

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

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

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

Councilor Witham moved to amend the minutes of the August 15, 2011 City Council meeting as follows:

- On page 23, Nonpublic Session, delete the section that reads “with no extension of the term of his contract” in the last paragraph.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Watman.

The minutes of August 15, 2011, as amended, passed by a vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

John Joyal, 1 Molly Lane, said he is concerned about things he has heard about the Local Government Center (LGC) and money that is owed to communities. He is not up to date on this subject, but he is concerned. If they owe us money, he wants to know if we are pursuing getting that money back. He would like to know if the City has approached any legal efforts to get our funds back if they owe us money.

Mr. Joyal said on behalf of himself and his family, he is proud of the presentation by the Friends of Somersworth this evening. They have put extensive amounts of effort into doing their homework and offering this vision to our City. They have done a lot of the citizens' work for them. The Hilltop School building has always been a magnet in bringing people together. This group wanting to keep a neighborhood atmosphere and create the relationship they want is a “win-win” situation. That is monumental for our City. These things are happening everywhere and are very viable. He strongly encourages the City Council to grab hold of this. If we approach this in a positive manner there is nothing we cannot do.

Liz Wilson, 28 Lincoln Street, is the chair of the Sustainability Committee and wanted to give the Council on update on their projects. They are recruiting members of the community to support their projects. Some of the projects they are working on are:

- Pursuing funding for community gardens and securing land.
- Additional recycling bins in public spaces.
- Trying to connect with the schools to bolster their recycling program and also to involve students in their projects.

They are also working on a “backyard chicken” ordinance, excluding roosters, to allow chickens in residential parcels.

Ms. Wilson indicated the Committee meets the third Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers and everyone is welcome. They are excited about their projects and would really like community involvement. There is a lot of opportunity for people to get involved and make some exciting change happen in Somersworth. Sustainability Committee information is available on their web site.

Beth Salinger, Executive Director of the Somersworth Housing Authority, said she is here on behalf of Ann French and all Chamber of Commerce board members. She commended former Mayor Lincoln Soldati for being involved in their various efforts. The former Mayor truly supported them and they appreciated that.

Ms. Salinger said the people of Somersworth held a fund raiser to benefit the Soldatis after their house burned down, raising \$3,000. When the Soldatis decided not to rebuild their home, they donated the \$3,000 back to the City for the skate board park project at Noble Pines.

COMMUNICATIONS.

LETTER FROM TOWN OF NEWINGTON, NH REGARDING NITROGEN IN GREAT BAY.

Town of Newington, NH
August 29, 2011

Somersworth City Council
1 Government Way
Somersworth, NH 03878

RE: Nitrogen in Great Bay

City Councilors:

We are writing to you about the problem of excessive nitrogen in the Great Bay estuary, and in particular, the threat that nitrogen poses to the health of this enormously important natural and economic resource. In that regard, please find enclosed a flyer entitled “The Tipping Point” that summarizes the problem, and goes on to explain ongoing research by UNH scientists.

As you may know, approximately thirty percent of the nitrogen enters the estuary via municipal wastewater treatment plants. The EPA is poised to set limits on nitrogen discharge from the eighteen wastewater treatment plants that discharge into the Great Bay watershed.

Septic systems are another significant source of nitrogen. We are intrigued by the State of Maryland's approach. Since 2005, the state has assessed every septic system owner a \$30/year "flush fee". The proceeds fund the replacement of failing systems within 1,000 feet of Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries with new nitrogen-removing septic systems. The funds also subsidize the cost of nitrogen-removing systems for new homes.

What happens if we do nothing about the nitrogen problem?

- Nitrogen loads will continue to increase and water quality problems will grow worse.
- Eventually our coastal waters will be largely unfit for shellfishing and undesirable for swimming and boating. The tourist industry will suffer and property values will decline.
- If we do not meet the standards that are being set for nitrogen removal, we will be subject to state and federal regulatory enforcement actions, which would include mandated compliance schedules and fines.

