

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 18, 2011

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

Absent: Pepin and Watman.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

- A. Minutes of Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 5-11 held on 12/13/10. Councilor Witham moved to approve the minutes as recorded. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed unanimously.
- B. Minutes of Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 6-11 held on 12/13/10. Councilor Witham moved to approve the minutes as recorded. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed unanimously.
- C. Minutes of City Council Meeting held on 12/13/10. Councilor Witham moved to approve the minutes as recorded. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed unanimously.
- D. Minutes of City Council Meeting held on 01/03/11. Councilor Witham moved to approve the minutes as recorded. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed by a vote of 6 yeas, 1 abstention, Councilor Spainhower abstaining.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

Jeff Francoeur, 26 Rouleau Drive, said he is a taxpayer and a multi-unit apartment owner and he is here because he is opposed to the proposed housing ordinance. He went to a meeting regarding the proposed ordinance, and he feels there is too much bureaucracy. It is another layer of rules and regulations that will bring hardship to many owners. They are already subject to the Historic District Commission, Building Inspector, Code Enforcement, Electrical and Plumbing Inspector, the Housing Authority, and the Fire Department.

Mr. Francoeur said there are as many single family houses in disrepair in Somersworth as multi-unit houses. If this program is so good it should extend to them also.

Mr. Francoeur said the people in the rental units will consider this an invasion of their privacy. He told the Council they should think about this long and hard before adopting it.

Brian Barrington, 39 Noble Street, said he is here at the request of a landlord and would like to offer his thoughts on the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Barrington said there are many tenants who will not like the idea of a uniformed officer coming into their house for an inspection. They will feel that it is an invasion of their privacy. The tenants can refuse access to their apartment for good reason or bad reason, or just for their expectation of privacy.

Mr. Barrington said you still have a criminal code which mandates that under the land use enforcement ordinance you can go to the court to try to get a court order, but it requires that you have probable cause that there is something wrong. If you do not know there is something wrong, you would not get access.

Mr. Barrington said this ordinance would create a whole new review board, the City Manager and two Councilors. New Hampshire State Statute recognizes the Zoning Board of Appeals, also sitting as the Code Appeals Board, that has a whole set of statutes, appeal periods, etc. You would be creating a whole new committee without any corresponding state legislation to empower or set procedures with. We are not a home rule state and without a state statute creating that board, he doesn't think that board is statutorily authorized.

Mr. Barrington said you also have to consider it would be a purely political board made up of the City Manager and City Councilors. The whole idea of good government is to get politics out of quasi-judicial boards. That is why we have citizen boards.

Mr. Barrington said this housing ordinance requires compliance with lead laws, requiring proof of compliance without tenant complaints. He is sure at least 75% of the buildings in Somersworth existed prior to 1975, which is when they got rid of lead paint. This is a huge elephant in the closet. The cost of "deleading" an apartment house such as you would find on High Street is \$35,000. Even if the tenant is an elderly person that will not be harmed by lead, under this ordinance the owner would have to immediately bring the building into lead compliance. The elderly tenants would be thrown out of the apartment, the property would be vacant and could be foreclosed on if the owner cannot afford to pay the mortgage. Lead is a huge problem for small children, but under this ordinance everybody would have to be in compliance regardless of their tenants or their ages.

Mr. Barrington said the bottom line is this duplicates your property maintenance codes, plumbing code, building code, and your life safety codes.

Dave Francoeur, 48 Blue Heron Drive, said he doesn't have a problem with his properties and with having somebody come in and inspect them. Most of their properties have been totally renovated or have been built from the ground up and are inspected all the time.

Mr. Francoeur said his comments are more for the tenants, and also, having been a realtor in this town for 25 years, he will guarantee there are more life safety code issues in single family homes than in multi-unit buildings. He knows there are some apartment buildings

in town where there are issues, but he does not feel everyone in town should be penalized.

