

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 2, 2014

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

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

- Minutes of Public Hearing held on 5/19/14 – Councilor Tapscott moved to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hebert, and passed by a vote of 8 yeas, 1 abstention, Councilor McCallion abstaining.
- Minutes of City Council Meeting of 5/19/14 - Councilor Tapscott moved to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hebert, and passed by a vote of 8 yeas, 1 abstention, Councilor McCallion abstaining.

MAYOR’S REPORT.

- I would like to thank the Council for paying tribute to the life of Francis Vincent by honoring him with the moment of silence at the beginning of this evening’s meeting. Francis Vincent or “Vince” was a 1943 graduate of Somersworth High. Upon completion of High School he enlisted in the US Army, defending our nation during the Second World War, but his service to the nation and community did not stop with the Armed Services. Vince would serve 55 years on the Somersworth Planning and Zoning Board, serving as its Chair for a period of time. He was elected six times to the NH House of Representatives, advocating for our community for twelve years. It was during this time that I got to know him as a colleague in the legislature. Vince loved Somersworth and although there were times when we differed in our opinions and ideology I was able to admire his dedication and love for his community. Vince, thank you for your years of dedication to Somersworth. In your honor I am requesting all flags on City buildings be flown at half-staff this Wednesday and Thursday.
- On Saturday, 6/07/14 from 9-10:30 a.m. at City Hall I along with Councilor Soldati and School Board member Dana Rivers will host the second Mayor’s community forum. This is an opportunity for the public to come share a cup of coffee and pastries with the Mayor and members of the Council and School Board in a non-formal setting. Its purpose is to continue to create dialog, exchange ideas, voice concerns and continue to keep our community moving forward.

Dates of future forums are as follows:

- 08/23/14 – Mayor, Ward 3 City Councilor and School Board Member
- 09/13/14 - Mayor, Ward 4 City Councilor and School Board Member
- 10/18/14 - Mayor, Ward 5 City Councilor and School Board Member

- 11/22/14 - Mayor, At Large City Councilors and School Board Members
 - 12/13/14 - Mayor, At Large City Councilors and School Board Members
- This evening I will be announcing the members of the Fire Station Advisory Committee. The committee is comprised of a cross section of knowledge and expertise which will be able to guide our community crafting the best recommendations for the future needs of our Fire Department. I look forward to the committee beginning to meet and comprise their future recommendations.
 - On Friday, 5/30/14, the Friends of Somersworth and I, accompanied by City and State officials, toured the Hilltop building to review the feasibility of the plan before moving forward to seek funding. The tour resulted in dialog which should present significant cost savings on the project. We will be reconvening within the next few weeks to examine changes to the design with the hopes of me forwarding a resolution seeking funding to Council by the first meeting in August.
 - I had the honor of representing and delivering the official city remarks for the Memorial Day reflection held on 5/26/14. A special thank you to the American Legion Post 69 who for years has ensured our community veterans will not be forgotten. The dedicated service the members of Post 69 are committed to is admirable, and I am forever grateful they are a part of Somersworth.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Councilor Witham reported this Committee will be meeting on 6/05/14 at 9:30 a.m.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

Councilor Sprague reported this Committee will be meeting on 6/05/14 at 8:30 a.m.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

VISION 2020.

Councilor Witham said this Committee was scheduled to meet last week but he was not able to attend.

Councilor McCallion indicated they did not meet because they did not have a quorum.

SCHOOL BOARD.

Councilor Pepin reported the School Board met on 5/27/14. School is almost done, and they are starting to work on CIP items to include replacement of the Middle School lockers; asbestos removal; sod for the football field. Also, some of the students who take part in athletics came up

with a code of conduct for the athletes. They had a presentation at the School Board Meeting. They put a lot of effort into it, and they should be complimented. It was based on how they carry themselves at school, their grades, and use of drugs and alcohol. They are pretty tough on themselves.

COAST BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Councilor Pepin reported they met on 5/28/14. The following items were discussed:

- They have a new route strictly for Pease Tradeport, Route 20. It starts in Farmington and comes down through Rochester for anyone who works at the Tradeport.
- They are negotiating with a couple of communities that are not funding COAST to determine if they will still be picking up in those communities.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE.

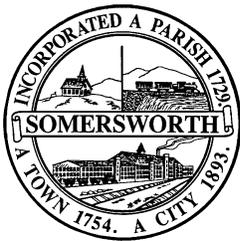
Councilor Soldati said this Committee will be meeting on 6/19/14 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. There will be a free public showing of a documentary entitled “Bag It” which is very entertaining and enlightening. It is a very important documentary that she thinks people would be very interested in seeing. The public is invited to attend.

STRAFFORD REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (SRPC).