The Town of Newington advocates a comprehensive approach, one that would reduce all sources of nitrogen. With that in mind, you will also find enclosed our recent comments to the EPA citing some measures that municipalities can take to reduce non-point sources. Undoubtedly there are many other strategies that can be implemented at the local level. If local communities work hard at reducing non-point sources, the pressure on wastewater plants to solve the problem would be alleviated. The financial burden on municipalities would be lessened.

Please join us in taking practical steps to reduce non-point pollution that can be readily implemented within each of our respective communities.

Yours truly,

John O'Reilly, Selectman

Rick Stern, Selectman

LETTER FROM JENNIFER SOLDATI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GREATER SOMERSWORTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

September 1, 2011

Mayor & City Council
City of Somersworth
One Government Way
Somersworth, NH 03878

Dear Mayor Tapscott & Council Members:

The Board of Directors of the Greater Somersworth Chamber of Commerce would like to express its enthusiastic support for the Friends of Somersworth, a community group organized for the purpose of exploring alternative uses for the recently closed Hilltop School. The Board believes that the group's proposal for converting Hilltop into a multi-

use facility for community use has genuine merit and viability and should be given serious consideration by the City.

The Board endorses the plan developed by the Friends of Somersworth because it encourages economic growth and development and would likely provide direct benefit to our existing businesses. The project may also encourage the location of new businesses in the downtown area. The multi-uses planned for Hilltop add to the options available to the residents of Somersworth who currently leave the City to take classes in art, adult education and enrichment programs and to attend art events and art shows. There is also a dearth of meeting space available to organizations and community groups throughout the City. We feel that Somersworth is indeed fortunate to have such a committed group of residents willing to put in the time and effort involved in the development and implementation of this project.

The City has a very real opportunity to act creatively and proactively by entering into a public/private partnership with the Friends of Somersworth. Investing in and developing a multi-use facility as outlined by the Friends of Somersworth would directly respond to some of the goals set forth in the City's Master Plan as follows:

- To provide leased/rented space for artists' studios. (Goal 1, sub-section 1.9)
- To provide classroom space for the development of adult education & enrichment programs. (Goal 1, sub-section 1.9 & Goal 7, sub-section 7.4)
- To provide meeting space for community groups and organizations. (Goal 1, sub-section 1.9)

The Chamber of Commerce strongly urges you to invest in Somersworth's future by supporting this project, and we look forward to assisting in this project by enlisting the support of Somersworth's business community to help make the vision of the Friends of Somersworth a reality.

Best regards,
Jennifer Soldati, Executive Director

LETTER FROM COUNCILOR DENIS MESSIER.

September 6, 2011

Diane DuBois
City Clerk
City of Somersworth

Dear Diane,

It is with regret that I will be resigning from the City Council at the end of the meeting on September 6, 2011. I will be moving from my residence in Ward 5 to a residence in Ward 3.

I would like to thank the residents of Ward 5 for their support over the years.

Respectfully,
Denis Messier

Councilor Watman moved to make the legal opinion dated 9/01/11 part of the public record. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham and passed unanimously.

LEGAL OPINION REGARDING ELIGIBILITY OF COUNCIL CANDIDATE.

From: Jae Whitelaw
Sent: Thursday, 9/01/11
To: Bob Belmore
Subj: Eligibility of Council Candidate

I was asked to get back to you regarding a councilman who is moving to another ward. Your question was whether he would have to reside in the new ward for a period of 6 months before he could become a candidate for the councilor position from that ward. The answer is yes. Pursuant to Charter Section 1.3, a candidate for a ward office must have been an actual resident of the ward for a six month period prior to filing to run for office. This provision is lawful; pursuant to RSA 49-C:9, the charter can impose domicile requirements of up to one year for eligibility for local office.

PLEASE NOTE that Section 1.3 also contains an unlawful provision, which should be deleted at the 2013 election. It provides that "No person shall have the right to vote or hold office" unless they meet the 6 months domicile requirement. The charter cannot limit the right to vote. The words "to vote or" must be deleted. It is too late to do so in the elections this fall. Yes, I can't believe that got by when we did the charter review a couple of years ago.

Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions. Thanks.

Jae Whitelaw
Mitchell Municipal Group, P.A.
25 Beacon Street East
Laconia, NH 03246

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

Councilor Witham wished to remark on some work of the Planning Board regarding the letter we received from the Town of Newington about excessive nitrogen levels in Great Bay and actions that local communities can take. He thinks it is important for the public to know the steps that Somersworth has taken and continues to take regarding overall watershed in the region. They talk about areas to identify and work on, one being stormwater management. The City received a grant and they are currently working with

Appledore Engineering to develop a low impact stormwater maintenance design for our ordinances. Even without that in our ordinances, the Planning Board has been somewhat diligent in pursuing aggressive and alternative stormwater management practices. Some good examples of that are the Works Health Club on Route 108, where virtually the entire parking lot is a porous pavement. In the auto parts store at Aroma Joe's on High Street in front of Target, they maintain all their stormwater on site. Those are a couple of good examples in town where we have been able to work with developers to do that.

Councilor Witham said they also talk about open space preservation. We have seen that, and the City continues to pursue those opportunities where it is financially feasible.

JOINT BUILDING COMMITTEE.

Acting Mayor Tapscott reported there was a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new school. He estimated that between 2,000 and 3,000 people attended the grand opening. They did not hear any negative comments.

Acting Mayor Tapscott reported the first day of school went over without a hitch. Everything went perfectly well.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT.



**CITY OF SOMERSWORTH
Office of the City Manager**

TO: Acting Mayor Brian Tapscott and City Council Members

FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager

DATE: Friday, September 2, 2011

**SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Tuesday, September 6, 2011
City Council Agenda**

6:00 PM Workshop - Presentation from the Friends of Somersworth.

6:45 PM – Public Hearing

Resolution No. 7-12 Change the Purpose of the Citywide Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund in Accordance with RSA 34:11 to a Capital Reserve Fund for the Purpose of Downtown and Transportation Enhancement Improvements.

Resolution No. 8-12 Authorizing the City Council to Create a Non-Capital Reserve Fund to be known as the Accrued Employee Leave and Benefits Liability Fund.

Unfinished Business (under Section 12 of the Agenda):

Resolutions:

- A. Resolution No. 6-12 Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Grant Agreement with the State of New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources for a Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant to Perform an Update to the Historical Survey Forms.** City Planner Dave Sharples will be present to answer any questions on this Grant and the overall project being conducted by the HDC.
- B. Resolution No. 7-12 Change the Purpose of the Citywide Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund in Accordance with RSA 34:11 to a Capital Reserve Fund for the Purpose of Downtown and Transportation Enhancement Improvements.** This language was selected with the assistance of City Attorney to make the fund broad enough to include the use of the funds for matching monies with other possible City projects downtown in addition to the TE Grant. This requires a ¾ vote of the City Council per State Law (RSA 34:11 copy attached).
- C. Resolution No. 8-12 Authorizing the City Council to Create a Non-Capital Reserve Fund to be known as the Accrued Employee Leave and Benefits Liability Fund.** The City Council appropriated \$10,000 in this fiscal year to place into this newly established fund (RSA 34:1-a copy attached).

New Business (under Section 13 of the Agenda):

Ordinances:

- A. Ordinance No. 6-12 Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 3.1.D. No Parking Anytime.**

Resolutions:

- A. Resolution No. 11-12 To Authorize the City Manager to Contract with CMA Engineers of Portsmouth, NH for General Engineering Services.** A panel (Public Works Director Tom Willis, Finance Director Scott Smith, City Planner Dave Sharples and City Manager) interviewed four engineering firms. Our joint recommendation is to contract with CMA. This new venture will be monitored closely and City Administration will periodically report back on its effectiveness as well as conducting a review with City Council as part of the fiscal year budget process. Attached is a copy of their proposal that gives an overview of their fees, project team and approach in providing general engineering services to the City.

I respectfully request the City Council suspend the rules and act on this resolution tonight. We would like to get going on some projects.