Mr. Francoeur said you would also be creating new taxation for landlords. The new taxation would be put on landlords, taxpayers, and ultimately the renters in this community. All businesses pass on the costs of doing business to the end user, which in this case is the tenant. People are having enough trouble right now paying their rent. Every tax starts out low and ends up high. It also starts out simple and becomes all-encompassing.

Mr. Francoeur said if you are going to do this, you should also inspect every single family home in Somersworth. The \$.50 per unit that is talked about is the City's cost, not our cost. Our cost is the administration.

Mr. Francoeur concluded by saying the real cost of this ordinance will be thousands of dollars which will be passed on to the tenants, and you may be opening up a can of worms you don't want to open up. You should really think about what you are doing before you do it. You should penalize the people who don't take care of their units. If you inspect every unit in town you will be creating a logistical nightmare.

James Drakopoulos said he is here representing his father, Panaiotis Drakopoulos, 9 Ford Street, about a snow removal concern. He called the Highway Department several times about having the road plowed and sanded. It is now 7:00 p.m. and the road has not been touched today. None of the streets off Union Street have been touched. He gave someone \$40 to plow the street to get his father home from dialysis. His father has lived here 35 years, and all he wants is his street plowed.

Liz Wilson, 28 Lincoln Street, and she is here tonight on behalf of the Citizens for a Sustainable Somersworth. The group was initiated last year by Mayor Soldati, and is composed of a group of residents who want to work toward a more sustainable City.

Ms. Wilson said after learning an RFP was issued recently to developers inviting them to submit proposals for the purchase and redevelopment of the Hilltop School, their group decided to form a sub-committee to advocate for future use of the building and the site in general that contributes to the historic character of the City and also could contribute to the economic development of the City.

Ms. Wilson said tonight the sub-committee's message to the Council is that there is a group of citizens that wants to continue to participate in the process of determining what the reuse of that building and that site is. They are offering their time and a diverse set of skills to help make the long-term use of the building one that benefits the City and the residents.

Ms. Wilson said so far the sub-committee has identified what they think are some feasible uses, including some artist studios, karate studio, yoga, individual office space, food pantry, and a number of possibilities. The sub-committee has invited City staff and

Councilors to tour the Rollinsford Mill Building to look at how that space was used for similar purposes.

Ms. Wilson said the group has requested operating expenses for the building in order to gauge the feasibility what rental revenue there might be compared to operating costs. They are investigating a potential relationship with UNH that could provide some guidance for reuse. They are also investigating some funding sources from building preservation and upgrade specialists of historical spaces.

Ms. Wilson said they feel this is something that fits well with the 2010 Master Plan update and also with the spirit of wanting to preserve historic character in the City. This group really has a desire to participate in the process of determining the reuse of the building. After looking at proposals that come in next week, they urge the Council to look at the historic value of the property and the potential economic and cultural opportunities that the building and the grounds can offer the City.

COMMUNICATIONS.

LETTER FROM WILLIAM SWEENEY, PLANNING BOARD CHAIRMAN.

January 6, 2011

Re: Nomination of Strafford Regional Planning Commission member.

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

Please accept this letter as my nomination of Brian Tapscott to represent the City of Somersworth as a member of the Strafford Regional Planning Commission. If approved by the City Council, Mr. Tapscott's membership would be filling a vacancy left by George Snyder and his term would expire April 12, 2012.

Thank you,

William Sweeney
Planning Board Chairman

MAYOR'S REPORT.

Mayor Soldati announced the Strafford County Delegation will be having a public hearing to discuss the County operating budget for 2011 on Thursday, 1/27/2011 at 7:00 p.m. in Courtroom One at the Strafford County Superior Court Building on County Farm Road in Dover, NH. Following the public hearing, there will be a full meeting of the Strafford County Delegation.

The Mayor indicated there will be a meeting of the Citizens for a Sustainable Somersworth on Thursday, 1/20/2011 at 7:00 p.m. Anyone who is interested in issues of sustainability is invited.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

Councilor McCallion reported the Committee met on 1/7/11 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was very well attended by staff and public and had to be moved to Council Chambers.

