witham said that the Public Safety Committee met on 02/08/2012. Attendance was noted. Previous meeting minutes were passed. They reviewed the proposed fireworks ordinance changes; they want to ease the process for getting permits, enhance penalties for not having permits and clean up ambiguous language in the ordinance. Fire Chief Bliss will look at another draft which will be reviewed at their next meeting; changes would need to be approved by Council.

He also reported on the discussion about the Fire Department replacement overtime staffing line which is projected to be overspent by \$20,000. Because there are savings in other areas to offset this line, Finance and the FD agree that a supplemental appropriation is probably not needed this year. There is now a marked reduction in sick leave use and workers compensation claims. Councilor Witham commends personnel and the Chief.

They discussed call department staffing; they currently have five call firefighters and they would like to grow the department at a rate that would allow absorption of the growth into the current operating budget.

Captain Timmons briefed the committee on the existing police cruiser fleet. They discussed preordering a cruiser, and moving toward a standardized fleet. The motion to

draft a resolution to authorize the preorder was approved 2-0. That resolution will have a first reading tonight.

They also discussed regionalization, particularly dispatch services, perhaps for the 2014 budget.

An apparent change in outside burning allowed by the State was discussed.

#### VISION 2020 COMMITTEE.

Councilor McCallion said that the Vision 2020 will meet on Monday.

#### SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE.

Councilor Soldati said that the Sustainability Committee met on 02/17/2012. Dave Sharples provided a history of the City's look at energy savings through energy audits. They were pleased to see that the City has done a pretty darned good job implementing some cost effective steps and had real energy savings.

They looked at this in response to Resolution No. 19-12 and the committee decided that they are in favor of any efforts the City might make and any company that might want to come in at no cost to the City and provide an energy audit.

She reminded everyone who might be interested in a plot of land at the City Gardens to notify the Public Works Department. They plan to launch the community gardens on the weekend of April 21<sup>st</sup>.

She said, in response to a previous question from Councilor Sprague, that they are researching whether they need Council approval to use the land ( for the community gardens); the land has previously been used for that purpose which is why there is water there.

#### SCHOOL BOARD.

Councilor Pepin said that there was a presentation on the budget, prior to the School Board meeting on 02/07/2012, in which they outlined the whole budget. They also brought up the Maplewood kitchen, deciding to update the kitchen rather than get a van. This way each school will have a kitchen, the cost will not exceed \$20,000 and will come from this year's budget. They want to remove fixtures, paint, upgrade, new appliances etc.

On 02/14/2012 they had the public hearing on the budget; two people spoke, Councilor Witham and a student. The Councilor was sorry to see that there were no other people besides staff at the hearing.

He gave the Council members a copy of the (school) budget up to 02/08/2012; they replaced an HVAC unit at the middle school for \$72,000 which wasn't in the budget last year, \$17,000 for a fire alarm panel at the high school which failed, additional ventilation work at the high school for \$15,000, and \$20,000 for the kitchen update at Maplewood, over \$100,000 which was not expected in their budget.

They also passed their portion of the budget and submitted it to the City Manager to be brought forth to City Council of \$1,521,682 which is \$1.79 increase per thousand. (The initial proposal had been over \$2M and \$2.40/thousand.) He challenges anyone to find any waste in that budget. He is wracking his brain because he doesn't see how the City can afford the increase just on the school side. He suggests that the Council take a hard look at budget lines. The School Board wanted him to let the Council know that they will do any workshops or answer any questions. They would also like to see the school budget passed as soon as possible to avoid giving out pick slips.

On 02/22/2012 there will be a joint tour of school facilities of the School Board and the City Council starting at 9:30 AM. He encourages Councilors to attend.

#### STRAFFORD REGIONAL PLANNING.

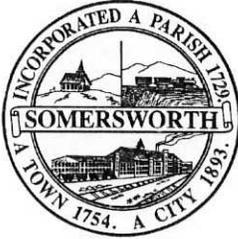
Councilor Tapscott said that he attended a Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting in Rochester last Friday at the Community Center, at which they received a handout about the a workshop about the water supply to be held on 03/22/2012, 9:00AM to 3:00 PM. City Planner, Dave Sharples will be making a presentation. Seating is limited; register by 03/16<sup>th</sup>.

#### PLANNING BOARD

Councilor Witham reported that at its last meeting the Planning Board unanimously passed changes to its Site Plan regulations with respect to low impact design for Storm Water management. They are one of the first in the region to do this, addressing the quality of water discharged which directly affects Somersworth and the Great Bay Estuary. This positions us well to show that we care about water. He commends City staff for this effort which was accomplished through a grant.

