

Somersworth, NH
June 20, 2011

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

COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

Brian Gauthier, 20 Francoeur Drive, said he is President of the Festival Association and he is here tonight on behalf of the Festival Association and its Board members. This past weekend, they conducted the 31st annual Somersworth International Children's Festival. They estimate that between Friday night's fireworks and Saturday's Festival there were approximately 10,000 people who took part in this great event and were able to experience the great things the City has to offer. Thanks to the help and support of the City officials, City Council members, City Manager, the Mayor, Department of Public Works, the Fire Department and the Police Department, they had an exceptional event that was both safe and fun and what he believes to have been one of the most successful Festivals yet. Unfortunately, this year's Festival ended with a bittersweet feeling of success. As they were packing things away at the Pavilion on Saturday night, they were forced to face the harsh reality that this may have been the last Children's Festival. As we all know, the economy has been tough, and the Festival Association has also felt the pinch. Over the last few years, they have seen both individual and corporate sponsorships drop significantly and fundraising has become increasingly harder. For the third straight year, they will be forced to tap into their reserves to cover expenses and after this year there will be nothing left. For the past few years, they have trimmed their budget and explored new fundraising ideas. They have considered eliminating their Artist in Schools Grants and their scholarship program. They are not afraid of hard work and they will do the best they can to continue bringing programs to the citizens of Somersworth.

Mr. Gauthier again thanked the City for all their help and support over the last 31 years. They are hopeful this partnership will continue for many more years to come.

Joanne Pepin, 54 Rocky Hill Road, said she is a member of the Board of the Festival Association. She said she does this because she loves children and the smiles she sees at these events. Something happened this weekend that made her proud. A young lady won a brand new bicycle. The bike was a boy's bike, and her father was told he could exchange it for her for a girl's bike. The young lady said she did not want a girl's bike because she was giving the bike away to her friend's brother whose bike had been stolen recently. This shows her what Somersworth is, what our children are. They are unselfish, good children, and growing up to be good citizens. She hopes the people of Somersworth will find a way to keep our festival going.

Nora Molloy, Prospect Street, said on behalf of the Friends of Somersworth, she commended the Festival Association for their events this weekend, and Terry Fabrizio

and the group that put on the Hilltop School celebration recently. Both were great events for the City.

Ms. Molloy said since she was last here the Friends of Somersworth group has had two or three meetings with 20 to 30 people in attendance at each, and they have continued to discuss the direction they are going to take. They have also had a couple of smaller steering committee meetings to help flush out actionable items. They had a table at the Children's Festival where they did some surveying and talking to the public.

Ms. Molloy said coming to the top is "flexible community space" that can be used for various purposes, whether it be a committee meeting, a bean supper, or any of the sorts of things that bring communities together.

Ms. Molloy said they are looking at a multi-phased project for the Hilltop School building. Right now they are trying to come up with tenants. This would generate some revenue so they can keep it as a viable public building while they continue to work on a long-term business plan.

Ms. Molloy said they had a meeting with Peter Michaud of the NH Historical Preservation and he was very helpful in helping them define some of the processes and think about funding options that are going to be available to them. He has extensive knowledge with similar success stories and they would like to invite him to give the Council a short presentation at the August 15th meeting. He has the ability to explain the potential of this type of building.

Ms. Molloy said they travelled to Salisbury, MA to look at another comparable building. Physically the building is in rougher shape than the Hilltop School building. They have a thriving boys and girls club in their building. That is an appealing option to them that they will be exploring further. That would give them a permanent tenant in the building that would be serving the community with after-school programs, educational programs, teen programs, etc. They also allow public use of the building for a rental fee. It is a very flexible but sustainable option that they will be exploring further.

Ms. Molloy said they are not at a point yet where they can give the Council a time line but she hopes she is giving them enough information for them to know the group is moving forward. They should be able to give them an action plan in the foreseeable future.

Ms. Molloy said their next meeting is June 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at Tri City Academy and they would welcome anyone who would like to come and join in their discussion. She indicated the Council can reach out to them at any point if they have any questions.

COMMUNICATIONS.

RECOGNITION BY THE VISION 2020 COMMITTEE OF THE SOMERSWORTH HIGH SCHOOL MARKETING STUDENTS' CONTRIBUTION TO THE NEW LOGO DESIGN.

Development Services Director Wheeler introduced Desi Brown, the marketing teacher that worked with the students.