Councilor McCallion reported the following:

- Director of Development Services Wheeler updated the Committee on the walk-through at Hilltop School on 12/28/10. Four different groups attended and they are waiting to hear back on the RFP that was sent out.
- Councilor Jarvis asked if the pamphlets, "Doing Business in Somersworth" are ready. They are ready. It was done by City staff, and they did a great job on this.
- Discussed the housing ordinance at length. The Committee felt after the public hearing it would be beneficial to hold an open forum and invite some landlords that had raised issues to come in and speak so we can then make recommendations to Council amendments to better the ordinance.
- The top points raised by landlords were as follows:
 - They do not like the idea of paying fees.
 - They wanted more time to notify tenants.
 - They wanted more time to correct issues.
 - They wanted a waiver provision because of other inspections, e.g. insurance, Fire Department, Section 8.
 - They wanted the City to do more research regarding Section 8 inspections.

Mr. Shaw and Mr. Francoeur explained how tough Section 8 inspections are and feels those units should be waived. Committee and staff felt that setting up a date to shadow inspector might be beneficial. Mr. Francoeur feels that single family homes should also be included. Councilor Witham is concerned about staff time and is planning to meet with Berlin with recommendation from committee and staff.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

JOINT BUILDING COMMITTEE.

Councilor Tapscott reported this Committee met on 1/13/11 and reported the following:

On Site Current and Complete:

- Punch-out on cold form trusses.
- Mechanical, electrical and sprinkler rough continue at A & B wings and begin at C wing.

- Masonry veneer ongoing.
- Air barrier ongoing.
- Metal stud and smoke walls continue at Administration.
- Sun shade clips ongoing at south elevation.
- Temp heat at 100% of building.

On-Site Next Two Weeks:

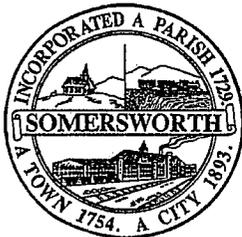
- Shingle roofing complete.
- Cold form framing at interior walls.
- Gypsum sheathing to begin at A & B wings.
- Trade rough ongoing.
- Masonry veneer ongoing.
- Boiler room build out ongoing.

Councilor Tapscott reported the JBC will meet again on 1/27/11.

VISION 2020 COMMITTEE.

Councilor McCallion reported this Committee met on 1/10/11. There are still a few boards that need to be represented on the Committee. The next meeting will be on 1/24/11 at 5:30 p.m.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT.



CITY OF SOMERSWORTH
Office of the City Manager

TO: Mayor Lincoln Soldati and City Council Members

FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager

DATE: January 14, 2011

**SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Tuesday, January 18th, 2011
 City Council Agenda**

5:30 PM NON-MEETING

Private meeting with School Board and School Superintendent regarding labor negotiations. In addition, City labor negotiations discussion with City Manager. Please see the attached memorandums on both labor issues.

**6:00 PM JOINT WORKSHOP
CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL BOARD**

Attached are two discussion memorandums regarding
two items that are scheduled to be discussed: City Council Budget
Workshop Schedule and Capital Reserve Funds.

Communications (under Section 5 of the Agenda):

- A. Letter from William Sweeney, Planning Board Chairman.** Attached is a copy of the Strafford Regional Planning Commission letter regarding the vacancy to appoint another representative for a term expiring 4/2012.

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

- A. Ordinance No. 5-11 Amend Chapter 24 by the Addition of Chapter 24A Entitled Somersworth Housing Code for Rental Multi-Unit Properties.** The Economic Development Committee will be meeting Thursday, January 20th at 3 p.m. to continue their review of this proposed Ordinance.

