

Somersworth, NH
May 2, 2011

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

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON 04/04/11 REGARDING ORDINANCE NO. 9-11.

The minutes of the public hearing held on 04/04/2011 passed. (Motion-Witham, second-Tapscott; Spainhower abstained from the vote.)

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 04/04/11.

The minutes of the City Council meeting held on 04/04/2011 passed. (Motion-Pepin, second-Witham; Spainhower abstained from the vote.)

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING ON 04/11/11 REGARDING THE FY 2011-2012 BUDGET.

The minutes of the public hearing held on 04/11/2011 passed. (Motion-Witham, second-Tapscott; Spainhower abstained from the vote.)

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON 04/18/11 REGARDING LAKE STREET PROPERTY.

The minutes of the public hearing held on 04/18/2011 will be on the agenda of the next meeting. With the abstention of Councilors Pepin, Spainhower, Witham and Messier the vote was not held.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

Mayor Soldati gave direction regarding the general rules for "Comments by Visitors."

Elizabeth Miller, 19 Prospect St, said that she, as well as a number of those in the audience, is there regarding Resolution No. 21-11, the purchase and sales agreement for the Hilltop School Property. This resolution has raised concerns as to what is best for the City of Somersworth, selling the building for additional housing or utilizing the property for community benefits as indicated in Resolution No. 22-11. There has been an overwhelming and incredible support by many Somersworth residents to keep the property for the community. Over the last week there have been many gatherings, talking about it. She said that the overall objective for her is that the first thing that they want to communicate is that from a community perspective; they have organized a group of

people and have established a committee. This committee is going to comprise many people with many areas of expertise to access the feasibility and the usage of the Hilltop School property as a community cultural center. Secondly, and most importantly, they are asking the Council not to make any decisions or sign any purchase and sales agreements until they can come back with a viable option for the property. She is thankful that they have a lawyer as the Mayor because obviously they do not want to sign any contractual agreement that they can not back out of. Clearly it is a major concern. They ask that no decision is made on Resolution No. 21-11 until the committee has completed the analysis on viable options. She appeals to Somersworth residents to allow the committee to provide these options for Somersworth. As a community this is not a Ward 1 issue, it is not a Hilltop issue, it is what is in the best interest of the residents of the City of Somersworth. Do they need additional housing or could they benefit from a community and cultural center? They are asking for people to be supportive. It impacts the entire City, she said. Please contact your Council person and let them know that you support this initiative.

Lara Willard, 350 Old Rochester Rd, is also here speaking on behalf of the group. It is easy to see why the people on the Hill are concerned about their property values, the integrity of the neighborhood and the view out their windows, but why is she there; she doesn't live on the Hill. She is there because she is fearful that this Council is about to step onto a slippery slope, a path that denigrates the value of the Hilltop neighborhood, but further deteriorates the value of the community as a whole. She is here because she is fearful that some members of the Council are confusing short term gains with long term losses. She is there also as a marketer. She has worked in marketing and public relations for a long time and when she thinks of this situation, she can't help but think of it from a marketing perspective. Her opinion is that for a long time, Somersworth has had a branding problem. Many people in and around Somersworth have somewhat of a negative perception about their community and their direction. She has always believed that the best way to put their best foot forward in regard to changing that brand perception lies in the marketing power of preserving and revitalizing their unique history. Our town can tell the story of a classic New England Mill town complete with river and mills and architecture and buildings that depict the industrial revolution. They can do that very uniquely. If they lose that then they lose a big sell of Somersworth. They have the largest historic district in the State of NH. The Hilltop is a crown jewel in that district. To lose that is a real shame and it is a much bigger loss than just what the building is worth monetarily.

As a resident and involved citizen of Somersworth, she often feels that they have been dealt kind of a bad hand. She believes that the Hilltop school and the neighborhood there is one of the few good cards that they are holding. She is there tonight to strongly encourage them to play that card wisely. Their taxes are high, their services are limited, the big boxes are killing the downtown businesses and a lot of their neighborhoods are in decline, yet through all of this, many of them still love Somersworth. Still hold hope that they can turn this around someday. Perhaps more than any other building in their community, this particular building is extremely significant to who they are. They are the "Hilltoppers" and the Hilltop it is more than a treasured place, it is the spirit that this

community embodies. She said she gets that the Council is just exploring options, but 21-11 is not right for this City and they ask that the options that they do explore going forward have a greater respect for the Hilltop spirit of the community. They ask that you learn lessons from the history of tearing down treasured buildings and replacing them with eyesores and turning valuable in-town properties into an overload of elderly and low-income housing that is killing the downtown. They ask that they prioritize the long term attractiveness, integrity and marketability of the community over a short term sale and very modest boost to the tax base. All of Somersworth should be concerned, not just the people on the Hill. A purchase and sales agreement in her opinion would be a Faustian bargain that sells out the soul of this City. This is not just a Hill issue. She says enough is enough. 21-11 is wrong for Somersworth. Exploring it is damaging to the trust the public has placed into the Council. It is inconsistent with the Master Plan and inconsistent with their vision and deteriorates the Hilltop spirit which is a symbol of this community

George Poulin is here because of the resolution to put apartments up on the Hill. He is the President of the Historical Society and the Chairman of the Historic District Commission and he said, he is also here as a neighbor. He lives on the Hill and, watching the last meeting, when he heard about the apartments, he almost fell out of bed; he just couldn't believe that you would possibly think of putting more apartments up there. He said, they have trouble with the people across the street for years, it still hasn't been fixed. He can't believe you'd even think of putting in more apartments. We have enough Section 8 in this town, and that's what's going to happen, he said. Please consider what the group has to offer here, he said. Listen to them, hear them out. You put a new school in for \$20M, you raised our taxes and that's fine, put a community center in. They know they are going to have to pay the taxes. Just do what the people ask.

Michelle Nash, 78 Winter St, said that her concern here is on the budget. She is concerned about forwarding the school budget as is. She is concerned about the losses that they will have when they lose more positions with teachers and support programs. It seems like every year something is getting cut from the budget. She has a child in 2nd grade and 10th grade and a son who went through Somersworth High School. She works at Hilltop and every year it seems that they are coming and fighting for the budget to go through. She is concerned about the different levels that might be cut. She knows it is tough, they pay taxes here, it is a struggling community but they need to make sure this is a place where people want to bring their families to live. They don't want to lose advanced placement courses at the High School or more sports programs. She is there to say that she supports the School budget.

MAYOR'S REPORT.

Mayor Soldati had three things to address this evening. The first, he said. It is with great pride that he put together a proclamation that he hopes will be read at a ceremony later this week to honor two of the firefighters, Kenneth Vincent and James Drakopoulos in the City who risked their lives to save another. They will be recognized at ceremony next

Monday at the State House. Mayor Soldati proclaimed May 9, 2010 as the Day of Heroes in the City of Somersworth. Applause.

The Mayor proclaimed May 15th Public Works Week in the City of Somersworth in recognition of the contribution which public works officials make every day to our health, safety, comfort and quality of life. Applause.

Mayor Soldati urged people to take advantage of the open house at public works.

Mayor Soldati made an announcement on behalf of the Greater Somersworth Chamber of Commerce. The Somersworth Chamber of Commerce is holding their annual awards dinner on Friday May 20, 2011 at 6:00 pm at the VFW Hall at 43 High St. This year's recipient for Business of the Year is Seacoast Orthopedics and Sports Medicine; the Citizen of the Year is Maureen Jackman and the Teacher of the Year is Pamela Martin of Somersworth High School. All are invited to attend.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilor Jarvis said that the Finance Committee met on April 22, 2011 at 9 am. They opened the meeting with approval of the previous minutes and moved to the sale of the Malley Farm Road city property. The City Manager gave an update on the status of the property and, after review, the Committee agreed to have the City Manager market it through Grubb and Ellis for a six month period. Tom Willis updated them on wastewater sludge and crack seal bids. The Committee discussed the need to remove the Fenton dryer in order to make room for the larger container that will be more cost effective moving forward and authorized them to remove the dryer. They reviewed the water rates; Finance Director Scott Smith presented the current status of revenues as well as projections for the next two year. They are in the fourth year of a four year program. It is the water rate that is currently under review. It looks as if they are going to have a positive cash flow for water this year. They compared their rates with surrounding cities and towns and reviewed the impact of keeping it the same, vs. a 5% or 10% increase and agreed to support the 5% increase. They looked at recommendations from the committee that looked at health and dental (benefits) and agreed with their recommendations. They reviewed non-union employee wage and health insurance, Chapter 4, in regards to verbiage for employee contracts in order to make it consistent and supported that. An evaluation was done regarding the property liability and workman's comp. insurance coverage. They did rate quotes for LGC vs. Primex which would be effective July 1, 2011 through July 1, 2013. Both were extremely similar. We have been with LGC for the last five years. They felt it was more beneficial to go with Primex because of the cap. They adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Councilor Witham asked how we compare to surrounding communities for water rates. Councilor Jarvis answered that we are actually less.

