

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 9, 2013

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

- Minutes of City Council Meeting held on 11/12/13 – Councilor Tapscott moved to approve the minutes as recorded. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COUNCILORS.

Councilor Soldati reminded everyone the Christmas Parade is this Saturday at 4:00 p.m. She hopes everyone will come out for this.

COMMUNICATIONS.

LETTER FROM COUNCILOR ROBIN S. JARVIS.

December 9, 2013

Mayor Spencer
One Government Way
Somersworth, NH 03878

Dear Mayor:

Please accept this letter as my official resignation as City Councilor At Large for the City of Somersworth effective January 7, 2014.

It has been a pleasure working with everyone over the past four years as a City Councilor and Chair of the Finance Committee as well as serving on several other committees.

I want to take a moment to thank the residents of Somersworth who have put their faith and trust in me to represent them as their City Councilor for the past four years. I ran for the position in hopes of affecting positive changes in our local government in a transparent and approachable manner. I feel that we have made great strides and the future City Councilors will continue to do so.

As much as I would like to continue serving in this capacity the growth of my business and needs of my family require more of my time going forward. Again, I would like to thank everyone for their support and confidence in me as a Councilor and wish the best for everyone.

Sincerely,

Robin S. Jarvis
City Councilor At Large
City of Somersworth

SOMERSWORTH FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION (SFA) PRESENTATION – LINDSEY GAGNON, PAT SOUCY, DON HOUDE.

Pat Soucy read a letter from the SFA Board of Directors to the City Council as follows:

Dear Members of the City Council:

I am here on behalf of the Board of the Somersworth Festival Association (SFA). We thank you for your support of our organization.

As you have probably heard, our board recently voted to change the location of the Somersworth International Children's Festival for next year. The winning vote was that we consolidate activities and move the event to the Idlehurst School instead of having it on Main Street and The Pines. We know that some of you are concerned about our moving it out of the downtown area, so we wanted to explain the reasons for this move.

Some of you may not be aware of what the SFA does besides run the Somersworth International Children's Festival. Every year we host the Celebration with fireworks the night before the Festival. We also have free concerts for children during the summer, as well as host the Pumpkin Festival and Winterfest (formerly called Breakfast with Frosty.)

The Somersworth International Children's Festival has taken place downtown for over 30 years. In the beginning, it attracted tens of thousands of people. We have conducted the Festival pretty much the same way for all of those years, adding activities once in a while, and sometimes eliminating things. During the past few years, attendance has decreased a great deal. We have a difficult time getting crafters and vendors to come to the Festival because they can't make much or any money. Last year it was so bad that 16 vendors (almost all in a row) did not show up. Wayne from Maine, one of our main children's entertainers (who is expensive) was playing to about 8 kids. We had only 179 children go through the World Cultures/Passport Center area. One of the Foster's Daily Democrat articles stated that dozens of families were at the event.

Last year some of our board members met with the Vision 20/20 Committee. That committee recommended we make major changes to the Festival and make it more up to date and of interest to all family members. They thought our event should be more like the Strawberry Festival in South Berwick and the Apple Harvest Festival in Dover. Both of these festivals have entertainment and a lot of crafters and vendors. The Strawberry Festival makes thousands of

dollars just on its strawberry shortcake and cheesecake, not to mention the money they make on their juried crafters. They give a great deal of their proceeds to community groups. The Apple Harvest Festival is run by the Dover Chamber of Commerce. They have hundreds of vendors and crafters and they are able to command quite a bit of money for vendor spaces because the event attracts so many people and the vendors can make money at the event.

During our last fiscal year, we lost \$1,882. A couple of months ago, we did our budget for this year. After cutting back on our kids' concerts for next summer, we were still going to be in the red by \$2,225. Then we lost \$1,000 on the Pumpkin Festival due to less kids attending. After that we were down \$2,000 for our October craft fair due to a schedule change. Fortunately, we had a very successful penny sale which will help cover some of the deficit, but probably not all of it. During the last two years, we have had to eliminate funding for arts in the schools and our scholarship program.