New Business (under Section 13 of the Agenda):

Resolutions:

- A. Resolution No. 13-11 To Notify the City Tax Collector that the City Council shall not Accept a Tax Deed on Certain Properties Subject to an Unredeemed Tax Lien.** If the City executes these deeds, the City will be responsible for lot rental fees, providing property insurance on the units and the consideration of commencing with eviction proceedings. Please note that the tax liens will remain in effect on all these properties so that the City retains the option of accepting these deeds at a future date.
- B. Resolution No. 14-11 To Notify the City Tax Collector that the City Council shall not Accept a Tax Deed on Certain Property Subject to an unredeemed Tax Lien.** This is the former Breton Cleaners contaminated site that is under a NH DES clean up mandate.
- C. Resolution No. 15-11 Authorizing the City Manager to Seek Funding for the Noble Pines Comprehensive Improvement Project as Proposed in the Fiscal Year 2012-2017 Capital Improvement Plan.** This resolution would allow staff to seek donations and any available grants so that Council can consider approving this project and what impact, if any, it will have in next year's fiscal budget. Funds raised will be kept in a special escrow account fund until Council revisits the project to approve improvements as a whole or in part.

Other:

A. **Vote to Ratify the Wage and Working Agreement between the City and the Public Works/Highway Department AFSCME Council 93, Local 863 (Expires June 30, 2011).**

B. **Vote to Ratify the Agreement between the Somersworth Association of Educators and the Somersworth School Board (Expires June 30, 2012).**

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

A. Informational Items:

1. **Budget Update on Fiscal Year 2011.** Attached is a Memorandum and spreadsheet detailing current year-to-date expenditures, projected year-end General Fund expenditures and anticipated revenues. Revenues are in line with overall projections. Overall, Expenditures also appear to be in line with the budget.
2. **Comcast Cable Franchise Agreement Negotiations.** As you can see by the attached email from our legal counsel, there has yet to be a response from Comcast on our renewal proposal.
3. **City Council Annual Goal Setting Retreat.** I respectfully ask for Council's direction on whether to schedule an Annual Goal Setting meeting in late February/early March. Please forward any suggestions to me regarding the session, should the consensus is to have one. (Saturdays: February 19, 26 and March 5). Also, I am inclined to hire a consultant to facilitate the session.
4. **City Council Workshop Request.** Please consider a 6:00 p.m. workshop before next regular meeting on Monday, February 7th to discuss an annual cycled inspection program for all City real estate properties.
5. **City Meetings Streaming Live and On-Demand Streaming.** Town Hall Streams has installed equipment so that our meetings broadcast over channel 22 are now available in real time streaming via our website. Attached is the proposal I intend to accept. Our first month is free and if all goes well, I will contract in 6 month terms.

B. Attachments:

1. Department Heads monthly reports.
2. Strafford County Proposed Operating budget.

Based on the City Manager's report, Councilor Witham moved to have two items added under new business this evening:

1. Budget Review Workshop – discussion of dates
2. Goal Setting Retreat – to provide City Manager with guidance

The motion carried unanimously.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT.

Mayor Soldati had nominated Armand Beaudet to fill a vacancy on the Zoning Board at an earlier date, however it was never voted on.

Councilor Witham moved to approve the nomination of Armand Beaudet as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed unanimously.

Mayor Soldati indicated this leaves a vacancy for an Alternate on the ZBA. If anyone is interested, he asked them to get in touch with him.

SOMERSWORTH HOUSING AUTHORITY.

Mayor Soldati said he is appointing Lori Bennett to the Somersworth Housing Authority Board, term to expire 2/28/13. There is a vacancy due to the resignation of Ken Maple.

STRAFFORD REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (SRPC).

Councilor Witham moved to affirm the nomination of Brian Tapscott as the City's representative to the SRPC, term to expire 4/12/2012. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier and passed unanimously.

SKYHAVEN AIRPORT COMMISSION.

Mayor Soldati said he recently found out there is a vacancy on the Skyhaven board that the Council needs to fill. There is a person who is a Mayoral appointee on the Board, but there is a vacancy for the Council appointee. He asked that the Government Operations Committee review this and come back with a recommendation.