Ms. Brown introduced two of the students who worked on the logo, Brody Horning and Bobby Shatinsky, stating they have been in the marketing program for the last two years. The entire marketing class worked on the design of the logo. They started in February. They came up with a design that married what the Vision 2020 Program is all about, live, play and work, and where the community is going to go in the future. The students were able to take all the elements that were given to them and they did a remarkable job. It was a great project for them to work on and they were thankful for this opportunity.

The Council members and the audience applauded the students.

MAYOR'S REPORT.

Mayor Soldati talked about the Noble Pines Skateboard Park Project, indicating that people should be aware that anyone can donate to the project. They can deliver a check to the City Manager's Office designating that it is for the Skateboard Park Project. The fundraising is going pretty well. This is an attempt through difficult times to still make some improvements in the City. The City is still waiting to hear about some grants that were applied for.

Mayor Soldati said he personally has made a contribution and invites anyone to match his contribution. He is hopeful that this project will continue to move forward.

Mayor Soldati reminded people that the Somersworth High School graduation is tomorrow evening at 6:00 p.m.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

RECREATION COMMITTEE.

Councilor Pepin reported this Committee met this evening relevant to Resolution No. 28-11, naming the ball field at Millennium Park "St. Laurent Ball Field". The Recreation Committee members all voted in favor of this.

Councilor Pepin said they also discussed Pine Street Park.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

JOINT BUILDING COMMITTEE.

Councilor Tapscott indicated that the new Idlehurst Elementary School on Stackpole Road is looking tremendous. They are presently working on landscaping and asphalt. They are working on the finishing touches inside and outside. Everything should be wrapped up within the next few weeks as far as the building itself, then we will have to wait for furniture.

SOMERSWORTH SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE.

Councilor Jarvis reported this Committee met on 6/16/11. The Committee has a facebook page up and running. She will have the link for that at the next meeting. They are also in the process of having a link on the City web site to their actual web site and they will start distributing green tips in the near future.

BUILDING TRADES TRUST.

Councilor Pepin said he attended a meeting of the Building Trades Trust on 6/07/11. Currently they were building a house for Haiti since a lot of their houses were destroyed during the earthquake, however they ran into some problems trying to get it to Haiti so it doesn't look like it will be going to Haiti. They are hoping it can be used either for a storage shed or a fishing house.

Councilor Pepin said they are scheduled to construct a building for the Somersworth Food Pantry starting in September, and they are also looking at a "No Place Like Home" project. They are also looking at constructing a building for the Strafford County Homeless Shelter.

SCHOOL BOARD.

Councilor Pepin said he attended the School Board Meeting on 6/07/11. They talked about their hopes that the budget would pass. They have a lot of obligations they are trying to fulfill. Tomorrow is the last day of school and some teachers have received notices. They do not know if they will have a job next year or not.

PLANNING BOARD.

Councilor Witham reported the Planning Board met on 6/15/11. The major item of business was the rehabilitation of the former Somersworth Hotel building on Elm Street. The Planning Board approved the rehabilitation of that building as well as the construction of a new building of similar size and shape on the parcel immediately adjacent to Washington Street. In lieu of on-site recreational amenities, the Planning Board passed a waiver, but the developer will be making an in-kind donation of \$2,550 towards the Noble Pines Park improvements.

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: Friday, June 17, 2011

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, June 20, 2011
City Council Agenda

**6:35 p.m. Non-Meeting
to discuss collective bargaining**

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

Ordinances:

- A. **Ordinance No. 10-11 FY 2011-2012 Budget (as amended).** Attached is a copy of the Ordinance as amended and tabled at the June 6th Council meeting as well as a new projected tax rate of \$28.05, which is a .73¢ increase.

Resolutions:

- A. **Resolution No. 21-11 To Authorize the City Manager to Draft a Purchase and Sales Agreement for the Transfer and Development of the Hilltop Elementary School Building and Property.**
- B. **Resolution No. 22-11 Resolution Concerning Hilltop School Property.**

Unfinished Business (under Section 12 of the Agenda):

Ordinances:

- A. **Ordinance No. 17-11 Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 3.4, Motor Vehicle Operation, Right Turn Prohibited.**
- B. **Ordinance No. 18-11 Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 3.1.F.2. Time Limited Parking, Two Hour.**
- C. **Ordinance No. 19-11 Transfer Ordinance.** This is a housekeeping budget action item.

D. Ordinance No. 20-11 Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 3.D No Parking Anytime.

Resolutions:

- A. Resolution No. 28-11 Naming the Ball Field at Millennium Park “St. Laurent Ball Field” (Referred to Recreation Committee).** Recreation Committee is expected to meet at 6:30 p.m. prior to the meeting.