Councilor Witham reported that the Historic District Commission is inventorying historic homes through grants. It is a multi-year approach; they have just completed the third phase of this project. The Planner could give you a thumb nail sketch of this if you stop by. He said it is very valuable in evaluating projects, etc.

#### REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER.



## CITY OF SOMERSWORTH Office of the City Manager

**TO:** Mayor Matthew Spencer and City Council Members

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

**DATE:** Friday, February 17, 2012

**SUBJECT:** City Manager's Report for Tuesday, February 21, 2012  
City Council Agenda

---

**5:00 p.m. – Mayor & City Council Photo Op**

**5:30 p.m. – CIP Workshop**

---

***Lay on Table (under Section 11 of the Agenda):***

- A. Resolution No. 19-12 To Authorize the City Manager to Coordinate with Yankee Thermal Imaging of Dover, NH to Conduct Energy Audits on City of Somersworth Buildings and Facilities, at no Cost to the City. (Referred to Sustainability Committee by City Council vote on 1/17/12.)**

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

**Ordinances:**

- A. Ordinance No. 9-12 Amend Chapter 4, Personnel Rules and Regulations, Appendix 1, Assignment of Class to Grade.** The Government Operations Committee met on February 10<sup>th</sup> and voted to recommend the City Council approve this recommended change. Remember, this action does not add any new staff and keeps the department staffing at the current salary budget levels. The new Economic Development Manager position will provide more focus, expertise and energy to providing assistance to businesses in our Community and better assist in promoting new economic development into the City.

***New Business (under Section 13 of the Agenda):***

**Resolutions:**

- A. Resolution No. 20-12 To Authorize the City Manager to Order One Police Cruiser which will be Funded in the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget.** The Public Safety Committee met on February 8<sup>th</sup> and voted to recommend Council act favorably on this purchase. This action would allow the City to purchase a new police cruiser in a more timely manner through the State of NH bid process. Most communities order their new cruisers right after March Town Meeting, which places us behind the “8-ball” in securing an available cruiser after the budget is passed in late June.
- B. Resolution No. 21-12 Authorizing the City Manager to Utilize the Funds Available in the Fiscal Year 2012 Road Resurfacing Appropriation as a Portion of the City’s Share of the Somersworth-Berwick Bridge Reconstruction Project.** Both the Finance Committee and Public Works & Environment Committee discussed this funding scenario with Finance Director Smith and I. Both Committees recommend passage. Remember, the early estimate for the City’s required match is approximately \$150,000. This allocation of \$87,120 plus \$15,000 available in our Capital Reserve Fund as well as my plan to propose \$50,000 in next fiscal year’s budget will bring us to the amount presently estimated. Please note that this estimate may change based on the final project design.

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

**A. Informational Items:**

1. **State of the City Address.** In accordance with the City Charter, the Mayor and School Board Chairman have scheduled a joint meeting prior to the City Council’s regular meeting on Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, starting at 5:30 p.m. in order to present the State of the City Address.
2. **Sanitary Landfill-Superfund Site.** Attached is a memorandum that outlines an initial estimate of costs regarding future site work at the former Recreational Area of the Landfill Site. We are still in discussions with EPA and DES about the extent of work they will require. Presently, the estimate is approximately \$74,000 to complete this work. I would also suggest the City Council consider scheduling some time in the near future to meet with Special Legal Counsel Mark Beliveau to discuss the project and its challenges.

**B. Attachments:**

1. City Attorney Certification (1).
2. Department Head Monthly Reports.
3. City Council Goal Setting Agenda for this Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.

- Agenda and last year's goals.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS.

PLANNING BOARD.

Nomination of Ernest Gallant, Term to expire 04/2015.

This nomination will lay on the table until the next meeting.

SOMERSWORTH HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

Appointments by Mayor Spencer-

Appointment of Paul Robidas, Term to Expire 02/2017. Effective immediately.

Appointment of Martin Dumont, term to Expire 02/2017. Effective March 1, 2012.

LAY ON TABLE.

NOMINATIONS:

Board of Cemetery Trustees- Jennie Flayhan, Term to Expire 01/2017.

Councilor Witham made a motion to remove this from the table which was seconded by Councilor Tapscott. The motion passed and Councilor Witham voiced his support.

The nomination of Jennie Flayhan to the Board of Cemetery Trustees passed unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 19-12 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO COORDINATE WITH YANKEE THERMAL IMAGING OF DOVER, NH TO CONDUCT ENERGY AUDITS ON CITY OF SOMERSWORTH BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES AT NO COST TO THE CITY.

Councilor Witham made a motion to remove this resolution from the table which was seconded by Councilor Soldati. The motion carried.