PUBLIC WORKS AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Councilor Spainhower said that the Public Works and the Environment Committee met on April 28, 2011 at 3 pm. They approved past minutes. They awarded the striping bid to Marking Inc, who was the lowest bid at \$14,916. They reviewed road resurfacing bids for High St. and Willand Dr. the Committee supported that 3-0 not to exceed \$287,762. They discussed the request for water service from four houses in Rollinsford. Councilor Witham was in attendance and said that the Ward 5 drainage looked very nice and that the parking area was done very well.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilor Watman reported that the Public Safety Committee will meet tomorrow, 05/03/2011, at 3:30 pm in the Executive Conference Room to discuss utilization of leftover grant money from the Fire Department and to follow up on a conversation with American Medical Response.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Councilor Jarvis said that they met on April 22, 2011 at 10:30am. They discussed the housing code for the multi-family rental unit properties. They also discussed bringing back the downtown one-way traffic pattern.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Councilor Pepin had nothing to report for the Recreation Committee.

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Councilor Tapscott reported that the Government Operations Committee met last April 27, 2011 at 3:00 pm. They reviewed the health/dental recommendations. They reviewed the non-union employee wage and health insurance. He said that non-union agreed to a cost of living of 1% and adding a 2% increase of employee contribution to the health insurance. That was unanimously recommended to the full Council They reviewed Council Rules and Regulations regarding length of time to speak by public and overall time allotted. It is left to ask Council if they want the Government Operations Committee to look into the issue. They would be pleased to. They reviewed Chapter 6, City Officials- fees for filing for elected office. Now the elected official filing fees, except the Mayor are all \$5.00. They presented the City Manager with a marked up copy of Chapter 29, the Administrative Code. He will peruse and get back to the Government Operations Committee at a later date.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER.

SCHOOL BOARD

Councilor Pepin said that he attended a couple of School Board meeting, one of which was prior to the last Council meeting which he didn't attend on April 12, 2011. He would like to bring up one item that was discussed there. He knows the feeling of the Council is that there are going to be some deep cuts and knows that the School Board would like to have a proposal in front of them as soon as possible so that they can determine how they are going to cut. In having conversations with Council members before, he thought that they would try to act on the budget as soon as possible and he does encourage that. They got the memo from the Superintendent that they have some big decisions to make and to be fair to them they should try to give them as much notice as possible. He attended the meeting on April 26, 2011, a joint workshop, discussing cuts, and outside of that, he said it was just a regular board meeting.

COAST

Councilor Watman knows that everyone has been wondering why he has not given a COAST bus report lately. They cancelled their April meeting due to lack of business; they meet again at the end of the month.

PLANNING BOARD

Councilor Witham reported that there was a general discussion at the last Planning Board meeting with regard to the proposed (large) development in Rollinsford behind Demoulos. The Planning Board unanimously supported sending a letter to the Rollinsford Planning Board encouraging that Board to declare it a project of regional impact so that their Planning Board would have some level of oversight where it would have an impact here. There is also some conversation of not developing, but putting the land into conservation easement but they want to be on the safe side and get that on record.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Councilor Jarvis updated that their first meeting was on March 17, 2011 and they have elected Liz Wilson, Chair and Jennifer Soldati, Secretary. Currently they are reviewing procedural structure and trying to make sure that they communicate with the public as to what is going on to participate as well as possible. They are hoping soon to have information both in the newsletter and on Channel 22. They set the regular, established meetings for the third Thursday at 7:00 pm in Chambers. That is open to the public.

JOINT BUILDING COMMITTEE

Councilor Tapscott presented the following summary from Bonnette, Page & Stone Corp.:

Idlehurst School
Somersworth, NH
April 28, 2011

ON SITE CURRENT & COMPLETE

Granite sills
Casework installation continues at C Wing including Kindergarten
Gypsum soffits at cafeteria complete
Permanent heat is on
Vinyl composite tile ongoing at A & B Wings
Ceramic tile ongoing at A & B Wings
Exterior wall envelope at gymnasium and cafeteria
Curbing installed with exception of key access areas for construction
Off site improvements at Stackpole Road have begun

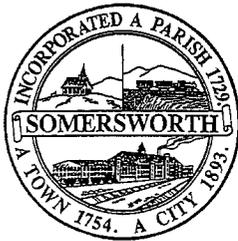
ON SITE NEXT TWO WEEKS

Interior trim at cafeteria
Interior trim at Music Room
Granite sills and precast installations
Final coat of paint to begin
Tile floor at kitchen
Translucent panel installation at Gymnasium
Stage floor to begin
Acoustical panels at Gymnasium walls

ONE MONTH OUT

Finish coat of paint complete
Casework complete
Gymnasium floor to begin
Gymnasium equipment installation to begin
Aluminum Storefront to begin

Councilor Tapscott also said that they have established a Celebration Committee for a celebration sometime in August.



CITY OF SOMERSWORTH
Office of the City Manager

TO: Mayor Lincoln Soldati and City Council Members
FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager
DATE: Friday, April 29th, 2011
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, May 2nd, 2011

City Council Agenda

**5:30 p.m. Workshop - Presentation by
Stratford Capital Group, LLC
On Their Proposal for the Acquisition and Redevelopment
Of the Hilltop School Property**

Old Business (under Section 12 of the Agenda):

Ordinances:

- A. Ordinance No. 10-11 FY 2011-2012 Budget.**

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.** Mr. Richard Hayden of Strafford Capital Group will be present for the workshop and plans to do a PowerPoint presentation.
- B. Resolution No. 22-11 Resolution Concerning Hilltop School Property.**
- C. Resolution No. 23-11 Authorizing the City Manager to Complete City Road Maintenance Projects and to Contract with Bedford Sealcoating, Inc. of Bedford, NH to Provide Cracksealing Services on Certain City Roads.** The Public Works & Environment Committee and Finance Committee recommend moving forward with this budgeted work.

New Business (under Section 13 of the Agenda):

Ordinances:

- A. Ordinance No. 11-11 Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 3.4.B. Motor Vehicle Operation, Speeds.** This is recommended by the City's Traffic Safety Committee.
- B. Ordinance No. 13-11 Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Add Temporary Sections Relative to One-Way Traffic Pattern, Parking, Stop, Yield and Restricted Travel.** Attached is a cost estimate from Public Works Director Tom Willis to implement a 3-month trial period. The Economic Development Committee did discuss this matter at their April 22nd meeting and referred their recommended plan for an August-September-October period to the Traffic Safety Committee for review and comment.

Resolutions:

- A. Resolution No. 24-11 City Council to Adopt the Provisions of RSA 72:1-c Authorizing the City of Somersworth to Elect not to Assess, Levy and Collect a Resident Tax.** Attached is a copy of RSA 72:1-C, and a memo previously distributed to City Council. The Finance Committee does support this action. This

action was also identified at the Council's 2011 goal session as a needed step to allow for residents to register their vehicles by E-Reg.

- B. Resolution No. 25-11 City Council to Amend the Somersworth Water Works Tariff.** Attached are copies of information provided to the Finance and Public Works & Environment Committees as well as the current rates for water and sewer in the cities of Dover, Portsmouth and Rochester. The water utility financial projections provide the estimated impacts for a zero increase, 5% and 10% increase to the rate. City Staff recommends a 5% increase as stated in the Resolution.