New Business (under Section 13 of the Agenda):

Other:

- A. Discussion and Possible Vote to Release Recent Legal Opinions Recently Received by Council Concerning Hilltop School Re-use Resolutions.**
- B. Vote to Authorize the City Manager to Dispose of Surplus Property in the Best Interests of the City.** I have attached the draft Surplus Property Bid Sheet.
- C. Vote to Authorize the City Manager to Sign a Six Month Extension of the Cable Television Franchise Agreement Between the City of Somersworth, NH and Comcast of Maine/New Hampshire, Inc.** Attached is the draft extension agreement that Special Legal Council recommends be considered.
- D. Vote to Ratify a Wage and Working Agreement Between the City of Somersworth and the Public Works/Highway Department AFSCME Council 93, Local 86 (Expires June 30, 2012)**
- E. Vote to Ratify a Wage and Working Agreement Between the City of Somersworth and the Somersworth Police Employees New England Benevolent Association Local #19 (Expires June 30, 2012).**
- F. Vote to Authorize the City Manager to Contact the Rollinsford Board of Selectmen Regarding the Broadcasting of Somersworth’s Government Access Cable Channel 22 to Rollinsford COMCAST Subscribers and Furthermore the City Manager is Authorized to Take other Necessary Action with COMCAST in this Regard in the Best Interest of the City.** I have been assured by Comcast’s representative Jay Somers that this is do-able at no cost to either Community.
- G. Vote to Ratify a Wage and Working Agreement Between the City of Somersworth and the Somersworth Public Administrators Association (Expires June 30, 2012).**

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

- A. Informational Items:**

1. **City Website.** Attached are the results of the month long City Website Survey. Overall, I think you will find we scored very good. We will be working on some more improvements in the coming months.
2. **School Department/SAU-City Departments.** With the assistance of Bob Lister, I have instituted another step to improve our working relationship. Dr. Lister and new Superintendent Jeni Mosca have recently attended two City Manager-Department Head meetings. The Superintendent will continue attending on a monthly basis, more or less as needed.
3. **Automated External Defibrillator Donation.** I am please to report that Wentworth Douglass Hospital has donated \$1,700 towards the purchase of two automated external defibrillators to be placed at City Hall and the library. Thank you to Wentworth Douglass Hospital and to American Medical Response (Paul Robidas) for taking the lead in this project.
4. **JAG Grant.** Attached is a memo from the Police Department outlining the receipt of a \$12,013 grant that we will move forward to execute unless Council directs otherwise. This is a regionalized grant being administered by the County.

B. Attachments:

1. City Attorney Certifications (4)
2. Monthly Department Head Reports.
3. Draft City RFQ/RFP for Engineering Services.
4. Planner 6-16-2011 memo regarding \$2,000 worth of GIS work through a grant program with UNH.
5. Somersworth Share Fund 'Thank You' letter of City employees for \$134 donation.
6. COAST Bus expanded summer schedule.

LAY ON TABLE.

Councilor Witham moved to remove Ordinance No. 10-11 from the table. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed unanimously.

Councilor Witham questioned the City Manager regarding cuts at the Library, asking him if this will reduce hours at the Library, and if so how they will be reduced and how this will impact services.

The City Manager replied that the hours will be reduced. He has not received a written report in regards to exactly what the Library Director would be working out with the Library Trustees as to when the Library will be closed because of the cut in staffing.

Finance Director Smith said right now the recommendation would be to close one day a week. They are presently closed on Sundays, and they would additionally be closed on Mondays. They would also limit the hours they are open at night and Saturdays will be reduced to half days.

Councilor Tapscott said he had the distinct pleasure to work very closely with the Festival Association staff this weekend. If not for the hard work and dedication of dozens of volunteers these events would not take place. We all heard this evening about the dire financial straits the Association is in. When people think of Somersworth, a lot of them think of the Children's Festival. It has been with us for 31 years and it is a shining gem in this City.

Councilor Tapscott moved to re-institute \$3,000 for fireworks under Elected Leadership, Pride Day.

The motion was seconded by Councilor McCallion.

Councilor Tapscott said the Friday night event was very well attended and the fireworks were the highlight of the night. We should hang on to this as long as we possibly can.

Councilor McCallion said he went to the Children's Festival. It has a very large impact on kids. Seeing all the kids having a great time and all the volunteers was a real eye opener. There is definitely a love in our town for the Children's Festival.