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

A. Informational Items:

1. **GACIT Public Hearings Schedule.** Attached is a copy of the public hearing schedule regarding the State of NH DOT Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan. It includes a hearing in Rochester on Thursday, October 27th at 7:00pm at their City Community Center.
2. **ContiTech Thermopol.** The City's code enforcement office has received a number of noise complaints concerning this industrial plant. Attached is a Memo from Planner Sharples that explains the company's plan to correct this production noise issue this month.
3. **Tropical Storm Irene – City's Emergency Management Team.** I respectfully ask Council to allow Interim Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director Don Bliss to give a brief report on the recent storm and the City's pre-storm preparations and response. I extend my sincere appreciation to all our Management Team members and city and school staff, and to our Community residents for their patience and support through the storm event.

B. Attachments:

1. City Attorney Certifications (4).
2. City Attorney Legal Opinion dated September 1, 2011.
3. Notice of Joint Bid Award for winter salt with City of Rochester.

Councilor Watman moved to suspend the rules to hear from interim Fire Chief Don Bliss regarding a storm report. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham and passed unanimously.

Interim Fire Chief Bliss said he appreciates the warm welcome he has received in Somersworth.

Mr. Bliss indicated the preparation for tropical storm Irene was a team effort between the Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works, the City Hall management team, AMR and the School Department. Before the storm, they were tracking it and coordinating with the State Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. They did a department head conference call on Friday to make sure preparations were in place. Public Works was out preparing sand bags, signs for intersections in case of power outages, and preparing at the Water Treatment Plant by putting the floodgates up. They also arranged with the City of Rochester to use their evacuation center for Somersworth residents if necessary.

Mr. Bliss said they received 60 emergency calls for service. Public Works put on additional personnel clearing storm drains and clearing brush. Most of the issues were related to power outages. At one point about half the City had lost power. His hat is off to PSNH in terms of their outreach. They were in constant contact and it was easy to coordinate with them.

Mr. Bliss said after the storm debris was cleared. A FEMA Damage Assessment Team was here last week. It is not clear if the County will reach the threshold to receive damage reimbursement. There was superficial damage in the area. The worst damage was to a granite box culvert on Maple Street. Hopefully they will be able to recoup about 75% of what was expended.

Councilor Pepin indicated when the Idlehurst School was designed it was supposed to be used for emergency shelter and he wondered why that wasn't done.

Mr. Bliss replied the idea of using the new school as a shelter is not off the table yet. One of the reasons they turned to Rochester is because of the amount of planning and preparation and the personnel actually needed to operate a shelter. Statewide, the Red Cross has cut back significantly their ability to staff shelters in individual communities. Under the State Emergency Management Plan the primary responsibility for sheltering falls to the Red Cross. They go out and do pre-assessments and determine which shelters are acceptable. They have a checklist they go by. They are facing some of the same financial issues everyone else is facing and they have a lack of personnel. The State only staffed three emergency shelters, and the closest shelter would have been in Kingston, so it was an effective decision to partner with Rochester. He will be discussing this with area Fire Chiefs. It might be more effective to pool our resources. They did use the school for feeding emergency workers.

Councilor Tapscott said PSNH kept in touch with emergency personnel during the storm, and he wondered if there is anyplace the general public can contact for information.

Mr. Bliss replied the easiest is to do it on-line if one has power. PSNH has not developed a sophisticated outage map. They tried to relay to people whatever information they had.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

RESOLUTION NO. 6-12 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES FOR A CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CLG) GRANT TO PERFORM AN UPDATE TO THE HISTORICAL SURVEY FORMS.

Following the second reading of Resolution No. 6-12 by title, it was passed by roll call vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays.

RESOLUTION NO. 7-12 CHANGE THE PURPOSE OF THE CITYWIDE REVALUATION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH RSA 34:11 TO A CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF DOWNTOWN AND TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT IMPROVEMENTS.