- C. Resolution No. 26-11 To Authorize the City Manager to Draft and Disseminate Requests for Quotations for the Demolition of the Hilltop Elementary School Building.**

- D. Resolution No. 27-11 Authorizing the City Manager to Contract with GMI Asphalt, LLC of Belmont, NH to Resurface a Portion of High Street, Willand Drive, and Make Necessary Drainage and Utility Improvements as Required.** Cost and budget analysis of the two bids received for resurfacing were discussed at the Public Works and Environment Committee Meeting on April 28th and are on the Finance Committee's agenda for their May 5th meeting. If approved the proposed plan would be to complete Willand Drive in June with FY 2011 funds and then High Street in July with FY 2012 funds. Once approved, Staff would discuss and negotiate several components of the bid costs such as the need for flaggers and police details as well as some other items. Therefore, our hope is to complete both projects at less than the actual bid amounts.

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

A. Informational Items:

- 1. **City Insurance.** After discussing proposals received from our present insurance provider LGC (Local Government Center) and PRIMEX with the Finance Committee, I will be moving forward with a 3-year agreement with PRIMEX for property liability, workers compensation and unemployment compensation insurances. As you can see from the attached comparison chart, the City will save in premium costs over the 3-year period. The Finance Committee did vote to support this action.

- 2. **City Employee Health/Dental Insurance.** Attached is a copy of the Health/Dental Insurance Committee's recommendations. Both the Finance Committee and Government Operations Committee have voted to support an Ordinance change to implement changes. An Ordinance change will be introduced at a future Council meeting.

- 3. **SRPC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (EDS).** I have directed staff to prepare several grant project submittals for SRPC's

consideration as outlined in the attached Memorandum dated April 29, 2011.

4. **Planning Office.** Attached are copies of Memorandums from City Planner Dave Sharples regarding approximately \$8,300 of free consultant work that the Planning Board will be receiving to meet a goal identified in the City Master Plan to develop Stormwater Management Regulations. Dave has also worked in securing free UNH Intern assistance to perform needed City GIS data related work.
5. **Public Works Week Open House.** Attached is a Memorandum from Public Works Director Tom Willis regarding a Citizen Open House planned for Tuesday, May 17th at the Highway Facility and at both Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants.

B. Attachments:

1. City Attorney Certifications (4).
2. NHMA Legislative Bulletin #17, April 22, 2011.
3. City E-Newsletter for May 2011.
4. City Park Utilization approved Summary.
5. City Manager Memorandum on Pavement Line Striping.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

NOMINATIONS

PLANNING BOARD

- Daniel Proulx, Term to expire 4/2014.
- Paul Maskwa, Term to expire 4/2014.

The reappointments of both Daniel Proulx and Paul Maskwa passed after (separately) being moved by Councilor Witham and seconded by Councilor Tapscott.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

- Dale Smith-Kenyon, Term to expire 4/2014.

The reappointment of Dale Smith-Kenyon passed after being moved by Councilor Tapscott and seconded by Councilor Pepin.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 10-11 FY 2011-2012 BUDGET

After a second reading, Councilor Watman proposed an amendment to the budget. Talk about a multitude of problems, he said. We live in New Hampshire where the catch phrase is local control and no broad based taxes, which means that we pay property taxes for everything; probably one of the more inequitable taxes relative to ability to pay of any that he has ever heard of. Secondly, they are in a community that is in tough shape in terms of equalized assessed value per person; property per person. Thirdly, we live in a state (where) there are such games being played with the State budget that he has no idea, (no-one has an idea except someone hidden in a room in Concord someplace,) what is going to come down from the State to further cause misery for the taxpayers of this City. He has no idea so what he thinks we have to do, and hope his colleagues would agree, is assume that the revenue projections that were put in the original budgets are the ones we will work with for now. They had some validity at some point in time, we have no idea what is going to happen, and then recognize that there has been an overwhelming plea from many taxpayers in this community to get relief from the burdens of the property tax. The overwhelming opinion that he gets is that the tax rate should not increase at all. He has to tell you, that in order to do that, in his opinion and the opinion of others if you take a look at proposed cuts, well he doesn't think there are words awful enough to describe it. Disastrous would be his word. And as one resident pointed out, these cuts involve people losing their jobs. That has such a great impact on their life that it is unbelievable. No-one wants to see that, but we have to look at the greater community and see what the negative impact would be of not trying to bring the tax rate down to as low a possible figure as we can. That comes from debate and discussion. His hunch is that we are not going to be able to do that by picking up the budget book and going from page to page. So here is his idea and it may increase his rating from assistant to Satan to anti-Christ, he doesn't know, but he is going to propose a lengthy amendment to the ordinance and include the recommendations the City Manager was forced to make to level the tax rate on the City side and the figure that the School Board provided. He would then propose to "divide the question," taking all those things and addressing them one at a time, not because we would all agree with them, but at least it zeroes us in on what some of the recommendations are that have been made to us. It may generate some creative thought and carry us through to the goal or explain clearly to the public why we can't do that; that some reductions are just too significant, so at this time he requested that the motion be presented in writing under the rules.

He read the following amendment-

Councilor Watman moved to amend Ordinance No. 10-11 as follows:

- 1.) Reduce line 01-400-110-5412 Civic Promotions, Pride Day (page C-5) by \$3,000.
- 2.) Reduce line 01-400-110-5419 Civic Promotions, Christmas Parade (Page C-5) by \$700.
- 3.) Reduce line 01-407-710-9807 Other Expenses, Sidewalk Improvement Capital Reserve (Page C-85) by \$25,000.

- 4.) Reduce line 01-405-550-5700 Public Safety, Prosecution, Prosecuting Attorney (Page C-53) by \$10,000.
- 5.) Reduce account 01-405-580 Public Safety, Fire Fighting (Page C-57) by \$62,853 by reducing line 0901 Overtime Replacement by \$50,000 and associated benefit lines by \$12,853.
- 6.) Reduce account 01-405-510 Public Safety, Patrol, Overtime (Page C-45) by \$6,029 by reducing line 0901 Overtime by \$5,000 and associated benefit lines by \$1,029.
- 7.) Reduce account 01-406-630 Public Works and Utilities, City Engineer (Page C-73) by \$62,697 by reducing line 0300 City Engineer by \$76,478 as well as associated benefit and operating expense lines by \$46,219 and adding line 5700 Contract Service in the amount of \$60,000.
- 8.) Reduce account 01-403-350 Library (Page C-23) by \$63,404 by reducing line 0240 Library Assistant by \$38,792 and associated benefit lines by \$24,612.
- 9.) Reduce account 01-404-420 Assessing (Page C-34) by \$44,967 by changing line 0240 Assessing Clerk to a 24-hour per week position and adjusting the salary and benefit lines accordingly.
- 10.) Reduce account 01-401-120 City Manager (Page C-9) by \$40,489 by changing line 0240 Executive Assistant to a 24-hour per week position and adjusting the salary and benefit lines accordingly.
- 11.) Reduce account 01-404-400 Development Services, Planning (Page C-27) by \$107,395 by reducing line 0220 Development Services Director by \$82,090 and associated benefit lines by \$25,305.
- 12.) Reduce line 409-900-2000 School Expenses, Educational Expenses (Page C-93) by \$890,731.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier.

Councilor Watman emphasized that these are recommendations that have come from the City Manager, he thinks unwillingly and certainly no department head would scream with joy, please do this, and just a figure from the School Department which indicates the cut to zero of their expenditures.

Councilor Watman made a motion to divide the question by its (12) numbered parts which was seconded by Councilor Witham. The motion passed.

Mayor Soldati asked if the effect if all 12 were approved as presented as an amendment to the budget, this would be a zero increase on both School and City sides of the budget.

Councilor Watman said the figure for the School has changed recently and he is not sure, but that is the intent.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS OF VOTES ON THE NUMBERED PARTS OF THE AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE NO. 10-11 PROPOSED BY COUNCILOR WATMAN.

1.) Reduce line 01-400-110-5412 Civic Promotions, Pride Day (page C-5) by \$3,000.