As you can see, we need to make some drastic changes to the Somersworth International Children's Festival and revitalize it now if we want the organization to stay viable so we are able to continue to run these great events for our community. A lot of people think we make a great deal of money on the Festival, when, in fact, we have to do fundraisers all year just to put on the event. Each year our small working board and volunteers put on three craft fairs, a penny sale, a carnival, and a fundraising campaign with businesses and the public. We spend a great deal of time running these fundraisers, and it would be difficult for us to add more, since most of our board members hold full-time jobs.

We chose the Idlehurst School since it is a beautiful school to showcase, plus it has great visibility from High Street and it will allow us to consolidate all activities into one location and eliminate some duplicate expenses. We plan to lay it out in a fashion similar to the Strawberry Festival, where vendors and activities surround the school in South Berwick. Idlehurst has a great playground that we can utilize along with our other children's activities. Another reason we chose that location is due to the fact that it is closer to Dover and we hope to capitalize on the WalMart traffic. We will be using most of the parking lot at the school for parking, but we will also be bussing people in from various areas. We plan to keep the name of the Somersworth International Children's Festival, but will design it and promote it as an event for the whole family. Celebration night with the fireworks will still take place at the high school the night before the Festival. Hopefully by having a fresh and more appealing festival in a beautiful, new location will allow us to attract more quality vendors and attendees so we can make money to help fund our programs and reinstate the ones that we had to cut.

The City's past support has been crucial to our organization and again, we thank you for that. We ask that you continue to provide funding to the Somersworth Festival Association in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Somersworth Festival Association
Board of Directors

Councilor Sprague thanked them for all their efforts. He took part in the first Children's Festival.

Councilor Sprague said it sounds like they need a change in structure, but he does not think they need a change in location. It doesn't make sense to him that they would move the Festival out of the downtown. There is more flexibility downtown because you could expand either way. He is disappointed about this.

Councilor Witham also thanked the volunteers for all they do. He too was at the first Children's Festival, and has seen it change a lot over the years. He was concerned about the change of venue because he thought their decision was based on the construction. It is great that is not the driving force. He feels there could be a parking situation on Stackpole Road that could be disruptive to the neighborhood.

Councilor McCallion also thanked them for all their hard work. He understands they want a venue change, but he does not necessarily think the Idlehurst School is the best choice. He feels the high school would be better because there is more parking.

Councilor Pepin was on the SFA board for quite a while. He commends everybody that volunteers because they work so hard. We do not realize how much work is involved in putting this festival together. Everybody should keep an open mind and work together on this.

Mayor Spencer said he was at the first Children's Festival also. He was a Scout at the time and carried a flag. He is a strong supporter. He knows Senator Shaheen is a big supporter of this Festival. He thanked them for their presentation.

MAYOR'S REPORT.

- 12/03/13 – Attended Ad Hoc Parking Committee Meeting

Mayor Spencer thanked all those who voted for him in 2011 as well as the most recent election. He was humbled and grateful for the opportunity to lead our great City over the last two years. He thanked the City Council for moving the City forward in a thoughtful and professional manner. He has to admit disappointment, but he believes the Lord closes one door before opening a bigger and better one. As he gracefully steps away from being Mayor, he will continue to be involved in championing and speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves. He thanked everyone and wished them a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Spencer reminded everyone about the Christmas Parade on Saturday at 4:00 p.m.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Councilor Jarvis reported this Committee met on 12/04/13. They discussed the following items:

- Road Maintenance management plan – contracting with a company to provide a comprehensive road surface condition survey for a cost not to exceed \$40,000. Committee supports 3-0.
- Bond for new road projects – bond is based on \$1.1M. There is a 15-year bond that is retiring. The new bond is a 10-year bond and will come in at about 3%.

PUBLIC WORKS & THE ENVIRONMENT.

Councilor Sprague reported this Committee met on 11/20/13. They discussed the following items:

- Road Maintenance Management Program – Resolution for this is on the agenda tonight. This company will map out our roads and give us a road management plan. It is important to note this will be paid for by Transportation Improvement Funds that we have been collecting since March.
- Road Bond – This road bond will affect taxes by about \$.07/thousand. This project will go from Sinclair Avenue to the end of the Somersworth line.
- High Street Traffic Lights – Interim Public Works Director Carol Murray was a past DOT Commissioner. DOT will come down and go through all the lights for us. We need to fix this and get the lights synchronized.
- Lenox Park – The group realizes they need to get their problem taken care of. Discussion in regards to upgrading the station’s pumps.
- Reorganization of Public Works & Utilities Department – Restructuring might allow for greater efficiency.