Councilor Pepin said one reason the Children's Festival was really organized was to help bring people into our town to show them what we do have. Everytime we advertise ourselves, we use the Children's Festival. It is one of our attractions. It is not just for the children, it is also for the support of our community.

Councilor Watman said he cannot disagree with anything that has been said, but he looks at it that we have, in fact, reduced Fire Department coverage, reduced the budget so far by eliminating a position at the Library, reduced coverage by a City Engineer, reduced coverage by clerical staff in the Development Services Office, elected not to replace certain equipment at the Public Works Department that has been patched together. Although he greatly values all the activities that the Festival Association has performed over the years, if we have to cut the budget it has to be done with some sort of priorities and we may have disagreement about those. In his mind, he has to place this \$3,000 at a lower level than some of the items we have reduced. He cannot support this.

Councilor Witham said he has participated with the Festival Association in some way over the past ten years and has seen first-hand the value of the event and realizes it is one of the stamps we put on our image in the City of Somersworth.

Councilor Witham referred to Councilor Watman's remarks about staff eliminations, reduction in hours and services, not doing as much as we would like to maintain our infrastructure, agreeing that he cannot support this.

Councilor Witham said every year he makes an in-kind donation to the Festival Association. Maybe he needs to try to make a larger donation. He encouraged everybody to do the same because it is a valuable aspect to our community.

The motion to add \$3,000 back in to Pride Day failed by a vote of 4 yeas, 5 nays, Councilors Watman, Messier, Witham, Jarvis and Sprague voting in the negative.

Councilor Witham wished to follow up on a communication he received from a resident regarding COAST bus service. If the entire allotment was cut, (which he believes is \$51,000), what impact would that have to the bus service in Somersworth?

Councilor Watman said that would depend on the amount of the cut. A small amount might not affect the fares, but it would affect the service. A larger cut could affect both.

Councilor Witham referred to account 0245, Library Assistants in a part-time capacity, asking if that line were increased by some percentage would increased part-time staff hours improve hours of operation that would result from the reduction of the Library Assistant.

Finance Director Smith said if we had more staff hours we would be able to increase some of those hours. He thinks they would still be looking at closing on Mondays. Losing the full-time Library Assistant will put stress on the staff as it is.

Councilor Tapscott moved to utilize \$250,000 from the Fund Balance to reduce the tax rate increase. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin.

Councilor Tapscott said he knows the Fund Balance is looking better and better. The water and sewer funds should be in the black for the first time this year and he feels we can utilize some of these funds to reduce the tax rate increase.

Councilor Watman asked the Finance Director what that would leave in the Fund Balance excluding the obligated funds.

Finance Director Smith replied currently have about \$1.7M which is about 5.6% of appropriations. The recommendation is around 8%. We are on the low end of where we should be. We have been trying to build this up. We have begun to see some improvements in the utility funds. It probably wouldn't be the worse thing, but his concern would be in the event we need to take any action next fiscal year you will probably be looking to use your Fund Balance. It would be a long-range concern.

Councilor Spainhower said he is not in favor of using the Fund Balance. We are just starting to increase it. If we get below the minimum that the State likes, it could affect our bond rating.

Councilor Witham said this is an interesting proposal. In his tenure here both audit reports recommend that we continue to increase our Fund Balance because we are still under 8%. One of the uncertainties that we seem to still have is what type of impact the State budget will have on us locally. If we pass our budget tonight without knowing this, we may have to use money from our Fund Balance in the near future.

Councilor Pepin said he is concerned about the State budget also. We are not sure which way the State is going yet, and he does not think we should dip into our Fund Balance in case we need to make adjustments.

The motion to transfer \$250,000 from the Fund Balance to lower the tax rate failed by roll call vote of 1 yea, 8 nays, Councilor Tapscott voting in the affirmative.

Councilor Spainhower moved to cut \$25,000 from COAST Bus services. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham.

Councilor Spainhower said he received a call from a citizen stating COAST is now offering vouchers to go to Avis Goodwin Health Center and wondering why they need our money if they can afford to do this.

Councilor Watman said that size of a cut would result in a fare increase and/or a reduction in service. He is not familiar with this voucher program, but vouchers are generally a cooperative service. Except for special events, COAST does not give away free service.

Councilor Witham said it was remarked to him today by a resident that as economic times become more difficult a greater reliance is generated on library services. He believes there is a similar correlation with the COAST bus service. As the economy goes down, ridership goes up.