NEW BUSINESS.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION NO. 13-11 TO NOTIFY THE CITY TAX COLLECTOR THAT THE CITY COUNCIL SHALL NOT ACCEPT A TAX DEED ON CERTAIN PROPERTIES SUBJECT TO AN UNREDEEMED TAX LIEN.

Somersworth, NH
January 18, 2011

WHEREAS RSA 80:76 directs the Tax Collector, after 2 years, to execute to the City a deed of the land subject to the real estate tax lien and not redeemed; and

WHEREAS the Governing Body of a municipality may refuse to accept a tax deed on behalf of the municipality because in its judgment, acceptance and ownership of the real estate would subject the municipality to undesirable obligations or liability risks, or for any reason that would be contrary to the public interest,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Tax Collector be notified that for those reasons the City shall refuse to accept the tax deeds on property located at the following locations:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Tax Map/Lot</u>
37 Colonial Village	81-37M
43 Colonial Village	81-43M
141 Colonial Village	81-141M
52 Crystal Springs	82-52M
7 Jack & Jill	83-7M
13 Jack & Jill	83-13M
14 Jack & Jill	83-14M
16 Jack & Jill	83-16M
34 Jack & Jill	83-34M
4 Brook Drive	85-16M
109 Sherwood Glen	87-109M
207 Sherwood Glen	87-207M
306 Sherwood Glen	87-306M
407 Sherwood Glen	87-407M
420 Sherwood Glen	87-420M
613 Sherwood Glen	87-613M
4 Ringer Drive	88-2M

Introduced by
Mayor Lincoln Soldati
by request

Approved by:
City Attorney

Following the first reading of Resolution No. 13-11, it was referred to the next meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 14-11 TO NOTIFY THE CITY TAX COLLECTOR THAT THE CITY COUNCIL SHALL NOT ACCEPT A TAX DEED ON CERTAIN PROPERTY SUBJECT TO AN UNREDEEMED TAX LIEN.

Somersworth, NH
January 18, 2011

WHEREAS RSA 80:76 directs the Tax Collector, after 2 years, to execute to the City a deed of the land subject to the real estate tax lien and not redeemed, and

WHEREAS the Governing Body of a municipality may refuse to accept a tax deed on behalf of the municipality because in its judgment, acceptance and ownership of the real estate would subject the municipality to undesirable obligations or liability risks, or for any reason that would be contrary to the public interest,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Tax Collector be notified that for those reasons the City shall refuse to accept the tax deed on property located at 1 Winter Street, Tax Map/Lot number 11-181A.

Introduced by
Mayor Lincoln Soldati
by request

Approved by:
City Attorney

Following the first reading of Resolution No. 14-11, it was referred to the next meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 15-11 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SEEK FUNDING FOR THE NOBLE PINES COMPREHENSIVE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AS PROPOSED IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2012-2017 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN.

Somersworth, NH
January 18, 2011

WHEREAS the City of Somersworth FY2012-2017 Capital Improvements Plan includes proposed improvements for the Noble Pines Recreational Area titled "Noble Pines Comprehensive Improvement" which includes the construction of a water misting (cooling) station area, outdoor pavilion, and skateboard park; and

WHEREAS the Recreation Committee of the Somersworth City Council supported a grant application through the State of New Hampshire Land and Water Conservation program; and

WHEREAS the Recreation Committee of the Somersworth City Council supports seeking additional funding sources for this project by way of Federal or State grants, donations, or any other funding that may be available therefore,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH that the City Manager is authorized to execute any documents or agreements, and take any and all such actions in the best interest of the City, which may be deemed necessary, for any grant application; and to seek donations or any other funding that may be available therefore for the purpose of funding the Noble Pines Comprehensive Improvement Project as Proposed in the Fiscal Year 2012-2017 Capital Improvements Plan.

Introduced by
Mayor Lincoln Soldati

Councilors Martin Pepin
Brian Tapscott
David Witham

Approved:
City Attorney

Councilor Tapscott moved to suspend the rules for a second reading of Resolution No. 15-11 tonight. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham and passed unanimously.