Councilor Witham said this is an important step in a process towards improving the image, walkability and overall aesthetic appeal of the downtown and it is important to set these wheels in motion. It's also important to underscore that the State of Maine has begun its work in initial preparations for the rehabilitation of the Somersworth-Berwick bridge. He is hopeful that staff can be creative and weave all of these things together for a thorough enhancement of the downtown corridor.

Councilor Messier asked if the enhancement of the downtown and the sidewalks is a total rehab or just dressing them up a bit.

The City Manager replied it is a combination depending on what needs to be done.

Councilor Messier asked if in the future there will be some proposal coming forward so the public will know what is going to happen.

Councilor Witham said the public can visit the Planning Office to see any plans.

Following the second reading of Resolution No. 7-12 by title, it was passed by roll call vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays.

RESOLUTION NO. 8-12 AUTHORIZING THE CITY COUNCIL TO CREATE A NON-CAPITAL RESERVE FUND TO BE KNOWN AS THE ACCRUED EMPLOYEE LEAVE AND BENEFITS LIABILITY FUND.

Councilor Witham said at the last meeting he requested his name be added to this resolution. With that amendment, he will support this resolution.

Following the second reading of Resolution No. 8-12 by title, it was passed by roll call vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays.

NEW BUSINESS.

ORDINANCE NO. 6-12 AMEND CHAPTER 13, POLICE OFFENSES, SECTION 3.1.D. NO PARKING ANYTIME.

Somersworth, NH
September 6, 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 3.1.D. No Parking Anytime, by adding the following:

Stackpole Road on the northerly and southerly sides from High Street to 100 ft. past the intersection of Deer Creek Run.

This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Introduced by Councilor

Brian Tapscott

Approved:

City Attorney

Councilor Watman moved to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 6-12 a second reading tonight. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed unanimously.

Councilor Witham asked what the cost to the City would be if this Ordinance passes.

Acting Mayor Tapscott replied it would be picked up by allocated funds for the new school.

Councilor Pepin said the neighbors were very concerned about this and they support this Ordinance.

Following the second reading of Ordinance No. 6-12 by title, it was passed by roll call vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-12 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH CMA ENGINEERS OF PORTSMOUTH, NH FOR GENERAL ENGINEERING SERVICES.

Somersworth, NH

September 6, 2011

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2012 adopted budget contains an appropriation for the purpose of contracting general engineering services for the City of Somersworth, and

WHEREAS, City staff solicited proposals from qualified engineering firms to provide general engineering services, and

WHEREAS, City staff reviewed the proposals and interviewed all interested respondents and recommend awarding the contract to CMA Engineers of Portsmouth, NH,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to contract with CMA Engineers of Portsmouth, NH for general engineering services.

Introduced by Councilor

Dale Spainhower
Denis Messier

Approved

City Attorney

Councilor Pepin moved to suspend the rules in order to give this Resolution a second reading tonight. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham and passed unanimously.

Following the second reading of Resolution No. 11-12 by title, it was passed by roll call vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

Theresa Cherouvis, 50 Grove Street, voiced her support for the Friends of Somersworth. It is outstanding that citizens of Somersworth came together and put this together in such a short period of time. She applauds the intelligence of putting those ideas into action.

Ms. Cherouvis said the word "challenge" came up time and time again tonight. She thinks the City Councilors must be interested in challenge. She would like to see people who are running tackle some of those challenges and not back away from them. In order to move forward we have to face every challenge. This could be very fruitful for this community.

Ms. Cherouvis said each time she comes to the meetings she thinks we could save money by printing on both sides of the paper.

Real Roseberry, 405 Route 108, said the petition he submitted regarding the Recreation Director was submitted some time ago. He was told the Council all had a copy of the petition (over 200 signatures). He wants to know if the Recreation position was hand picked. He was told it is up to the City Manager to hire and fire. He does not like the way the City is run. He would like to know how many people applied for the Recreation position and if the person the petition talked about was granted an interview for the job. When he is not happy, he digs for dirt.

Mr. Roseberry said he hears some of the Council members will be leaving. He thinks they are doing a good job and he wishes they would hang around.