Councilor Messier said he will not be supporting this cut. We have all seen in the newspapers that ridership is up. This is a service that is needed by many people in our community.

Councilor Sprague said he cannot support this either. COAST doesn't make any money and they rely on this. They will probably be taking a hit as it is.

The motion to cut \$25,000 from the COAST bus service failed by roll call vote of 1 yea, 8 nays, Councilor Spainhower voting in the affirmative.

Councilor Sprague moved to cut the School Board budget by \$200,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Spainhower.

Councilor Pepin moved to suspend the rules to allow the School Board Chair to speak about what a cut like this would do to the School Department. The motion was seconded by Councilor Spainhower and passed unanimously.

Councilor Sprague said the two years he has been on the Council we have had leftover monies from the school.

Councilor Spainhower said he would be in favor of this because the School Department increase is a larger percentage than the City side of the budget.

Councilor McCallion said they would still be getting more than they had last year. It goes up every year. We only vote on the bottom line. It is their decision how the money is spent.

Councilor Pepin said people forget that every year the School Department is cutting back more and more programs. We could end up losing our certification. Rollinsford students could decide to go someplace else then we would lose that revenue. The kids are our future and their education is important. You need to take a hard look at what you are cutting because this would hurt deeply.

Councilor Witham said he understands the math and the idea of equity. When it comes to a budget, we need to look at it differently, and that is programmatically. We need to determine what impact cuts will have on services. He has not heard a rational explanation of how the \$200,000 figure came about.

Councilor Sprague said he agrees about not hearing a rationalization. He would like to have someone from the SAU come up and speak about this. There is a bill in Concord right now about getting rid of the SAU's and having a County-wide SAU. He sees surplus coming back, and he believes we need to keep this tax rate down in order to promote people moving into our community.

Councilor Sprague said he believes if we are cutting our employees on the City-side that the SAU needs to look within their administration and see where they can do with a little bit less.

Councilor Tapscott said the SAU budget is separate from the School Department budget. It is voted on between Rollinsford and Somersworth. The School Board cannot control the SAU budget at all.

Councilor Witham stated that developing a funding stream for capital projects in the School Department is up to the Council and not up to the School Department. The School Department has come to us to let us know what their needs are as indicated in the Capital Improvements Program which was approved by this Council unanimously after going through the Planning Board and numerous public hearings and meetings. There are approximately 33 pages of CIP projects for the School Department in the document. If it is the will of the Council to fund these, he would be glad to draft a resolution to be brought before this body for discussion.

Councilor Pepin indicated the School Board has come before us in the past. They told us what they needed for repairs and we have never taken any action on it. They have to make decisions that will help the School Department keep their certification.

Councilor Tapscott said if they give us money back every year maybe it can go into the Fund Balance to build it up.

Councilor Witham asked School Board Chair Donald Austin if the original \$300,000 cut eliminated any staff positions.

Mr. Austin replied they are looking at eliminating seven positions. If there were an additional cut of \$200,000 five more positions would be eliminated. They would be cutting para-professional positions that directly support special education; a math interventionist, which is an area the schools really need to focus on in order to improve the State testing scores; a reading recovery specialist to help students who really need that type of help. We are not talking about fluff.

Councilor Sprague asked if this cut would impact the new position of Assistant Principal at the new elementary school.

Mr. Austin said the Assistant Principal position at Idlehurst would remain. What would be cut are services that impact the kids the most. We could come dangerously close to losing accreditation.

Councilor Sprague asked if overall enrollment has gone up or down over the last few years.

Mr. Austin replied it has been relatively “flat”, not going up or down.

Councilor Pepin said some Council members are bothered by this new Assistant Principal position. He asked Mr. Austin if it is needed because of there being more special ed classes in the new school.

Mr. Austin said that he knows it is very important educationally to have the Assistant Principal position in the new school because of the size of the school and the infrastructure itself, as well as the number of students and the number of programs and services not only to the school, but also to the community. That person could very well have some special ed duties, but he thinks it’s a broader description than that.

The motion to reduce the School Department budget by an additional \$200,000 failed by roll call vote of 3 yeas, 6 nays, Councilors Pepin, Watman, Messier, Tapscott, Witham and Jarvis voting in the negative.

Ordinance No. 10-11, as amended, passed by roll call vote of 5 yeas, 4 nays, Councilors Watman, Spainhower, McCallion and Sprague voting in the negative.