Councilor Witham agreed with Councilor Watman that this is nice, but not necessary. He did recognize the Festival Association, however, for their good work. Councilor Pepin wanted people to understand that with this cut there would likely not be fireworks at the beginning of the Children's Festival.

The amendment to Ordinance No. 10-11, (#1), was approved unanimously.

2.) Reduce line 01-400-110-5419 Civic Promotions, Christmas Parade (Page C-5) by \$700.

Councilor Watman mentioned that a Christmas Parade hasn't been held in years, but there has been a line in the budget.

The amendment to Ordinance No. 10-11, (#2), was approved unanimously.

3.) Reduce line 01-407-710-9807 Other Expenses, Sidewalk Improvement Capital Reserve (Page C-85) by \$25,000.

Councilor Watman said this cuts in half the amount that is placed in the Capital Reserve Fund, it does not eliminate it.

Councilor Witham thinks that one of the things this Council has been burdened with is very aged and poorly looked after infrastructure in the City. Whether they are talking about roads or sidewalks or schools, he said they have not been particularly attentive to the capital needs in the City. They have finally set in motion a mechanism to nest egg some funds, small bits at a time, and \$50,000 is small bit when they are talking about sidewalks in this condition. They need to keep this moving forward. He realizes it is an expense to the taxpayer and that they have to find \$25,000 elsewhere in the budget but they have to and he cannot support this.

Councilor Spainhower agrees and said that as the Chairman of the Public Works and the Environment Committee... he will not be supporting this. He urges others not to support this and find the \$25,000 somewhere else.

The amendment to Ordinance No. 10-11, (#3), failed unanimously.

4.) Reduce line 01-405-550-5700 Public Safety, Prosecution, Prosecuting Attorney (Page C-53) by \$10,000.

Councilor Watman said that even though he is the maker of the motion, he would prefer not to speak to any of the rest of them until they get to item #12.

Councilor Witham made a motion to allow the Police Chief to answer if necessary. He said that there were cuts to Domestic Violence at the County level and asked if reducing the Police prosecution created complications with this recommendation.

Mayor Soldati said that he and the City Manager attended a conference last week with other mayors and managers and the County along with the County Attorney and there is discussion about having the County provide prosecution services to all of the communities within Strafford County. They have been providing domestic violence coverage and they are now talking about continuing that because they are getting grants that they believe will take it outside the County budget. There is a discussion that would allow the city to save funding for prosecution and allow the portion the City is now paying to be paid by the County by having the County Attorney provide the prosecutor. There are now only two district courts. There is some efficiency of scale that is now being realized.

City Manager Belmore said that they will be meeting next Tuesday with the same group about the possibility of regionalizing, through the County, prosecutorial services which would include not only domestic violence cases but all criminal cases and violations. They are talking about housing an attorney at both district courts as well as support staff. They are looking at a regionalization effort, perhaps. He would be back to the Council to find funding if that goes forward, somewhere in the budget if they needed it. Back to the line item in question, a contracted service that the department has been using for years, as the Councilor indicated it about cuts it in half. NH allows for a police officer to do prosecution, so they still have a full time police officer dedicated to prosecution. There is some amount left there to assist. They will have follow-up meetings; ... as there is more to be said in that regard. The Police Chief indicated that they will make do, whatever the Council decides. They are adding burdens to other people. If that's what we need to do, we'll do it.

Councilor Watman made a motion, seconded by Councilor Witham, to allow any department head to stand up and address Council. The motion passed.

City Manager Belmore said that there is approximately \$124,000 now for prosecution, \$20,000 of which is for contracted services; it is Officer Bill Harper who does our prosecution on a full time basis.

Councilor Spainhower asked whether we expend that line item for contracted service.

The City Manager answered yes and the Police Chief and Mayor clarified that it is a contract which is not dependent on case load.

The amendment to Ordinance No. 10-11, (#4), passed 6-1; Spainhower opposed.

5.) Reduce account 01-405-580 Public Safety, Fire Fighting (Page C-57) by \$62,853 by reducing line 0901 Overtime Replacement by \$50,000 and associated benefit lines by \$12,853.

Councilor Witham felt he did not have the information that he'd requested and made a motion to table which was seconded by Councilor Spainhower. The motion to table the amendment to Ordinance No. 10-11, (#5), passed.

6.) Reduce account 01-405-510 Public Safety, Patrol, Overtime (Page C-45) by \$6,029 by reducing line 0901 Overtime by \$5,000 and associated benefit lines by \$1,029.

Councilor Witham asked if this would create reliance on more mutual aid into our community by surrounding communities. Police chief Crombie said that that line item has been cut and cut and cut. He is very fortunate, he said, that a lot of patrolmen take comp time which equates to probably \$25,000 to \$30,000.

Councilor Witham said that officers go from call to call and have been able to keep up, but the service demand is pretty aggressive.

Chief Crombie said they have three officers on a shift on a weekend, or four.

Councilor Spainhower asked if any of this line item deals with officers going to court or is it just replacing officer for officer.

The amendment to Ordinance No. 10-11, (#6), passed 4-3; Spainhower, Messier, Witham opposed.

7.) Reduce account 01-406-630 Public Works and Utilities, City Engineer (Page C-73) by \$62,697 by reducing line 0300 City Engineer by \$76,478 as well as associated benefit and operating expense lines by \$46,219 and adding line 5700 Contract Service in the amount of \$60,000.

Councilor Messier clarified that this would cut out the City Engineer position, but we would contract on an "as needed" basis.

The City Manager said they would go out for RFP to individual engineering firms.

Councilor Spainhower asked if this contract was \$60,000 for the whole year, or asked if it was per time, a set rate or is it \$60,000 and it's gone, it doesn't matter how many projects they have.

City Manager Belmore said that they will do as much as they can in house and then contract on an "as need" basis. He expected that he and Tom Willis, the Public Works Director would monitor that contract.

Public Works Director Willis said that it would essentially be on an "on call" basis and he would pick up some of the slack on the day to day stuff that the current engineer does. They would call consultants for instance for inspections for special projects, design or cost estimations, etc that would take a block of time that he would not necessarily have.

Mayor Soldati asked how they determined that the contract services would be \$60,000. Is this a number that relates to projects?

Director Willis said that if things start to turn around and they get busy, clearly \$60,000 would not be nearly enough.

Mayor Soldati asked if it was not enough, is it possible that they will be in a situation that they are paying more to contract than a hired engineer.

Director Willis thinks it depends on the economy and the situation involved. He believes they would be paying direct costs and some amount of overhead. They would probably structure that in the RFQ and whoever was selected, they would negotiate. They would have to see how that goes in the first year.

Mayor Soldati asked if the Director saw any downside to contracting the services as opposed to having an in-house engineer.

Director Willis said that the thing about having an in-house engineer is that they are here all the time or within the City limits, so they would presumably be available all the time. Contracting out would mean going from a full time to a part time situation.

City Manager Belmore added that this would be a new program that they would have to monitor. Certainly the feedback that he got from the Public Works Director is that he supported it and that we could make it happen. There are other administrative duties that we could get rid of. For instance, he is the Chairman of the E-911 Committee and that chews up a lot of his time.

Mayor Soldati asked, in relation to eliminating or reducing positions in the City, was there any thought or attempt to look at saving an equivalent amount of money through having furlough days? Was that explored?

City Manager Belmore said that they did look at furloughs but said they would have to negotiate with five different unions which didn't make him comfortable so he tried to look at positions where services to the community would not perhaps be diminished in any significant fashion. There will be shifting of duties and various staff members would have to pick up to make it work. We'll try something new and see if it works, and if it

doesn't, adjust it later. It is not something he is looking forward to. They'd be able to do it with non-union people, but is frankly not sure how fair that would be.

Mayor Soldati recognizes that this was what City Manager Belmore was asked to do by the Council. He does not mean to imply anything by that.

Finance Director Smith said that one furlough day would have a value of about \$19,000 between wages and associated benefits. If you did a full week throughout the City it would be something less than \$100,000.

Councilor Spainhower asked if the Manager ... looked at making this position part-time.