Mr. Roseberry said he did not like the way the new Fire Chief left. We got rid of our Engineer, and now we have to hire an Engineer. If you do wrong, he will be right here talking to you. A gentleman who worked for the City left to be Town Manager of Raymond. He had more jobs to do here than he was paid for. He did a very good job here.

Mr. Roseberry said he thinks the City Council is losing their power and they should take the power back. He is not happy, and neither are the people.

Wang Shiao Ping, 26 Lincoln Street, said she supports the Friends of Somersworth and sees a lot of opportunity in their ideas.

Wang Shiao Ping said there are only two Asian grocery stores in the area, and one is in Somersworth. She has always been concerned because it is a very big store and it is not usually very crowded. The owner assured her that business is good. There are many Indian people working at Liberty Mutual in Dover. The grocery store stocks Indian foods also, and many of those people come to his store. Her point is that perhaps they could have some culturally based programs in the Hilltop building that would attract many people.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Councilor Pepin thanked all City employees from the Police Department, Fire Department, and Public Works for all the hours they put in during the storm. They did an outstanding job and he appreciates it.

Councilor Pepin indicated the City Council did receive a copy of Mr. Roseberry's petition, but they have a City Charter they have to go by which states they have no say regarding the employees who are hired for the City. They do not have the authority to do anything.

Councilor Pepin complimented Foster's for the positive article that was recently written about Somersworth.

Councilor Witham said the recent tropical storm Irene caused our City staff to prepare, respond, and deal with that event. The City's preparation before the storm was the best he has ever seen. His hat is off to whoever drove that effort. Kudos to all staff involved with preparation, response, and post-storm actions.

Councilor Witham said the open house for the new school was very nice. The Joint Building Committee did a nice job planning that event.

Councilor Witham addressed the remarks made tonight about cuts in City staff, stating these cuts were directed by the City Council through remarks they heard from the citizens about lowering taxes. The City Council drove those actions. Regarding cutting the City Engineer's job and hiring an engineering firm this evening, they can contract out much

cheaper at this time because there is not much building going on. City staff will monitor that, and time will tell on this situation. Those are decisions this City Council made as a body.

Councilor Witham said he will miss Councilor Messier.

Councilor Jarvis asked the people who signed the petition relative to the Recreation Director if they know, in fact, if that person applied for the position.

Councilor Jarvis gave kudos to the Friends of Somersworth. They have done a great job to this point. She would look to provide as much cooperation as possible.

Councilor Jarvis said it has been great working with Councilor Messier and she will miss him.

Councilor Watman referred to the current partnership between the OAKS and the City, saying it brings to mind that he would not be adverse to considering a token payment or short or long-term lease on the Hilltop building. It has been viable with the golf course and it could be viable with a non-profit group. That would be wonderful for the benefit of the community.

Councilor Watman said he and Councilor Messier have not always agreed on everything, but he appreciates his willingness to speak his mind in plain language and he will miss him.

Councilor Spainhower said the Friends of Somersworth have done a good job thus far. He hopes they will come back with more information. The building will need to be heated. The bottom line is it is a matter of costs. When the hard facts come out it will be appreciated.

Councilor Spainhower said he is sorry to see Councilor Messier go. It will be the first time in many years that there will not be a Messier on the Council.

Councilor Messier he hopes the plan for the Hilltop School building can work out. It comes down to funding. The OAKS invested \$4M to \$6M and they are paying money. He hopes it can be worked out.

Councilor Messier said the open house at the new school was a wonderful day and it went well. We are finally getting some things done right. He said that Stephanie Riotto and the School Administration should be commended.

Councilor Messier said he will only be gone a short while. He can not run for Council in Ward 3 since he has not been a resident for six months.

Councilor Messier thanked everyone for the kind words. He is not leaving town and he will be back in some capacity.

Acting Mayor Tapscott said they will all miss Councilor Messier on the Council.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

Councilor Witham said he would like an item on the next agenda, "City Manager Evaluation Process".

ADJOURNMENT.

Councilor Pepin moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Spainhower and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Diane M. DuBois
Diane M. DuBois, City Clerk