Councilor Witham said that this resolution had been placed on the table so that it could be referred to the Sustainability Committee; they have provided a report so he doesn't think we need to sit on it any longer. He does not plan to support this. He cannot wrap his hands around the funding... He cannot support it until he fully understands and to date, he can't do that.

Councilor Durkee commented about the process of the debates. He commends Councilor Sprague for looking outside the box and using some of his contacts in the private sector to look at available options for the City. This was a worthy goal. He said we suffer from paralysis by analysis. He continues to be in support.

Councilor Sprague echoes Councilor Durkee. He mentioned the Hilltop School and believes that building would qualify. He thinks it would help with grants to have data to back up the applications. He encourages the School to partner with them for the energy audits. With all the capital improvements that the schools need, that would be a no-brainer and something they would not have to bond. He has been completely baffled by why this has taken so long. ...We have done nothing but look a gift horse in the mouth and devalue what the company does. He said they need to put this to a vote tonight.

Councilor McCallion said that ...this resolution does not speak to any commitment on our part. He would like to see especially Hilltop and the Fire Station. He thinks it would be ironic to see if Idlehurst is energy efficient.

Councilor Tapscott said that they have documents saying Idlehurst is energy efficient. He has no problem with this resolution as long as it is not committing the City to anything beyond the pre-audit: as long as this outfit is not expecting to be paid at a later date for this free energy audit, he is all in favor of it.

Councilor Witham stressed that energy audits make sense. The City and School buildings have been audited within the last couple of years. In the reports they do cost/benefit analyses. The HVAC units at the schools are on the CIP; not from an (energy) efficiency (standpoint) but from a reliability perspective.

The devil is in the details, he said. This issue has been described as a “free” energy audit; he asked where the money is coming from to pay for improvements- from “savings achieved”. When does that stop? He has very few details. He asked during the (Council workshop on 11/14/11) if he could get names of communities or businesses that they have done business with and the company was reluctant. ...Very concerning. It would help him to see a contract that spells out details. He cannot support.

Councilor Pepin said that Councilor Witham covered his concerns. He had the same questions. How much/how long, etc.

Councilor Durkee appreciates the concerns that you need to look these things through. There are procedures: first-authorize the City Manager, second- provide those details. That step isn't here yet, he said, first you have to tell them you want explore the option. We make these resolutions so non-binding when there is no partnership up front. Nothing in this world comes for free, but this is the kind of thing we should be encouraging. If they come back to us and say there are no savings, what have we lost? We should support this, have the City Manager coordinate, and see where we go from there.

Councilor Pepin said that usually they are prepped with data, he does not have any data for this. In good conscience he can't vote for this thing without data. He has nothing for information on this other than saying it is free, if that is what he has to vote on, he can't (do it.)

Councilor McCallion said that is why it is called an audit, they have to review some data. He said they don't have to take any action until they see the cost, which is how he does things; he gets three or four bids and look at the best one then make a decision.

The City Manager clarified that the School buildings are not included in this. This is for City managed facilities.

Mayor Spencer explained that this is very different from prior audits that the City has done. He doesn't know if that has been addressed.

Councilor Sprague said that they are doing things all over New England. He said that he has a relationship with them in the commercial industry. They are up to date on everything and beyond cutting edge. The audits mentioned before were incomplete audits that were fragmented and averaged; that is not a full audit on a couple of those, he said. The city building that he thinks would give us value is Hilltop and the other important part of this resolution is to encourage the School Board to partake in this.

Councilor Witham asked if there are other firms that do this. Why (would we) enter into an exclusive (albeit) no-cost contract (if there are other firms that do this?) That is a concern.

Councilor Soldati clarified that the reports that the Sustainability Committee looked at were done by Peregrine Corporation, not UNH. She is going to vote in favor of this because she would truly like to see an audit on the Hilltop School; she thinks that the Friends of Somersworth which has just formed its Board of Directors would like to have that information. She said it would be helpful.

Councilor Witham made a motion to amend Resolution No. 19-12 to authorize the City Manager to coordinate with Yankee Thermal Imaging of Dover, NH to conduct an energy audit on the "Hilltop School building", in Somersworth NH, at no cost to the City. The motion was seconded by Councilor Soldati.

Councilor Sprague wondered about encouraging the School Board to partake.

Councilor Witham said that would be their decision and from the City facility perspective, just target the Hilltop building.

Councilor Witham clarified that other paragraphs in the resolution would need to be changed to reflect this amendment, wherever "city buildings" appears would read "Hilltop School building."

The amendment passed.