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE.

Councilor Tapscott reported this Committee met on 12/06/13 and discussed the following items:

- Board/Commission Appointments – Application form for anyone interested in being a board member. Form was approved with added section of “education” and under background adding “organizations or groups they belong to”. The Committee voted 3-0 to send form with changes to Council for approval.
- City Council Meeting Minutes – Committee recommends electronic recordings of minutes be kept for five years and minutes be shortened according to State law and Roberts Rules.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

SCHOOL BOARD.

Councilor Pepin reported he attended a School Board Meeting on 11/19/13.

- There was a presentation on health care reform.
- They talked about the Cadillac Tax (40%).
- Career Tech Center – Replaced water heater at a cost of \$48,000.
- Discussed Water Leak at Idlehurst School. The problem has been looked at and will be replaced.

COAST BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Councilor Pepin reported they met on 11/20/2013. He reported that the Clipper connection, which goes to the Shipyard, was funded by a 3-5 year grant which is coming to an end. COAST is charging fees of \$120/month for the Clipper Connection. They approved the Capital Replacement Schedule Budget (for replacement of vehicles).

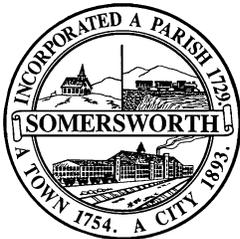
AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR PARKING IN DOWNTOWN CORRIDOR.

Councilor Pepin reported this Committee met on 12/03/13. The goal of the committee is to try and find adequate parking for businesses, their employees, tenants and customers, and also to address fees.

Review of present parking areas – due to ongoing construction it was decided that committee would recommend that previous fees be maintained and revisited after construction is completed. Committee also recommends that all day parking be continued on Constitutional Way and be revisited after construction is complete.

Dates and times for future meetings will be determined by new Mayor and Council. Committee recommends that a parking committee be continued to evaluate new parking after downtown construction is complete.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT.



CITY OF SOMERSWORTH

Office of the City Manager

TO: Mayor Matthew Spencer and City Council Members

FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager

DATE: Friday, December 6, 2013

SUBJECT: City Manager’s Report for Monday, December 9, 2013

City Council Agenda

6:15 p.m.

Private/Non-Meeting with City Special Environmental Counsel, Attorney Mark Beliveau.

Communications (under 6 of Agenda)

- A. **Somersworth Festival Association Presentation – Lindsey Gagnon, Pat Soucy, Don Houde**

New Business (under Section 14 of Agenda)

Ordinances:

- A. **Ordinance No. 7-14 City Council Meeting Schedule for 2014.** The proposed schedule has been reviewed and approved by Mayor-Elect Hilliard. City Council should waive Council Rules and act on the schedule this evening.

Resolutions:

- A. **Resolution No. 19-14 To Instruct the City Tax Collector to Execute a Tax Deed on Certain Property Subject to an Unredeemed Tax Lien, said Property Formerly known as Breton’s Cleaners Located at 1 Winter Street.** Pending legal advice received this evening, this Resolution will need to be acted upon tonight if the City wants to meet the present Brownfield’s Grant application round. If approved, City Staff will work to submit the application. If Council decides there is still too much risk, I recommend the Resolution be voted down. The City can then consider to make application at a future grant round.
- B. **Resolution No. 20-14 To Authorize the City Manager to Contract with Enterprise Information Solutions, Inc. of Columbia, Maryland for a Road Pavement Condition Analysis and to Utilize the Municipal and Transportation Fund.** The Public Works & Environment Committee and Finance Committee are sponsors of this Resolution. This Resolution also spells out the funding source. The Company is completing work in Eliot, ME and then Amherst, MA presently, therefore, it would be beneficial to the City to take action this evening to start this project this week pending weather. Attached is information about the Company and an estimate as to how the cost was determined.
- C. **Resolution No. 21-14 Bond for Road & Utility Improvements for a Portion of High Street from the Sinclair Ave. Intersection Location to the Dover City Line and Road and Utility Improvements to Tri-City Road.** The Public Works & Environment Committee and Finance Committee are sponsors of this Resolution. Our early estimate is a 7 cent tax rate increase should Council pass

this Bond. Attached is information on the project limits. This will require a Public Hearing, therefore I recommend it be scheduled for 6:30pm before the next regular Council meeting of Wednesday, January 8, 2014.