Councilor Watman moved to take Resolution No. 21-11 off the table. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham. The motion failed by roll call vote of 4 yeas, 5 nays, Councilors Pepin, Spainhower, McCallion, Jarvis and Sprague voting in the negative.

Councilor Watman moved to take Resolution No. 22-11 off the table. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham. The motion failed by roll call vote of 1 yea, 8 nays, Councilor Pepin voting in the affirmative.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

NOMINATIONS.

- Zoning Board of Adjustment – Stacy Hall, term to expire 4/2014.
The nomination failed by roll call vote of 1 yeas, 8 nays, Councilor Messier voting in the affirmative.
- Library Board of Trustees – Thomas Tetreault, term to expire 2/2016.
The nomination passed by a vote of 8 yeas, 1 nay, Councilor Sprague voting in the negative.
- Board of Assessors – James Cowan, term to expire 4/2014.
The nomination passed by a vote of 8 yeas, 1 nay, Councilor Sprague voting in the negative.
- Supervisor of the Checklist, Ward 1 – Pam Sawyer, term to expire 5/2016.
The nomination passed by a vote of 8 yeas, 1 nay, Councilor Sprague voting in the negative.
- Supervisor of the Checklist, Ward 2 – Jennifer Soldati, term to expire 2/2016.
The nomination passed unanimously.
- Trustee of Trust Funds – Donald Routhier, term to expire 4/2014.
The nomination failed by roll call vote of 4 yeas, 5 nays, Councilors Watman, Messier, Tapscott, Witham and Jarvis voting in the negative.

Councilor Sprague indicated he has requested receiving some background info on people who are being nominated and he hasn't received anything on most of these nominations.

ORDINANCES.

ORDINANCE NO. 17-11 AMEND CHAPTER 13, POLICE OFFENSES, SECTION 3.4, MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATION, RIGHT TURN PROHIBITED.

Councilor Tapscott said this is in regards to northbound traffic on Main Street trying to make the hairpin turn going down the ramp into General Electric. This would prohibit that.

Councilor Witham asked what precipitated this. General Electric has been there for a long time.

Councilor Tapscott replied it was precipitated by the loss of a fire hydrant.

Councilor Sprague asked if there was any thought about snow removal operations, whether this would apply from midnight to 6:00 a.m.

Councilor Tapscott replied if they are 26,000 pounds or more it would apply.

Councilor Messier said the Traffic Safety Committee supports this as well as General Electric. He suggested the Council support it also.

Councilor Witham assumed there would be a cost associated with implementing this change and he wondered who would be paying for it.

Councilor Tapscott indicated General Electric would be paying any associated costs.

Ordinance No. 17-11 passed by a vote of 8 yeas, 1 nay, Councilor Sprague voting in the negative.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-11 AMEND CHAPTER 13, POLICE OFFENSES, SECTION 3.1.F.2 TIME LIMITED PARKING, TWO HOUR.

Councilor Tapscott said this is another unanimous request by the Traffic Safety Committee. This is the section of Elm Street behind the old City Hall. There are no employees there any more and the spaces aren't needed for all day parking. This would limit the parking there, especially when there are elections.

Councilor Witham said it is interesting that this comes before us on the heels of the Planning Board approving a project on Elm Street, which will utilize some on-street parking. Two-hour parking seems relatively restrictive. He has driven by the area many times at various times of day, and not once did he see a car parked on Elm Street. We do not have a parking problem on Elm Street at present, and he cannot support this.

Ordinance No. 18-11 failed by roll call vote of 1 yeas, 8 nays, Councilor Tapscott voting in the affirmative.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-11 TRANSFER BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS.

Councilor Jarvis said this proposed transfer ordinance reflects the required amounts to cover over-expenditures in three different departments. Development Services, \$8,000 for City Hall HVAC work, Fire Department due to overtime and changes in health insurance, and Public Works for overtime, changes in health insurance, and vehicle fuel. The total transfer is \$41,000.

Ordinance No. 19-11 passed by roll call vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 28-11 NAMING THE BALL FIELD AT MILLENNIUM PARK ST. LAURENT BALL FIELD.

Councilor Witham moved to amend Resolution No. 28-11 by removing the word “ball” between St. Laurent and Field. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott.

The amendment passed by roll call vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays.

Councilor Pepin said they had to close St. Laurent Park behind the Fire Station. Mr. St. Laurent made many contributions to the City of Somersworth and his name should remain somewhere in the City. That is the intent of this resolution. This is the least we can do and he supports this 100%.