Councilor Spainhower made a motion to table this. There was no second.

Councilor Pepin said that the City Engineer does site inspections and asked if this would put an undue burden on the Public Works Director? Mr. Willis said that it will depend on the level of activity in a specific day or week. He could utilize the general foreman from time to time. Time in the field doing that is time away from doing something else. They would try to make it work, but there are only so many hours in the day; he can't say they will be as efficient or as effective each and every time.

Mayor Soldati asked for clarification of the savings here. (\$62,697.)

Councilor Watman said that with all these personnel reductions the level, or the speediness or the quality of the service is affected without question. He does not doubt the professionalism or quality of work of any of those people, but he takes a look at the position and the construction activity at this time. He seems to be hearing that at this time, that at the level we have been having, then this will be okay. If it speeds up then nothing will prevent them from asking for a supplemental appropriation. This might actually work, and it is just his opinion.

Councilor Messier said if there is another development that comes through the Planning Board of this community, they have a third party that is hired, money gets extorted from the developer to pay for that which, in essence, takes some of that away. Where we really use the Engineer is on sidewalk and road projects. With these reductions, there is going to be some pain. There may be pain coming down the road when our glorious State Senate down-shifts considerable costs to us and our tax rate may go up \$2.40 for what they did. We can thank the good 'ole boys club for that. Is there going to be some pain in this? There is, and we are going to have to make some changes. ...We have to make some cuts and he is willing to roll the dice on this. They can do a supplemental if individuals become overwhelmed. He likes the idea of part time. ...It may be too expensive and we may be better off to hire somebody for \$60,000.

Councilor Witham said that this list has weighed heavily ...to consider staff reductions. It is one of the more difficult things he has pondered in his lifetime. He thinks it is important to maintain their infrastructure. If they are going to maintain their

infrastructure and control their tax rate, the only thing they can do is look at the resources that they have that are on two legs, unfortunately. Councilor Messier is correct that when a project is before them, they will have the company cover the cost of that. He realizes that this is not perfect. It may be an experiment gone bad, but ... with a heavy heart, he does support this.

The amendment to Ordinance No. 10-11, (#7), passed 6-1; Spainhower opposed.

8.) Reduce account 01-403-350 Library (Page C-23) by \$63,404 by reducing line 0240 Library Assistant by \$38,792 and associated benefit lines by \$24,612.

The amendment to Ordinance No. 10-11, (#8), passed 7-0.

9.) Reduce account 01-404-420 Assessing (Page C-34) by \$44,967 by changing line 0240 Assessing Clerk to a 24-hour per week position and adjusting the salary and benefit lines accordingly.

The amendment to Ordinance No. 10-11, (#9), passed 7-0.

10.) Reduce account 01-401-120 City Manager (Page C-9) by \$40,489 by changing line 0240 Executive Assistant to a 24-hour per week position and adjusting the salary and benefit lines accordingly.

Councilor Witham asked how the extra work in the City Manager's office would be picked up.

City Manager Belmore said he would be doing a little bit more and the Finance office can assist in some capacity. It would be farmed around ...other staff and himself.

Councilor Witham asked the City Manager if he put this in here because he thought it was achievable. The City Manager said yes, it is achievable.

The amendment to Ordinance No. 10-11, (#10), passed 7-0.

11.) Reduce account 01-404-400 Development Services, Planning (Page C-27) by \$107,395 by reducing line 0220 Development Services Director by \$82,090 and associated benefit lines by \$25,305.

Councilor Witham thinks that the value of the position is hard to measure. Does the Development Services Director bring a value equivalent to \$107,395? He assures us that that math is a whole lot more difficult to do than the Fire Department overtime. He is not sure how they calculate the value of this position and its worth here. Many of them think of this as bringing development to the City, however he views it as a role of keeping businesses here in the community, so there is value there as well. He also oversees recreation activities and other ancillary functions. He hopes Council considers that.

Councilor Spainhower agreed saying that even though his title is Development Services, other duties fall underneath his umbrella... He asked the City Manager to elaborate-

City Manager Belmore said that he is a department head. He serves as the Economic Development Director for the City. He oversees the Assessing office; they have a part-time contracted Assessor and the Planning office with a full-time City Planner. He also oversees Building and Code with one full-time and one part-time Building and Code officer. He also oversees Recreation, a full-time Recreation supervisor and a part-time Recreation clerk. Since he has the Building Inspectors, CM Belmore had asked him to take on the task of overseeing City Hall and the Library.

Mayor Soldati asked, if we eliminate the Development Services Director, who would oversee these departments? The City Manager said he would have to set up a temporary structure. The City Planner would have to oversee, in his opinion, the Code office and property maintenance. The Assessing Department would report directly to the City Manager. The Economic Development function would be left unfilled and he would handle that as needed with the City Planner. The Recreation Department would report to him, with assistance from the Planner and the Finance Director.

Councilor Watman thinks to the same level as number 5. He would like to see this on paper because he can't keep it in mind, so with that in mind, and not to squelch further discussion, he would move to table this until the next regular meeting. Councilor Tapscott seconded the motion.

The motion to table failed, 3-4, Pepin, Spainhower, Witham and Jarvis opposed.

Councilor Pepin cannot support cutting the Economic Director, he is the person who tries to bring business into our community, there are so many different hats that it is going to take a great loss. He thinks eliminating this position would hurt us more than help us and he can't support it. He doesn't like stringing people on and it isn't fair to Mr. Wheeler to table this and not make a decision tonight while they are making decisions on the budget. He thinks it needs to be answered tonight.

Councilor Spainhower will also not be supporting this amendment. They cut a bunch of things tonight, lines that the City Manager is going to be taking responsibility on and he thinks they should say there is only so much responsibility they should all take on. This title does so much, probably grant writing...he thinks it is too deep a cut and they would be putting too much responsibility onto others, so he will not be in favor of it.

Councilor Jarvis won't be supporting this, there are way too many things overseen by this position. She asked what this \$107, 395 equates to regarding taxes. Finance Director Smith answered that it is approximately 13 cents.

Councilor Witham said he spoke earlier about the need perhaps to cut positions in order to maintain the infrastructure, but with those positions they can make some struggles and make do. This position ...is not like a service that they will contract out. They will lose

whatever competitive advantage they have by having him here and he is not willing to roll the dice on the lack of that competitive advantage so he cannot support this.

The amendment to ordinance No. 10-11, (#11), failed 0-7.

12.) Reduce line 409-900-2000 School Expenses, Educational Expenses (PageC-93) by \$890,731.

Councilor Watman asked for a report from the Finance Director on where we stand with these cuts, where the tax rate would be just where we stand now. Finance Director Smith said that right now there is an overall reduction in the budget of \$231,286 which would give a bottom-line budget total of \$14,796,640 and the total tax rate, and he prefaced this by saying that his estimates take into account what would happen on the County level, (he is starting 8 cents lower than what is in the book,) that would put us at \$28.43 which is an increase of \$1.11.

Mayor Soldati asked what percentage that reduction would be and the Finance Director answered that the City budget is just over \$10M, talking just the general fund- that would be about 2.3%.

Councilor Watman said that a cut of \$800,000 is too much for the School Department reading either of the two different scenarios that come to them, even taking into account that there might be some leeway when the final total comes, he thinks this is too large. Although they have one item remaining on the City side, in the words of a former Councilman, we all have to share the pain. The question is, by reducing the expenditure on the School side to zero, he doesn't think that is realistic about how things can operate. He wants to see # 5 before they work on this.

Councilor Witham agrees with Councilor Watman about seeing how the rest of the City side shakes out before engaging in the School Department piece. He looks at the School Department budget and that there are cuts necessary there, unfortunately and the way that he would calculate the cuts would be suggested new positions and retirements and come up with roughly a quarter of a million dollars. He would support a level of cut to that effect of the School Department budget but he would like to see the rest of it (first).

Finance Director Smith answered a question from Councilor Spainhower that the 2.3% would be a decrease from last year's budget, because they are less than last year already. Councilor Spainhower said the \$600,000 that we put in for the sewer fund, that's why it is off the way it is, taking that out, what is the percentage of the city side compared to last year. He'd like to do a similar increase on both the City and School side. ...He's trying to figure out that number.