Other:

- A. Discuss Downtown Improvement Project – Light Posts.** Attached is information on the light pole fixture that will be approved for placement in the Downtown Project area. These poles do allow room to place brackets on them for street banners, planters, as well as being constructed to hold Christmas lights.

- B. City Council Certification of Return of Votes for 11/05/13 Municipal Election for Ward 5.**

- C. Approve Bid Form Deed Restriction Language for Sale of Tax Deeded Property at 425 Main Street.** Attached is a copy of the proposed language for the sale of 425 Main Street. You will read it limits future use to single family use only. The ability to keep horses on the property would remain as a pre-existing use. The proposed minimum bid of \$73,020 is based on the taxes, penalties and costs due to the City.

City Manager's Items (under section 10 of Agenda)

D. Informational Items:

- 1. CIP FY 2015-2020.** In accordance with the City Charter, I hereby submit a proposed Capital Improvement Program for City Council consideration. I look forward to Council direction for future review and discussion opportunities.
- 2. Joint City Council School Board Workshop.** Attached is a copy of my Budget Preparation Memorandum to City Department Heads. I recommend the City Council schedule a Joint Workshop to discuss our implementation of the new Tax Cap Charter Provision into the City's annual budget process.
- 3. Pandelina Construction Company.** The City has received the \$25,000 penalty assessment authorized by City Council to curtail the bid bond being called. I will now move forward with a notice to the Company releasing them of any further obligation.

B. Attachments:

- 1.** Certifications (4)
- 2.** FY 2015-2020 CIP Presentation Book
- 3.** Department Head Reports
- 4.** 2014 City Holiday Calendar Observance

NEW BUSINESS.

ORDINANCE NO. 7-14 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2014.

Somersworth, NH
December 9, 2013

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT, in accordance with Chapter 3.7 of the City Charter which provides that the City Council’s “regular meetings shall be held on the first and third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise designated by ordinance...” and Chapter 6, City Officials, Section 6.8.2 of the City Ordinances which also provides that the “City Council shall meet in regular session on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise agreed on by a majority of the members of the Council” that the City Council Meeting schedule for 2014 shall be as follows:

- January - 01/08/2014 and 01/21/2014
- February - 02/03/2014 and 02/18/2014 (Tuesday)
- March - 03/03/2014 and 03/17/2014
- April - 04/07/2014 and 04/21/2014
- May - 05/05/2014 and 05/19/2014
- June - 06/02/2014 and 06/16/2014
- July - 07/21/2014
- August - 08/11/2014
- September - 09/02/2014 (Tuesday) and 09/22/2014
- October - 10/06/2014 and 10/20/2014
- November - 11/10/2014
- December - 12/08/2014

This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Introduced by
Mayor Matthew Spencer
By Request

Approved:

City Attorney

Motion by Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Tapscott, to suspend Council rules in order to act on Ordinance 7-14 tonight. The motion carried unanimously.

Following the second reading of Ordinance No. 7-14 by title, it passed by roll call vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-14 TO INSTRUCT THE CITY TAX COLLECTOR TO EXECUTE A TAX DEED ON CERTAIN PROPERTY SUBJECT TO AN UNREDEEMED TAX LIEN, SAID PROPERTY FORMERLY KNOWN AS BRETON'S CLEANERS LOCATED AT 1 WINTER STREET.