Councilor Witham indicated all Councilors were provided with a copy of the grant application that was submitted to the State. There is still a possibility we could be awarded some or all of the grant. This gives us the flexibility of seeking other funding sources so we can continue to move forward with the improvement projects.

Councilor Messier commented that there are other parks in Somersworth also. We should not forget that.

Mayor Soldati said he had contacted the City Manager about moving this forward, particularly the skateboard park aspect of this project. The Recreation Committee felt the most logical place for this would be at Noble Pines. The tennis courts have been in disrepair and not used for some time now.

The Mayor indicated he will contribute up to \$3,000 to the skateboard park project if that will get members of the community to move forward on funding this project.

Resolution No. 15-11 passed by roll call vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays.

Other:

VOTE TO RATIFY THE WAGE AND WORKING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE PUBLIC WORKS/HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT AFSCME COUNCIL 93, LOCAL 863 (EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2011).

Councilor Witham moved to ratify the Wage and Working Agreement between the City and the Public Works Department AFSCME Council 93, Local 863 expiring on June 30, 2011. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed by roll call vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays.

VOTE TO RATIFY THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SOMERSWORTH ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATORS AND THE SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD (EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2012).

Councilor Jarvis moved to ratify the Agreement between the Somersworth Association of Educators and the Somersworth School Board expiring on June 30, 2012. The motion was seconded by Councilor Spainhower. The motion failed by roll call vote of 3 yeas, 4 nays, Councilors McCallion, Tapscott, Witham and Sprague voting in the negative.

DISCUSSION REGARDING CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOPS.

Councilor Witham said during the last budget process, he spoke about the process being fairly drawn out and he thought we could probably streamline it. The City Manager provided us with an informational bulletin with suggested workshop dates.

Councilor Witham said he recommends the first date of Monday, March 28, 2011 at 6:00 p.m., stay intact. This would entail the City Manager's presentation of the budget followed by a discussion specifically of the CIP and the School Department budget.

Councilor Witham said last year they typically moved through the City side of the budget relatively quickly. He said he doesn't feel the City budget will require two workshops and moved to consolidate City departments into one workshop, perhaps a Saturday session. He suggested Saturday, April 16th, 2011.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott.

Councilor Spainhower said he likes the idea of having a workshop on a Saturday, however he will not be available on April 16th. He would be available any other Saturday.

City Manager Belmore suggested that if Saturday's are cumbersome, possibly we could meet on Monday, April 11th, 2011, starting at 5:30 p.m.

Councilor Witham amended his motion to hold the City Council workshop on the City side of the budget on Saturday, April 9th, 2011 starting at 8:30 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION REGARDING CITY COUNCIL GOAL SETTING RETREAT.

Councilor Tapscott said this is a very hectic time and he would rather see this happen as soon as possible. He moved on the date of February 19th, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier.

City Manager Belmore said he has contacted a facilitator to facilitate the process and will await direction from the Mayor and City Council.

Councilor Witham said last year we had the retreat without the help of a facilitator. He would like to try it with a facilitator for a different spin on the process to help him evaluate which way he likes better.

Councilor Jarvis asked what the cost of a facilitator is.

The City Manager indicated he has only contacted one person so far and was quoted \$1,800.

Councilor Spainhower said this will be his fourth goal setting retreat. They had a facilitator for the first two, and he didn't like it. He felt it was too controlled. The City Manager did it last year. He can go either way with this.

Councilor McCallion said he knows it's a lot for the City Manager to do this. He wondered if there might be someone in this field at UNH that might do this for less money.

Councilor Messier said he does not see the need for a facilitator unless there is no cost.