Councilor Watman said he thinks it is a wonderful thing that we can continue to honor Mayor St. Laurent in a way that the family feels would be appreciated by him. He is so glad that this match-up came to pass.

Councilor Witham said he would agree with what has been said. When it became evident that we were going to have to close the current St. Laurent Park behind the Fire Station, this all made sense to him to do this. He was very pleased that we have come to some resolve on this and he is most pleased that the family is pleased with this direction.

Resolution No. 28-11 passed by roll call vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays.

NEW BUSINESS.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-11 AMEND CHAPTER 13, POLICE OFFENSES, SECTION 3.D NO PARKING ANYTIME.

Somersworth, NH
June 20, 2011

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH ORDAINS THAT the Ordinances of the City of Somersworth, as amended, be further amended as follows:

Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 3.D No Parking Anytime, by adding the following:

Stackpole Road both sides, from High Street (east) to 100 feet past Deer Creek Run.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Introduced by Councilor

Brian Tapscott

Approved:

City Attorney

Councilor Tapscott moved to suspend the rules to allow a second reading of Ordinance No. 20-11. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham. The motion passed by a vote of 8 yeas, 1 nay, Councilor Spainhower voting in the negative.

Councilor Tapscott said this came about through the Joint Building Committee and the neighbors along Stackpole Road. This is to prevent all day or all night parking in front of their homes. This is really a safety precaution and it was unanimously approved by the Traffic Safety Committee as well as the Joint Building Committee.

Councilor Messier said some parents come to pick up their children very early. He doesn't feel they should be parked out on the street because there will be plenty of room in the parking lot, and also Stackpole Road is a very busy road.

Councilor Spainhower said he thinks this ordinance needs some work. He understands the whole principal behind it, the only problem he has is that it would be all the time. If a neighbor has a party on a Saturday or Sunday in that neighborhood, he can't have anyone park on that side of the street. He feels it needs some amendment.

Councilor Sprague agrees with these comments. He will not support it as it is.

Councilor Watman said this would not be critical until school starts in September. It could be voted on in August.

Ordinance No. 20-11 failed by roll call vote of 1 yea, 8 nays, Councilor Tapscott voting in the affirmative.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO RELEASE RECENT LEGAL OPINIONS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL CONCERNING HILLTOP SCHOOL RE-USE OPTIONS.

Councilor Witham said Council has received a couple of legal opinions regarding the resolution on developing a purchase and sales agreement on the Hilltop School Building and some related questions.

Councilor Witham made a motion that the two legal opinions be made part of the public record and posted on the City website.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed unanimously.

VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO DISPOSE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CITY.

Councilor Watman moved to authorize the City Manager to dispose of surplus property in the best interests of the City. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham and passed unanimously.

VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN A SIX MONTH EXTENSION OF THE CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH, NH AND COMCAST OF MAINE/NEW HAMPSHIRE, INC.

Councilor Watman moved to authorize the City Manager to sign a six month extension of the cable television franchise agreement between the City of Somersworth, NH and Comcast of Maine/New Hampshire, Inc. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed unanimously.

VOTE TO RATIFY A WAGE AND WORKING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH AND THE PUBLIC WORKS/HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT AFSCME COUNCIL 93, LOCAL 86 (EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2012).

Councilor Witham moved to ratify this wage and working agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed unanimously.

VOTE TO RATIFY A WAGE AND WORKING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH AND THE SOMERSWORTH POLICE EMPLOYEES NEW ENGLAND BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION LOCAL #19 (EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2012).

Councilor Witham moved to ratify this wage and working agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed unanimously.

VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTACT THE ROLLINSFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGARDING THE BROADCASTING OF SOMERSWORTH'S GOVERNMENT ACCESS CABLE CHANNEL 22 TO ROLLINSFORD COMCAST SUBSCRIBERS AND FURTHERMORE THE CITY MANAGER IS AUTHORIZED TO TAKE OTHER NECESSARY ACTION WITH COMCAST IN THIS REGARD IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CITY.

Councilor Watman moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Tapscott. The motion was approved unanimously.

VOTE TO RATIFY A WAGE AND WORKING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH AND THE SOMERSWORTH PUBLIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION (EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2012).

Councilor Witham moved to ratify this wage and working agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and approved unanimously.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

Joanne Pepin, a member of the Festival Association Board of Directors, said the next function is the "Kids Concerts", which will start on July 13th at 6:00 p.m., and will

happen every Wednesday evening through the summer. She asked everyone, especially our City fathers, to encourage people who can donate to please do so. Frequently people who do have money will try to sneak in to free events without donating, while people who have nothing give what they can. If you want these things to keep going, please find a way to help us do that.