Somersworth, NH
December 9, 2013

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

WHEREAS, the Somersworth City Council adopted resolution 3-14 to refuse to accept the tax deed on behalf of the municipality because in its judgment, acceptance and ownership of the real estate would subject the municipality to undesirable obligations or liability risks, or for any reason that would be contrary to the public interest; and

WHEREAS, if at any time, in the judgment of the municipal governing body, the reasons for refusing the tax deed no longer apply, and the tax lien has not been satisfied, the governing body may instruct the Tax Collector to issue the tax deed,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT in the judgment of the City Council the reasons for refusing the tax deed no longer apply, therefore the City Council instructs the Tax Collector to execute a tax deed on property formerly known as Breton's Cleaners located at 1 Winter Street, Tax Map/Lot number 11-181A.

Introduced by Councilors

Jon McCallion
Coty J. Donahue
Robin S. Jarvis

Approved by:

City Attorney

Councilor Witham moved to suspend the rules in order to have a second reading on Resolution No. 19-14 tonight. The motion was seconded by Councilor Jarvis and passed unanimously.

Following the second reading of Resolution No. 19-14 by title, Councilor McCallion commented that no matter what we do with City property there will be risk involved. This keeps coming up because it is in our goal setting session every year.

Councilor Witham noted that according to paragraph three we could immediately re-introduce this if necessary.

After further discussion about the risks associated with this property, Councilor McCallion moved to table the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilor Donohue. The motion failed by roll call vote of 4 yeas, 5 nays, Councilors Pepin, Hebert, Tapscott, Witham and Jarvis voting in the negative.

Resolution No. 19-14 failed by roll call vote of 1 yea, 8 nays, Councilor McCallion voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-14 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH ENTERPRISE INFORMATION SOLUTIONS, INC. OF COLUMBIA, MARYLAND FOR A ROAD PAVEMENT CONDITION ANALYSIS AND TO UTILIZE THE MUNICIPAL AND TRANSPORTATION FUND.

Somersworth, NH
December 9, 2013

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth desires a current and updated analysis of road conditions for planning future improvements; and

WHEREAS, Enterprise Information Solutions, Inc. of Columbia, Maryland can provide this analysis using a GIS integrated mobile data collection system that will provide this information efficiently; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works and Environment Committee is recommending the City contract with Enterprise Information Solutions, Inc. at an amount not to exceed \$40,000 (Forty Thousand dollars); and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution 17-13 to create the Municipal and Transportation Fund for the purpose of improvements in the local or regional transportation system including roads, bridges, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, parking and intermodal facilities, and public transportation; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is designated as agents to expend these funds,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to contract with Enterprise Information Solutions, Inc. of Columbia, Maryland for a road pavement condition analysis at an amount not to exceed \$40,000 (Forty Thousand dollars); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cost of this project shall be paid by utilizing funds from the Municipal and Transportation Fund.

Introduced by Councilors

Dale R. Sprague
Marcel Hebert
Brian Tapscott
Robin Jarvis
Jennifer Soldati

Approved

City Attorney

Motion by Councilor Sprague, seconded by Councilor Jarvis to suspend the rules in order to act on Resolution 20-14 tonight. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Sprague said this will give us real time data on the condition of our roads and will help with our budget process.

Councilor Jarvis noted this would be paid from the Municipal Transportation Fund. This takes the process from a subjective to an objective process. Costs should be covered to keep this up to date every five to seven years.

Following the second reading of Resolution No. 20-14 by title, it passed by roll call vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-14 BOND FOR ROAD AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS FOR A PORTION OF HIGH STREET FROM THE SINCLAIR AVENUE INTERSECTION LOCATION TO THE DOVER CITY LINE AND ROAD AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS TO TRI CITY ROAD.

Somersworth, NH
December 9, 2013

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Somersworth desires to continue making road and utility improvements along the High Street corridor and extend the improvements from the Sinclair Avenue intersection location to the Dover city line, and to make road and utility improvements to Tri City Road (off High Street); and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth has an opportunity to participate in a joint bid with the City of Dover which is planning road improvements in the same general vicinity, whereby both communities may be able to achieve cost savings by partnering in this manner,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000 (One Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars) is appropriated for road and utility improvements for a portion of High Street from the Sinclair Avenue intersection location to the Dover city line, and to make road and utility improvements to Tri City Road (off High Street); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

(a.) the City Manager is authorized to borrow up to \$1,100,000 (One Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars) under the Municipal Finance Act and issue bonds and notes payable within 10 years from their dates,

(b.) the City Manager is authorized to issue temporary notes in anticipation of the issue of these bonds or notes,

(c.) the estimated useful life of these projects is expected to exceed 10 years.