Resolution No. 19-12 passed as amended, 7-2, (Pepin and Witham opposed.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

ORDINANCE NO. 9-12 AMEND CHAPTER 4, PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, APPENDIX 1, ASSIGNMENT OF CLASS TO GRADE.

Councilor Witham said that this was referred to the Government Operations Committee where it was endorsed 3-0. He thinks this makes sense from a number of perspectives. It puts one person in charge of economic development as their sole job function. They don't have to oversee Recreation, oversee whether City Hall has a roof leak... This reorganization plan does it within the existing budgetary and staffing plan of the City. It leverages staff that we have in other ways more beneficial to the City so we achieve ...many goals.

Councilor Durkee thinks this is a fantastic idea. City staff is taxed; there is less staff for the functions of the City and he thinks it is important that they strategize and streamline those key needs of the City. He doesn't think there can be any distractions for this person. It is a great idea and he will be in support of this.

Ordinance No. 9-12 passed 8-1, (Sprague opposed.)

NEW BUSINESS.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-12 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ORDER ONE POLICE CRUISER WHICH WILL BE FUNDED IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013 BUDGET.

Somersworth, NH  
February 21, 2012

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth's Capital Improvement Plan proposes a replacement schedule for police cruisers to maintain fleet integrity and reduce maintenance costs; and

WHEREAS, the Somersworth City Council established a goal by consensus at their February 19, 2011 goal setting session whereby they may review and approve a priority list of CIP (capital improvement plan) items earlier than the actual FY budget approval process is complete in order to allow for timely ordering,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to order one new police

cruiser which will be funded through an appropriation in the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 budget, said purchase with necessary patrol set-up not to exceed \$32,000.

Introduced by Councilors

David A. Witham  
Martin Pepin

Approved:

City Attorney

Mayor Spencer said that this will lay on the table until the next meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-12 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO UTILIZE THE FUNDS AVAILABLE IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2012 ROAD RESURFACING APPROPRIATION AS A PORTION OF THE CITY'S SHARE OF THE SOMERSWORTH-BERWICK BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT.

Somersworth, NH  
February 21, 2012

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 adopted budget contains an appropriation for the purpose of road resurfacing; and

WHEREAS, there is an unencumbered balance in this appropriation of \$87,120; and

WHEREAS, the Somersworth-Berwick Bridge is being reconstructed under a joint funding agreement including the State of Maine, State of New Hampshire, and the City of Somersworth; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the City of Somersworth will use the balance of this appropriation in addition to Federal and State funds, capital reserve funds, and future appropriations to fund the City's share of the project,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to utilize the funds available in the Fiscal Year 2012 road resurfacing appropriation as a portion of the City's share of the Somersworth-Berwick Bridge reconstruction project.

Introduced by Councilors

Robin S. Jarvis  
Dale R. Sprague  
Jennifer Soldati  
Brian Tapscott

Approved:

City Attorney

Councilor McCallion asked that he be added as a sponsor to this resolution.

Mayor Spencer said that this will lay on the table until the next meeting.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

Real Roseberry, Ward 1, said that he would give them a compliment and then something that they goofed on again.

As far as this new cruiser, it is about time, he said. ...You people did a good thing by approving a cruiser now.

The City Manager said that we need clean fill for the landfill. We goofed again. There is a new school with beautiful fill. Where did it go? Did some contractor make money?

He reminisced about when this City sold a fire truck to Berwick Maine for a dollar and had it welded at the Navy Yard and it is still in service.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Councilor Sprague asked the Economic Development Committee to put an update on the old police station on the agenda. He wants to see where that is going.

He commented that he was the sole vote against Ordinance No. 9-12 because he believes that it will affect the budget. He does not like the re-allocation of the salaries; he believes we have undervalued the economic development position and come budget time they will be looking to increase that. He said it is a very important position in the City and he would like to fund it three times that salary to get someone in here who is a superstar and can help us turn our situation around.

Councilor Jarvis reminded everybody that March 7<sup>th</sup> is the game against the Harlem Wizards vs. Somersworth/Rollinsford Pride at the Somersworth High School. This is to benefit the Somersworth Youth Safe Haven program.

Councilor Witham said he is not sure who to task this with but by City Charter, and then by the fall election, a Ward Boundary Review Committee was put into place to examine ward boundaries every ten years with the Census. He has a couple of questions. He wants to know who is on the Committee and who calls the meeting; he believes it is the City Clerk. That group needs to get going.

He was pleased to receive a detailed memo concerning the delamination of the pavement of High Street, predominantly between Stackpole Rd and Bartlett Ave. He is concerned whether it was the same contractor. It would sway his vote if that same contractor were to propose any upcoming bids.