Finance Director Smith answered that it is still roughly 2%. Our total budget last year was roughly \$11M, when you take off the \$600,000 ... you're at \$10.4M. You still have a \$200,000 reduction. It still ends up being a 2% reduction. That only includes what's approved so far. (\$62,853 from #5 is six-tenths% and you'd be looking at 2.6% or 2.7%).

Councilor Pepin made a motion to cut \$300,000 off the School budget.

Mayor Soldati said he takes that as an amendment to amend question #12, instead of \$890,731, the motion is to change that figure to \$300,000.

Councilor Pepin answered, "Yes."

After some discussion clarifying the motion, stated above, it was seconded by Councilor Witham for the purposes of discussion.

Councilor Pepin said that he is looking at the memo of the layoffs and looks at the budget and what we can cut. The School Department has upset him by putting in line items before the budget is even approved, and he is not too happy with that; he does not like the new position of assistant Principal at Idlehurst School, but he looks at the cuts and tries to look at the education that we support our kids. He thinks that we are going too deep and will not be able to educate our kids with what they need and also the sports programs that they do need. A lot of kids are staying in school because of sports, which are being subsidized by parents now. This is a figure that he throws out to see how the Council feels about it; it can always be changed.

Councilor Spainhower will not be voting for this amendment because the city-side is not done yet and he is leaning toward having the city and school side increase by the same (percentage). He also said that a week from today he has a meeting with the Superintendent of Schools to go over the questions that he has. Because of their schedules they have not met yet. He doesn't think it is fair for him to vote on something that he hasn't sat down to talk to them about yet. He will not be in favor of it.

Councilor Witham understands the rationale of some sort of equity in the budget, but he looks at these things (this way)- if they cut X number of dollars, what is that impact in terms of program or service delivery. We just did that with these items laid out by Councilor Watman. They talk about the value of the position and can we do without it. He came up with approximately a quarter million dollars by saying ...no new positions and retirements where the impact to the individual is taken out of the equation, although there is increased burden to others. If his math is correct and he eliminates new positions and retirements, that is about a quarter of a million dollars. \$300,000 might be a reasonable number to achieve. He thinks he supports this piece of the budget.

Mayor Soldati clarified again that the City Council has no authority to eliminate any positions proposed by the school department; he said you may reach your numbers because it is an equivalent number, but it will be up to the School Department, not the City Council.

Councilor Witham understands that they only have "bottom line" authority, but as he said last year he thinks he has an obligation to those who elected him to articulate how he came up with his number.

Councilor Watman cannot support this yet. He will have to vote against it, but not necessarily because he wouldn't vote for it at another time, he just doesn't think it is ripe for a decision yet.

Councilor Pepin sits in on most of the School Board meetings. The School Board is faced with starting and maintaining a new school. Everything is estimated this year, in all fairness we sit here and look at the budget and we hang people out to dry. They don't know if they have a job or not. We don't give them as much notice as they need because we delay it until the last moment. It influences people's lives. He is against prolonging this. He is firmly for making the decision tonight; if someone wants to add more let's add more but give them a figure tonight so they can work with it and move on with their lives. He doesn't like stringing people out and that is what this Board is doing.

The amendment to the amendment of Ordinance No. 10-11, (#12), to reduce the School Expenses line item by \$300,000 passed 4-3; Watman, Spainhower and Jarvis opposed.

12.) Reduce line 409-900-2000 School Expenses, Educational Expenses (Page C-93) by \$300,000.

Councilor Spainhower asked the Finance Director what the tax rate increase be if this passes. The answer was 76 cents if this motion is approved, based on what has been done so far; the tax increase would be 76 cents, making it \$28.08.

The amendment to Ordinance No. 10-11, (#12), as amended, passed 4-3; Watman, Spainhower, and Jarvis opposed.

Councilor Watman moved to take item #5 off the table, seconded by Councilor Pepin. The motion passed 5-2; Spainhower and Witham opposed.

There was a question of parliamentary procedure raised by Mayor Soldati.

5.) Reduce account 01-405-580 Public Safety, Fire Fighting (Page C-57) by \$62,853 by reducing line 0901 Overtime Replacement by \$50,000 and associated benefit lines by \$12,853.

Councilor Witham asked the Fire Chief what this means as far as on duty staffing. Is there ever a possibility of having only two firefighters on duty as opposed to the current practice of three when a person is out, from a shift of four?

Fire Chief Butts said that he believed it would mean that they were down two. They are now fairly regularly down to three for vacations and sick and other reasons.

Councilor Witham asked what the Chief's directive would be regarding an interior fire with only two personnel. The answer was that legally they would be in dire straits even requesting that. The typical standard now is two in, two out.

Councilor Witham said that it is his opinion that if they drop to two, they might as well drop to one or none. If we are going to drop to this level, let's cut even more from this because that makes no sense whatsoever. He can't support this.

After some further investigation regarding a parliamentary procedure disagreement between Councilor Watman and Mayor Soldati in which Councilor Watman appealed the rule of the Chair, Councilor Witham made a motion, seconded by Councilor Spainhower to recess to consider this question. After consulting three Roberts Rules, the Mayor said they would go with the 2-1 finding that the matter is off the table. Discussion continued on this motion.

Councilor Watman asked Fire Chief Butts if there is any amount of overtime pay that can be put in the budget that would guarantee that they would not go down to two firefighters at some point in time.

Chief Butts answered that \$105,000 is about what would keep them at three at all times. The original estimate to keep four on is in the range of \$155,000 to \$160,000. It appears to him that for a number of years, that \$105,000 has held pretty steady with the amount of vacation, holiday and sick time that is built into the calendar and that is where they initially started this year's budget.

Councilor Tapscott asked if that \$105,000 is strictly overtime. The answer was that the Chief believes that is correct.

Councilor Spainhower said that five years back the City went in with a grant to get three additional personnel to have four on each shift. There was a time that every shift had four people on at all times and that \$105,000 was eaten up very early in the year. If the scenario with respect to the proclamation that the Mayor read today happened today, can the two individuals go into that building to save that person?

Chief Butts said that they had discussed that. It is never good to put people in that situation. He said in North Carolina he carried an air pack on his command vehicle, in general, for off duty personnel coming to the scene who did not have an air pack. It is also there for that once in a lifetime when you decide to do what you've got to do and there is someone trapped. Hopefully that is not a situation that you come to but the goal is that you don't send two people in unless you've got four people on scene.

Councilor Spainhower said if this Council votes on cutting that line item by \$50,000, not only are they putting the residents at risk but they are also putting the City firefighters at risk for injury or death.

Chief Butts said that the biggest increase in extinguishing the fire and saving people is when you go from three to four firefighters.

Councilor Spainhower asked the recommendation for a single story fire. Chief Butts said depending on the study, it is 6-8 in many cases. The minimum is four.

Councilor Messier asked if the overtime budget comes about mostly for fire recalls or sick time and vacations.

Chief Butts answered that recalls are a separate line item in the budget.

Councilor Messier said that we can say that some firefighters play the "dozing for dollars" game where they will call in sick to give their buddies the overtime because there are not many structure fires within our community. He understands if there is one and one gets hurt but...they do play dozing for dollars meaning they will call in sick to make overtime so why should the taxpayer have to pay that? It seems to him that if some shifts they have two police officers instead of three and we are not worried about safety there, then all of a sudden it is a safety issue so some firefighter can get overtime for sleeping in the bunk. He'll bring it up. That comes up a lot of times, he said. Seems to him they can cut a few dollars out of that.

Chief Butts said that \$105,000 gives you the three people there, having a fourth person or more would obviously increase the cost. Three individuals on is allowing for vacations and holidays. It is not an "I'm calling in sick so you can work" kind of thing; typically they've got to come up with a doctor's excuse if they are off, too.

Councilor Pepin asked if they were running two men during the day also.

The Fire Chief answered that they are not at two at this point; they have reduced to three at this point to stay within the budget until the end of this fiscal year. If it is cut further, then obviously on July 1 they would be going down to two at times.