Real Roseberry, 405 Route 108, said he is disappointed in the City Council. An increase of \$.73 is too much. Next June the increase will double.

Mr. Roseberry also congratulated the Council. For the first time he can say the taxpayers of Somersworth see things getting done and where their money is spent. The road between Home Depot and Route 108 is wonderful since it has been paved and people are using it. It is also nice to see the new police cruiser and he wants to see the second one when we get it. The next thing he is going to watch is the paving on High Street from South Street to the traffic lights. That should be done as soon as possible.

Sue Gregoire, the Director of the Festival Association thanked the City Council for their support. She has been the Director for 19 years. She would like to see the Festival Association and the City people have some kind of awareness fundraiser so that people know what kind of position they are in. She doesn't think people want to see them go away. She spoke to one of the members of the Friends of Somersworth who was saying their mission seemed to be the same. She would like to see a joining of all the people in the community who care. She said they would like to feel support and appreciation in Somersworth.

Bill Griffith, 52 Grove Street, said some of them were lectured about money a couple of meetings ago. He does not want to be lectured about money because that is something he understands. However, in this day and age when there is so much financial trouble in the town and in the general economy he doesn't want to be forced into an attitude of scarcity such that most of the decisions he would make would be about that. With regard to the Festival funding, that is \$3,000. That is marketing. If you cut things like that, the idea about what this community is takes a hit. Maybe when the City Manager does the surplus auctioning of equipment, or if the Police Department could donate some of their time to the Festival as he has heard they used to do, they could take half of that money and donate it to the Festival Association, because that means something as to who we are.

Mr. Griffith said he would really like to see money put into education and money put in to marketing this community and not taking something as trivial as \$3,000 and writing it off.

Linda Chaston, 37 Page Street, said she is a little concerned about the development of the former Somersworth Hotel building and the new building that will be built beside it. There will be no recreational facilities for the families that will live there. The bottom line is the developer will give the City money for the property but what will it give back to the City?

Ms. Chaston said the Festival Association has asked for \$3,000. She agrees with what Mr. Griffith said about branding and promoting the City and inviting people to come in and establishing a City we can be proud of. In that light, \$3,000 seems very small. She would like the Festival Association and what they do stay. She feels it represents Somersworth better than another huge apartment building. We are so beyond any other town in this area with rental units. She doesn't think we need more.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Councilor McCallion thanked everybody who attended the Children's Festival.

Mr. McCallion said there are a lot of good things happening in Somersworth and we need to keep a positive outlook.

Councilor Pepin thanked the public for showing up for the Children's Festival. It was amazing how many people showed up between the two days. People who want to donate their time are always needed. Any help is appreciated and goes a long way.

Councilor Witham said that yes, the Somersworth Hotel project was approved. He is not sure whether or not it is the best project for the City of Somersworth, he will let others argue that. What he does know is that the project was zoned appropriately and met all of our regulations. If there is a desire to limit that type of development, zoning ordinance changes are what would be prescribed to do that.

Councilor Witham said he did help to set up signs this past Saturday for the Children's Festival. He is glad to help out in some small way.

Councilor Witham said he went to Manchester on Saturday to watch the boy's varsity baseball team compete for a State title. The two young men that were up here with the marketing class are key contributors to that ball team, so they are obviously well-rounded students. The girl's softball team competed for a State title the previous weekend. We have had a very successful sporting season here in Somersworth. Congratulations to all the student athletes.

Councilor Witham said that because of the beginning of a new fiscal year, all the resolutions regarding Hilltop School will go away and we will be left with a clean slate.

Councilor Sprague said when it comes to branding the City, he does not want to be branded as the City with the highest taxes and no ice arena, no swimming pools, nothing but a Wal Mart, Target and Home Depot and a bumpy main road.

Councilor Sprague said the \$3,000 cut is not a hit against the Children's Festival. He indicated he would be willing to help them if they want to do a golf tournament fund raiser. When the Council makes cuts it is not because they are against anything, they are trying to be fiscally responsible.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

Mayor Soldati said there will be a presentation at the August 15th meeting by Peter Michaud, who is an architect, regarding the Hilltop School building.

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Councilor Witham to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Diane M. DuBois, City Clerk

Lincoln T. Soldati, Mayor