Councilor Witham reported on the public hearing on the School Department budget. He was the first and last speaker. It was a pretty concerning lack of public turnout. Whose thoughts are the School Board members supposed to go with? They were provided absolutely no input on what to send to the City Manager. He knows there is a lot of public apathy about the process and that there are probably a boatload of reasons but he encourages the public to come forward and share their thoughts sooner rather than later. There is not a lot of guidance there.

Councilor Witham thought that it worked well last year to do fewer budget workshops, ...if we can consolidate that makes sense to him.

He appreciates the school tour.

Lastly, to plant a seed, he is not sure that they can continue to do nothing with their infrastructure issues with the school. They need to do something. The original \$5-6M is now \$7M and they haven't added one thing to the CIP list. The list just gets more expensive. The more they push this off the more expensive it will be and we may be at the point where we can't even turn the corner on this issue. ...If we continue to do nothing the impact on the tax rate will be greater. ...Maybe it makes sense to draft an ordinance to bond something because he is not seeing it happen through the operating budget, ...or other processes. They know when bonds are retiring; he thinks this may be the answer. He asked the public to call him or send emails to let him know.

Councilor Tapscott praised the Mayor for his appointments to the Housing Authority board of Commissioners. He thinks these individuals will do an exemplary job.

Councilor Pepin addressed the suggestion that fill was hauled out (from the Idlehurst site.) He said that there was fill hauled *in*, there wasn't fill hauled *out*. There was loam hauled out and not reused. (He was on the Joint Building Committee with Chair of the committee, Councilor Tapscott.) The loam was traded for excavation work, etc. which was all accounted for. He doesn't believe that all of the money floated on the bond for the school will be spent and said that hopefully some will be returned to the City. Nothing was taken out that the contractor didn't pay for.

They keep records at the schools as far as what needs to be done for maintenance; he listens to reports at the meetings that he attends.

He is scratching his head, as a taxpayer, as to how he will pay his taxes with the projected increases. He thinks that they are looking at an increase of over \$2.00 per thousand. To be perfectly honest, he is looking at the budget and doesn't know where to cut. He knows that it needs to be cut and doesn't know whether he can. He is struggling

and needs (taxpayers) to come forward. He said that they are at the breaking point where if you don't supply a certain education, the kids are not going to get certified. He doesn't know how to address the CIP items. He takes input from the public very seriously. Hopefully they will get more input.

Councilor Soldati had no comments.

Councilor Hebert had no comments.

Councilor McCallion said that they keep getting JBC invoices, there was one with a discrepancy for cell phones. He wonders when that will close out.

He wants to put the old police station on the agenda for Economic Development. He would like that special committee to review notes and get that company in front of us.

As for the CIP, he had asked the Superintendent for bid specs and how they were arrived at, etc, for the HVAC. He will be at the Schools tour tomorrow and hopes to see a maintenance log; that would be great.

We keep talking about why nobody showed up at the budget workshop. He asked if anyone realized that it was on Valentine's Day.

He would like the School Department to tell him who has been laid off from the school.

Councilor Durkee said he appreciates the work that the Government Operations Committee is doing regarding the language in the Charter for vacancies. He believes it is important to clean up that language. He looks forward to voting on those changes.

He thanked City Manger Belmore and Superintendent Mosca, and staff for the CIP presentation. It is very valuable for people who make those decisions to sit down and review those things. It is very apparent when looking at the CIP that it is a rolling list of projects that have had no attention. The kind of dollar figures that we are putting toward those is not appropriate for the types of problems that we are going to have. We certainly can't afford a new school; we need to set the groundwork for taking care of what we have. He appreciates Councilor Witham's words and he would have him as an ally and a partner to work on some language to see if they could look into bonding this issue. If you want to talk about cutting the budget, if they don't tackle those CIP items, there is no savings associated with cutting that budget. Those projects don't go away; they simply get bigger and more expensive as we go down the line. He'd like to see them ...make serious headway and he will be a partner in that.

Councilor Tapscott commented that the JBC is nearing its life expectancy; they are meeting monthly now and believes the committee will probably cease in the next couple of months.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

Councilor Tapscott would like the Charter proposed changes on the agenda for the next meeting.

Councilor Witham said that he will be at the goal setting session on Saturday.

City Manager Belmore asked if there is a consensus of Council to have Attorney Mark Beleveau attend regarding the Superfund.

Councilor Witham thought that would be valuable.

The City Manager said he would coordinate that with the Mayor.

ADJOURNMENT.

Councilor Tapscott made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilor McCallion. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



---

Elise B. Breilis, Deputy City Clerk