Councilor Pepin said that his past experience is and he has worked there for 32 years, his last 15-20 years of it was working with two people at night. It is a very difficult situation because that is when you have the working fires, the people hanging out of windows because they were sleeping in the middle of the night. Going in by yourself is a very dangerous situation. Looking at the budget, he can't justify increasing the budget any more city wide, but he is against reducing this line item

Councilor Witham asked if it is fair to say that there are some tasks that are physically impossible with two people; putting up a large ladder or pulling a line to an upper story. Chief Butts said there are and that those are good examples. Councilor Witham supposes that there are some things that you could do safely with one or two firefighters, but not much. It would be great if (we knew in advance when we would have fires and we could staff eight on at those times.) We don't have that. Having a crew of firefighters available is sort of like an insurance policy. Most of us have an insurance policy for our home and our automobile and we rarely if ever use the darned thing, but we are sure glad to have it when the time comes that we have a house fire or get into a wreck or whatever. This is an insurance policy for our residents. He doesn't want to put our firefighters at risk either. It

is something they need to maintain. Three is not ideal, four is not ideal; we heard the Chief say that 7 or 8 would be more ideal on that initial response. They are looking to maintain with this \$105,000 line item, three firefighters on at a time, he doesn't know how we can rationalize or justify any reduction of that line item. He just doesn't know how we could do that.

Councilor Pepin commented that they had reductions in the evenings and they did rely on their call department and that dwindled and dwindled and as far as he knows is now probably non-existent. He strongly recommends that we do whatever we can as a City to look into criteria for the call department to offset the manpower; he'd like to see that reduced somewhat. He doesn't think this City can afford permanent men as many as eight people to keep on duty to protect our City at all times and keep staffing up where it needs to be. We need to look at alternative ways and he feels that that is something the City (should consider.)

The amendment to Ordinance No. 10-11, (#5), passed 4-3. (Councilors Spainhower, Witham and Pepin opposed.)

Councilor Witham proposed two further amendments to Ordinance No. 10-11.

13.) Eliminate line #9039, page C-90, Capital Outlay, in its entirety by \$5,200, which is for a 1 ton sander replacement, particularly for use at the Idlehurst Elementary School.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Watman for purposes of discussion.

After some discussion the amendment to Ordinance No. 10-11, (#13), passed 7-0.

14.) Eliminate line #9019, page C-89, Capital Outlay, in its entirety by \$11,750, which is for a thermal imaging camera for the Fire Department.

The motion was seconded.

Councilor Witham said that the City has been diligent in purchasing one thermal imaging camera per year over a four year period and we are in the final year of that program. They have several cameras available, typically mutual aid companies would have cameras with them; ...he thinks for at least a year they can go without it. He would encourage the Manager to put it in next year's budget.

The amendment to Ordinance No.10-11, (#14), passed 7-0.

Finance Director Smith reported that that there is now a reduction of \$611,089 putting the bottom-line total of the budget at \$41,416,837 and an estimated tax rate of \$27.99 which is a 67 cent increase over the prior year.

Councilor Watman asked the City Manager, considering the state of the State, would it make sense to place this ordinance on the table, as amended and wait for a meeting or two and hope that they might know what is happening with the State. The City Manager said he was comfortable recommending that they do that. He reminded them that there is also a resolution in regards to resident's tax which would also increase the tax rate due to declining revenues that they will consider at the next meeting.

Councilor Watman moved to table Ordinance No. 10-11 as amended. It was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed on a voice vote.

RESOLUTIONS

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.

Councilor Watman moved to table Resolution No. 21-11, after being seconded by Councilor Tapscott, the motion passed on a voice vote, Witham opposed.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-11 RESOLUTION CONCERNING HILLTOP SCHOOL PROPERTY.

Mayor Soldati asked that this Resolution be tabled.

Councilor Tapscott made a motion to table Resolution No. 22-11, seconded by Councilor Pepin. The motion passed on a voice vote, Witham opposed.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-11 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO COMPLETE CITY ROAD MAINTENANCE PROJECTS AND TO CONTRACT WITH BEDFORD SEALCOATING, INC. OF BEDFORD, NH TO PROVIDE CRACKSEALING SERVICES ON CERTAIN CITY ROADS.

Councilor Spainhower said that this is an effort to stretch our roads a little further. They are going to try to do some crack sealing to extend the life of the roads. He encourages everyone to vote for this.

Resolution No. 23-11 passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 11-11 AMEND CHAPTER 13, POLICE OFFENSES, SECTION 3.4.B. MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATION, SPEEDS.

Somersworth, NH
May 2, 2011

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH that the Ordinances of the City of Somersworth, as amended, be further amended as follows:

Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 3.4, Motor Vehicle Operation,
B. Speeds, as follows:

B. Speeds

School Speed Limit – when signs are erected and flashing with speed limit displayed, it shall be the absolute maximum speed permitted. The flashing lights will activate 45 minutes before the start of school and for 45 minutes after the end of school. During these times the speed limit shall be 10 mph less than the usual posted speed limit.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Introduced by Councilor

Brian Tapscott

Approved:

City Attorney

The Mayor indicated that Ordinance No. 11-11 will remain on the table until the next Council meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-11 AMEND CHAPTER 6, CITY OFFICIALS, SECTION 6.5, FILING FEES.

Somersworth, NH
May 2, 2011

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT THE ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH, AS AMENDED, BE FURTHER AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

Amend Chapter 6, City Officials, Section 6.5, by deleting in its entirety and replacing with the following:

Section 6.5 In lieu of filing the designated number of petitions as required by City Charter, candidates may pay to the City Clerk at the time of filing declarations of candidacy, the following fees:

Mayor	\$25.00
Councilperson at Large	5.00
Ward Councilperson	5.00
School Board Member at Large	5.00
Ward School Board Member	5.00
Ward Officer	5.00

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Introduced by Councilors

Brian Tapscott

Denis Messier

Martin Pepin

Approved:

City Attorney

The Mayor stated that Ordinance No. 12-11 will remain on the table until the next Council meeting.

Councilor Witham made a motion to read the following Ordinance by title only.

Mayor Soldati said that he was going to recommend that Ordinance No. 13-11 be referred to the Traffic Safety Committee for further consideration prior to it being brought before the Council, unless there is an objection.

ORDINANCE NO. 13-11 CHAPTER 13, POLICE OFFENSES, ADD TEMPORARY SECTIONS RELATIVE TO ONE-WAY TRAFFIC PATTERN, PARKING, STOP, YIELD AND RESTRICTED TRAVEL.

Somersworth, NH

May 2, 2011

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the Ordinances of the City of Somersworth, as amended, be further amended as follows:

Add temporary Sections 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35 as follows:

Section 30 Temporary Section Specific to One-Way Traffic Pattern

When signs are erected giving notice thereof it shall be unlawful for any person having control of any vehicle to:

- A. Travel west along Washington Street between Main Street and High Street intersections.
- B. Travel south along Main Street between Market Street and Washington Street intersections.
- C. Travel north along High Street between Market Street and Washington Street intersections.
- D. Travel East along Station Street between Main Street and Government Way intersections.
- E. Travel North along Government Way between Station Street and John Parson Drive intersection
- F. Travel West along John Parson Drive between Main Street and Government Way intersection.

All inner travel lanes will be deemed local traffic
Outer travel lanes will be deemed through traffic.

Section 31 Temporary Section – Specified Parking in Areas Effected by Section 30 of this Chapter

When signs are erected (to include but limited to painted parking stalls) giving notice thereof it shall be unlawful for any person having custody or control of any vehicle to park or cause same to be parked in any area effected by this temporary ordinance in violation of temporarily authorized parking.

Section 32 Temporary Section – Stop Sign

It shall be unlawful to drive any vehicle into the intersection of the following named streets without first bringing such vehicle to a full stop.

- A. Washington Street for northbound traffic on Main Street

Section 33 Temporary Section - Yield

When signs are erected it shall be unlawful to enter the following intersection without first having yielded to the right of way to traffic traveling so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.

