

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 3, 2011

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

MAYOR'S REPORT.

Mayor Soldati commented on the passing of Jack LaBonte with a great deal of sadness. He was a very significant member of our community. For many years he was the Executive Director of the Somersworth Housing Authority. He contributed a great deal to our community, and had a great impact on the community.

Mayor Soldati asked for a moment of silence to remember Jack LaBonte. Our prayers and condolences go out to his family. He also wanted people to know the calling hours will be tomorrow from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Roberge Funeral Home.

Mayor Soldati congratulated Councilor Spainhower and his bride on their recent marriage. He is not here tonight because he is on his honeymoon.

Mayor Soldati said he would like to schedule a meeting of the Vision 2020 Committee. The Committee has not met in some time. The meeting will take place on Monday, January 10th at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

Economic Development Committee

Councilor McCallion reported this Committee will be meeting on Friday, January 7th, at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall. If any of the landlords that showed up at the last meeting would like to come and give us their input they can do so. We value their comments.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Joint Building Committee

Councilor Tapscott reported this Committee will be meeting on Thursday, January 13th at 5 p.m. at the Vocational Center Conference Room.

COAST Board of Directors

Councilor Watman reported this Committee met on December 22nd. The administrators of COAST did take a look at the potential cost of expanding Saturday service and figured out what the proportional assessment would be for communities. Due to the economic climate, the board members voted this down because communities cannot bear it right now.

Regarding the census data and realignment of metropolitan areas, Councilor Watman said they were advised the final decision will be made in 2012.

School Board

Councilor Pepin reported there was a School Board meeting on December 14th here in Council Chambers. There were a couple of power point presentations that were very interesting. The first one was of a trip to Washington, DC. Some of the students shared their experiences such as seeing the Vietnam Wall Memorial; hearing people who survived the prison camps during the Holocaust; seeing some homeless people that they don't normally see around here. They all felt they got a lot out of the trip.

Councilor Pepin said the second power point presentation was an update on the construction of the Idlehurst School. They showed slides on the progression of the school construction. They also showed teachers from Maplewood and Hilltop and the Middle School trying to prepare themselves for the transition of their classes into the new school next year.

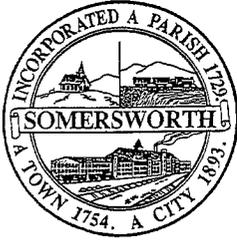
Councilor Pepin said Mr. Perkins gave a report on the meeting with the Finance Committee on the Capital Reserve Fund for facilities. He said some of the committee members would like to have the wording rephrased. What he was struggling with was the committee wanted to have some kind of wording saying the money would be spent on emergency funding, using as an example something such as the elimination of mold.

Councilor Pepin said he told them that wasn't his view of what he was looking for and he is hoping we can have some discussion at the joint meeting on 1/18/11 to give the School Board some guidance on what the City Council is looking for.

Councilor Pepin said when the Council cuts the School budget, capital improvement items are usually cut and there are always maintenance issues that do not get taken care of. He said he was looking for this funding to go towards maintenance issues. We could invest some of this money to clear up some maintenance problems before they become a big problem.

Following discussion among Council Members, it was agreed that the School Board and the City Council are not on the same page regarding financial issues and hopefully there will be some clarification at the joint meeting on 1/18/11.

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: December 30th, 2010

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, January 3rd, 2011
City Council Agenda

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 January 7th to discuss suggestions made by the public and Council members.

Unfinished Business (under Section 12 of the Agenda):

Ordinances:

- A. Ordinance No. 7-11 Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 3.2A.**

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

A. Informational Items:

1. **City Newsletter.** The deadline for submittals for consideration is January 28th, 2011. (see attached) This edition covers the period of March to August 2011. Please forward any suggestions to me.
2. **Public Works Department.** Attached are two memorandums submitted to me from Public Works Director Willis. Both issues were discussed at the recent Public Works and Environment Committee meeting.
 - The City will be applying for a grant to install an emergency generator at the Highway Facility. This may require a match.
 - Staff will be issuing a RFP for Spring line striping.
3. **Chamber of Commerce.** Director of Development Services Craig Wheeler will be coordinating a Business Before Hours with the Chamber. It is

scheduled for Wednesday, January 12th in the Council Chambers starting at 7:30 a.m.

B. Attachments:

1. City Attorney Certifications (1).
2. Snow Emergency Notification Checklist.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS.

Mayor Soldati said he is appointing Councilor Pepin and Councilor McCallion as the Council representatives to the Vision 2020 Committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 7-11 AMEND CHAPTER 13, POLICE OFFENSES, SECTION 3.2.A.

Councilor Tapscott indicated this ordinance is regarding a stop sign that is already in place exiting Works Way onto Route 108, and this is to make it legal.

Ordinance No. 7-11 passed by roll call vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays.

Other:

COUNCIL VOTE ON 9/7/10 NOMINATION OF BETH POULIN TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION, TERM TO EXPIRE 04/2013.

Councilor Watman moved that this nomination be approved. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed unanimously.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Councilor Watman said his viewpoint is when there are unanticipated revenues or underexpenditures or surpluses left, it is not our surplus. Neither is it a department surplus. It is the taxpayers' surplus and it goes into the general fund, then it can be used in a subsequent year to offset the tax rate.

Councilor Watman said budget season is coming up once again. If you think there are a lot of hidden expenses and wasteful spending that can be cut that will keep the tax rate down, come and take a look at the budget sometime and please show him where that would be. It would be awfully nice, in addition to hearing what is important for you to

budget for, to hear what you are willing to do without. Please let us know where we should cut back.

Councilor Witham said we had our first snow event over the Christmas weekend and he thought Public Works did a nice job with our city streets. That being said, the other piece to that was the delay in trash pickup. He encouraged all people to sign up for either the City's email communications or the recently enacted Nixle system which is controlled by the Police Department in order to get communications such as a delay in trash pickup. Delay in trash pickup does create a problem. He is wondering if there could be a more formalized process for the contractor in deciding whether or not to have trash pickup.

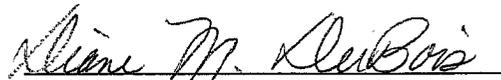
Councilor Tapscott said it is his understanding we will be meeting with the School Board on January 18th at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the upcoming budget process, how it is going to be handled, etc. Now we are talking about CIP items. The meeting is only supposed to last one hour. He is wondering if we should consider starting earlier.

ADJOURNMENT.

Councilor Tapscott moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Diane M. DuBois, City Clerk