The motion to have the Goal Setting Retreat on Saturday, February 19th, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. with a facilitator only if there is no cost passed unanimously.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

Theresa Cherouvis, 50 Grove Street, commented on the skateboard park. She thinks this is a wonderful idea because the resources for this age group are limited here. She does feel that we need to do our homework very well. There are actually skateboard professionals that come to communities, get involved, and actually help pay for and set up and organize skateboard parks. A skateboard professional would also say that a skateboard park needs to be in a very visible spot or it will never be successful. It can become a high crime area because kids in this age group tend to dare each other to do stuff, and they are not quite mature yet and often make foolish decisions. She doesn't necessarily think that just because we have a space at the Pines that it is the best place for this. The area that is being talked about for the skateboard park is right near a children's playground area and the younger children might get an earful of things they should not hear. Her caution is where it belongs in the community, and she is not sure the Pines is the ideal spot. If we are going to invest money, we want a successful outcome.

Ms. Cherouvis said her suggestion for a location is right on the big green area right in front of the Police Station.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Councilor Witham said it was mentioned in the report of the Economic Development Committee that he was planning a trip to Berlin, NH to meet with their staff regarding their implementation of the Housing Ordinance. He travelled there last week and met with some of the staff and found it to be very informative. We have very many similarities with Berlin, but we also have just as many differences. They offered to travel to Somersworth if we were to have a workshop to answer any questions we might have about their process.

Councilor Witham said as the Economic Development Committee continues to pore over this ordinance, he hopes that before it comes back to the full Council that perhaps a workshop session might be in order. He would find that helpful.

Councilor Witham said this evening we heard from a member of the Citizens for a Sustainable Somersworth about the Hilltop School. One thing we do not have is time because as we have heard people say, we do not want a vacant, boarded up building, at least not for any long period of time. He worries that the more ideas we come up with the more it will slow us down. As a Council we need to be mindful of the fact that we do not want an abandoned building. We need to keep moving forward.

Councilor Witham said he attended a tour of the Idlehurst Elementary School last week. He is not an expert in construction nor in education, but his layman's view is that it appears that it will be a very functional facility and appears to be being built with a lot of quality. It looks like something that is being built very well.

Councilor Witham said there was a great deal of study put into the skateboard park, both in terms of location and what will be there. They used the Town of Durham as a model. They used an existing tennis court and it was designed by Durham residents, particularly skateboarders.

Councilor Messier said he was surprised we are going to single stream recycling. When he read about it, he thought he would be able to combine his recyclables with his trash and would not have to carry the recycling bin. He found out that is not what single stream recycling means. He feels other people might not understand what this means either and we should have an educational pamphlet to explain it.

Councilor Messier said he did get a call from someone who is against the new housing ordinance. He is in favor of having a workshop so people will know what it is about.

Councilor Messier said he is happy about the skateboard park at the Pines. He thinks it is a good thing, but there will be issues. If we end up doing this, we should make sure to notify the neighbors.

Councilor Messier said because of the energy savings that have been part of the construction of the Idlehurst School we will have some money coming back.

Councilor Messier said we have snow coming and he hopes our Firefighters will be out there shoveling the hydrants.

Councilor Jarvis asked the Mayor if there is a contact for a person interested in Citizens for a Sustainable Somersworth who will not be able to attend the meeting on Thursday.

Mayor Soldati recommended contacting Doug Watson, and they can also contact him.

Councilor McCallion said during the workshop with the School Board he really felt good about things he heard from the new Superintendent. The way the budget was presented looked really good.

Councilor McCallion said he believes there will be a workshop regarding the proposed housing ordinance. Something needs to be done and he hopes everyone can get on the same page. He thinks we can get there.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

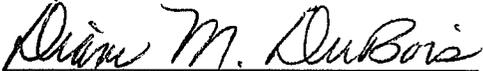
The City Manager asked the Council to consider scheduling a workshop prior to the next Council meeting to discuss an annual cycled inspection program for all City real estate properties.

It was the consensus of the Council that a workshop will be held on 2/7/11, prior to the next Council meeting, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT.

Councilor Tapscott moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor McCallion and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Diane M. DuBois
Diane M. DuBois, City Clerk