High Street for southerly traffic from Main Street

Section 34 Temporary Section – Restricted Travel

When signs are erected giving notice thereof it shall be unlawful for any person having control of any vehicle to Enter High Street from Constitutional Way

Temporary Sections 34, 33, 32, 31 and 30 of Chapter 13 Police Offenses shall supersede all conflicting active Ordinances during the test period of the aforementioned traffic pattern.

Section 35 Temporary Section – Assessing Impact of Test Period

This test period shall not exceed 90 Days from the start date.

Prior to the start date of the test period, the City shall conduct a traffic study to establish a baseline for analyzing the effect of the temporary one-way pattern on traffic flow at peak times. In addition the City shall conduct a survey of businesses bordering or within the one-way route to determine the strength of support from the affected businesses for the temporary one-way route. As part of the survey businesses will be asked to suggest criteria for determining the success or failure of the temporary one-way pattern in addition to other criteria the City may identify as relevant to determining the impact of the one-way traffic pattern.

Prior to the end of the test period the City shall conduct a second study of the traffic flow patterns and a second survey of the businesses along the route for use in developing a report of the impact of the temporary one-traffic route for the City Council.

Introduced by

Mayor Lincoln Soldati

Approved:

City Attorney

Ordinance No. 13-11 was referred by the Mayor to the Traffic Safety Committee,

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 24-11 CITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT THE PROVISIONS OF RSA 72:1-c AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH TO ELECT NOT TO ASSESS, LEVY AND COLLECT A RESIDENT TAX.

Somersworth, NH

May 2, 2011

WHEREAS, RSA 72:1-c allows the City of Somersworth to elect not to assess, levy and collect a resident tax through a majority vote of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council may adopt the provisions of RSA 72:1-c by approving the following questions: “Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 72:1-c which authorize any town or city to elect not to assess, levy and collect a resident tax?”; and

WHEREAS, if adopted the provisions of RSA 72:1-c shall apply within the city as of April 1st, 2012,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Council of the City of Somersworth shall adopt the provisions of RSA 72:1-c which authorizes the city to elect not to assess, levy and collect a resident tax and such authorization shall be effective as of April 1st, 2012.

Introduced by Councilors
Robin S. Jarvis
Michael X. Watman
Dale R. Sprague

Approved:

City Attorney

Mayor Soldati laid Resolution No. 24-11 on the table.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-11 CITY COUNCIL TO AMEND THE SOMERSWORTH WATER WORKS TARIFF.

Somersworth, NH
May 2, 2011

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the Somersworth water works tariff as amended, be further amended as follows:

Amend Chapter titled "General Service – Metered" Section "Rates: Quarterly" by deleting the section in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

RATES: MONTHLY

The rate for metered service shall include an initial charge per customer service account, which shall include the use of 0 hundred cubic feet of water, as follows:

<u>Size of Meter</u>	<u>Initial Charge Monthly</u>
All Sizes	\$2.50

Plus an additional charge based on metered service is as follows:

RATE: MONTHLY EFFECTIVE JULY 1st, 2011

Minimum Charge	Initial Charge
Initial Charge plus	\$4.11 per 100 cu. ft

Introduced by Councilors

Robin S. Jarvis
Dale Spainhower
Dale R. Sprague
Michael X. Watman
Denis Messier

Approved:

City Attorney

Background: By passage of this Resolution the City Council is increasing the Water Use Volume Charge 5% effective July 1, 2011.

(The Resolution was tabled.)

RESOLUTION NO. 26-11 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO DRAFT AND DISSEMINATE REQUESTS FOR QUOTATIONS FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THE HILLTOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING.

Somersworth, NH

May 2, 2011

WHEREAS the Somersworth School Board intends to transfer care and control of the former Hilltop Elementary School building and associated property, designated as lot 11 49 0, to the City of Somersworth under the terms of RSA 199:4, paragraph II, and

WHEREAS the City of Somersworth desires that said property be utilized in the best interests of the citizens of Somersworth without creating an undue burden upon its taxpayers, and

WHEREAS the City of Somersworth further desires that the property not become either a hazardous or a blighted location by prolonged abandonment, and

WHEREAS the City of Somersworth may not find any proposal for the private or public reuse of the Hilltop Elementary School building to be in the best interests of the City of Somersworth,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to draft and disseminate requests for quotations for the demolition of the Hilltop Elementary School building, removal of the resulting debris, and restoration of the site to a safe condition, suitable for further modification and landscaping.

Introduced by
Councilors

Michael X. Watman
David A. Witham

Approved

City Attorney

Mayor Soldati referred Resolution No. 26-11 to the Sustainability Committee.

RESOLUTION NO. 27-11 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH GMI ASPHALT, LLC OF BELMONT, NH TO RESURFACE A PORTION OF HIGH STREET, WILLAND DRIVE, AND MAKE NECESSARY DRAINAGE AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS AS REQUIRED.

Somersworth, NH
May 2, 2011

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT:

WHEREAS, the fiscal year 2010-2011 adopted budget contains an appropriation for the purpose of road resurfacing, and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated the fiscal year 2011-2012 adopted budget will contain an appropriation for the purpose of road resurfacing and necessary utility improvements, and

WHEREAS, funding is available in escrow for the Willand Drive resurfacing project, and

WHEREAS, City staff solicited bids for the resurfacing of the portion of High Street from South Street to West High Street, and Willand Drive, and

WHEREAS, there is drainage and utility improvements required on each street, and

WHEREAS, the City Council's Public Works and Environment Committee has reviewed the bids received and recommends awarding the contract to GMI Asphalt LLC, of Belmont, NH to resurface the portion of High Street from South Street to West High Street, and Willand Drive, and to make the drainage and utility improvements required on each street, at a cost of \$287,762 (Two Hundred Eighty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Two dollars),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to contract with GMI Asphalt LLC, of Belmont, NH to resurface the portion of High Street from South Street to West High Street, and Willand Drive, and make the drainage and utility improvements required on each street at a cost not to exceed \$287,762 (Two Hundred Eighty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Two dollars).

Introduced by Councilors

Dale Spainhower
Dale Sprague
Denis Messier

Approved:

City Attorney

Mayor Soldati said that Resolution No. 27-11 shall remain on the table until the next meeting.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

There were no comments by visitors.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Councilor Watman said, before it gets blown out of proportion again, that the last resolution he introduced was not to tear down the Hilltop School building, it was to find out how much it would cost to do so for the two reasons he stated. One being-maybe that's what we'll do, the second is a couple of Citizens came up with what he thought was a very good, sensible idea: if you are going to spend money to tear it down, why don't you use that money to help seed a public development of the building. You'd spend it anyway the other way. ...He has no idea how much it would cost; he doesn't know any other way to figure it out. If there is some way that is less obnoxious to someone, let him know. All he is trying to do is figure out how much it would cost.

Councilor Witham said that he co-sponsored it for the very same thing. Concerning all of these resolutions concerning Hilltop School, he is in a fact-finding mode: he is idea shopping. He agrees with Councilor Watman that they don't know how much that cost is. He is all about eliminating the dartboard concept.

He said the Spirit Up-Clean Up was held on this past Saturday. There was an article in Foster's about it; it looks like it was wildly successful and driving through the downtown you can see evidence of all that hard work. He is sorry he wasn't there. He is active with Little League baseball, on their Board of Directors, and was at the ball park for opening day; they had 800 or 900 people there on Saturday which was also wildly successful; a lot of very good things happening in Somersworth this past Saturday.

He wants to personally congratulate Firefighter Jim Drakopoulos and Lieutenant Ken Vincent for their award, certainly notable. That was the fire that occurred shortly after his departure from the department to take this seat. They did very good work there.

He is glad to see the Public Works Director taking some action to involve our crews in that. He invites residents to go see what goes on in our Public Works Department.

They have heard lots about not needing more multi-family and that big boxes are killing our downtown. He reminds residents that if they have some thoughts about zoning changes, that might be a way to curb some activity. ...Give some thought to zoning...

Councilor Messier finds it amazing that we have to end, but public comment can go on and on and on.

Councilor Witham made a motion to go beyond 10:00 pm.

Councilor Messier said, "No. No. No." He doesn't want to do that...

ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Elise B. Breli, Deputy City Clerk