Introduced by Councilors

Dale Sprague

Marcel Hebert

Brian Tapscott

Robin Jarvis

Jennifer Soldati

Approved:

City Attorney

This Resolution requires a public hearing and requires a 2/3 majority vote of the City Council after the public hearing (Sections 7.13 and 7.14 City Charter).

Mayor Spencer noted there will be a public hearing on Resolution No. 21-14 on 1/08/14 at 6:30 p.m.

DISCUSS DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – LIGHT POSTS.

Councilor Witham moved to accept the recommended design. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed unanimously.

There was some concern expressed that we would not be able to plug in our Christmas lights with these light posts.

Councilor Witham said that Council effected a change order some time ago to take care of that problem.

Councilor Sprague said we have been very specific about wanting to have the ability to plug in our Christmas lights. According to Hoyle, Tanner Associates we will be able to attach anything we want to these light posts.

The motion to accept the recommended light posts passed unanimously.

CITY COUNCIL CERTIFICATION OF RETURN OF VOTES FOR 11/05/13 MUNICIPAL ELECTION FOR WARD 5.

Councilor Donohue moved to certify the return of votes for the 11/05/13 Municipal Election for Ward 5. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham and passed unanimously.

APPROVE CITY BID FORM'S DEED RESTRICTION LANGUAGE FOR THE SALE OF TAX DEEDED PROPERTY AT 425 MAIN STREET.

Councilor Pepin moved to accept the City Bid Form's deed restriction language for the sale of tax deeded property at 425 Main Street. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham.

Councilor Sprague suggested a friendly amendment by eliminating the section that says that if a person does not come back and pay within 42 days you can go out for re-bid.

The City Manager said if the City Council concurs, he will work on this.

The friendly amendment offered by Councilor Sprague passed unanimously.

The motion to accept the City Bid Form's deed restriction language for the sale of tax deeded property at 425 Main Street passed unanimously.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Councilor Jarvis thanked all the residents who have supported her over the last 4 years. The School Board and the Council worked together really well over the last few years and she hopes that will continue.

Councilor Jarvis offered best wishes to the new Mayor and City Council and wished happy holidays to everyone.

Councilor Soldati thanked Councilor Jarvis for her service on behalf of the residents of Somersworth. She did a fine job and she will be missed.

Councilor Pepin thanked Councilor Jarvis, Councilor Donohue, and Mayor Spencer for their service, guidance and friendship.

Councilor Witham commented that Christine Soutter was on open mike last week talking about the City of Somersworth. She did a fabulous job.

Councilor Witham feels that Senator Watters has turned into quite an advocate for the City of Somersworth and he wished to publicly recognize him for that.

Councilor Witham mentioned there was a large water main break a couple of weeks ago near Midway Park and the repair work that was subsequently done is far from adequate.

Councilor Witham thanked those who have been recognized tonight. Councilor Jarvis has done an excellent job on the Finance Committee. Councilor Donohue's words have been insightful and thoughtful. He thanked Mayor Spencer for his time in the seat of Mayor. They have not agreed all the time, but they have gotten along. Our image starts here with how we conduct our business.

Councilor Hebert also thanked the Mayor, Councilor Jarvis and Councilor Donohue. He appreciates their service.

Councilor McCallion said he is sad to see people go. He thanked Councilor Jarvis, Mayor Spencer and Councilor Donohue. He has a sense that this City Council represents the City well. We do our homework. We can agree to disagree on things. Hopefully we can keep up the momentum.

Councilor Tapscott thanked Councilor Jarvis, Councilor Donohue and Mayor Spencer for their service. He really appreciates it.

Councilor Tapscott wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilor Donohue thanked everyone who supported him. He offered congratulations to Mr. Messier. He thanked everyone for their kind words tonight. He hopes to stay involved in the City. He is on the Sustainable Committee, and hopes to remain on the Historic District Commission.

ADJOURNMENT.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. DuBois, City Clerk