Councilor Tapscott reported the SRCP held their annual meeting on 5/29/14. They passed the upcoming budget and a slate of officers. The guest speaker was Malcolm McNeil. He talked about land use regulations from the developer’s perspective. His presentation was wonderful.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT



CITY OF SOMERSWORTH

Office of the City Manager

TO: Mayor Dana Hilliard and City Council Members

FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager

DATE: Friday, May 30, 2014

SUBJECT: City Manager’s Report for Monday, June 2, 2014

City Council Agenda

6:45 p.m. – Public Hearing

Re: Ordinance No. 21-14 Amend Chapter 30, Conduct in Public Parks, Section 13, Dog Waste in Parks.

Ordinance No. 22-14 Amend Chapter 30, Conduct in Public Parks, Section 2.2 Definitions.

Old Business (under Section 13 of Agenda)

Ordinances:

- A. Ordinance No. 21-14 Amend Chapter 30, Conduct in Public Parks, Section 13, Dog Waste in Parks.** As a reminder: This was drafted by Councilor Witham. The Recreation Committee did vote to add their names as sponsors at their May 14th meeting.
- B. Ordinance No. 22-14 Amend Chapter 30, Conduct in Public Parks, Section 2.2 Definitions.** As a reminder: This is being sponsored by the Council’s Recreation Committee to rename Pine Street pocket Park to Ash Street Park due to the Street name change.

New Business (under Section 14 of Agenda)

Ordinances:

Ordinance No. 23-14 Transfer Between Departments. The Public Works budget is over expended due to storm maintenance related costs for sand/salt and repairs. Debt service on the Downtown Bond required an initial interest payment higher than anticipated (budgeted). Absent any last minute emergencies, this is our best projection on any department budget shortfall. I want to underscore that the bottom line of the budget is projected to be in the black by approximately \$350,000. This Ordinance is scheduled to be reviewed by the Finance Committee at their June 5th scheduled meeting. This is a housekeeping action item: that is, the City Charter allows the City Manager to transfer funds within a Department, however it takes Council action to transfer funds between Departments.

Resolutions:

- A. Resolution No. 45-14 Authorizing the City Manager to Issue a Request for Proposals for the Purchase and Redevelopment of the Former Police Station Site.** I have attached a “Draft” Request for Proposals document. Please offer any

additions, corrections, or deletions so we have it ready to go should this Resolution pass.

Other:

- A. Vote to Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Deed Conveying Tax Deeded Property Located at 4 Brook Drive, Tax Map 85, Lot16M, Back to the Prior Owner, Erik Carlsen in Consideration of Property Taxes and Penalties Paid.** The manufactured housing unit was deeded to the City. The owner has paid all past due taxes, interest and penalties to exercise his right of redemption. I would respectfully suggest you approve this housekeeping item to allow the resident to keep his property.

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

A. Information Items:

- 1. Seeds of Faith.** I have attached a copy of a request from Seeds of Faith Ministries Inc. The organization is asking the City to consider deeding the 213 West High Street tax deeded property to them to use as a transitional home. This property was on a list with other tax deeded properties that Council has previously authorized for sale. As you may recall, I am soliciting Realtor proposals to market this property along with others. Unless Council directs me otherwise, I will inform Executive Director, Theresa Tozier of Seeds of Faith that the City intends to continue with the planned sale process.

B. Attachments:

1. City Attorney Certifications Two (2).
2. Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant - Letter of Intent Approval.
3. AG Architects Final Report on Hilltop School Building Reuse Evaluation.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS.

In accordance with adopted Resolution No. 39-14, Mayor Hilliard appointed the following people to the Fire Station Advisory Committee:

A. FIRE STATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Tim Wilder, Chair
- Martin Pepin, City Councilor
- Paul Robidas, Citizen Rep.
- John Kennedy, Citizen Rep.
- Donald Messier, Citizen Rep.
- John Gregoire, Citizen Rep.
- Robert Belmore, City Manager
- Keith Hoyle, Fire Chief
- Matthew Moore, Firefighter

- Christien Dubois, Liaison to the Mayor

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS.

- A. BOARD OF CEMETERY TRUSTEES – Margaret Roberge, term to expire 04/2017.
Motion by Councilor Witham to approve this nomination. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed 9-0.
- B. PLANNING BOARD – Reappointment of Paul Maskwa, Alternate, term to expire 04/2017.
Motion by Councilor Witham to approve this nomination. The motion was seconded by Councilor McCallion and passed 9-0.
- C. CONSERVATION COMMISSION – Jeremy Rhodes, term to expire 04/2017.
Motion by Councilor Soldati to approve this nomination. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hebert and passed 9-0.

Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 21-14 AMEND CHAPTER 30, CONDUCT IN PUBLIC PARKS, SECTION 13, DOG WASTE IN PARKS.

Councilor Witham moved to adopt this Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier.

Councilor Witham said this broadens the section in the ordinance to address dog waste in parks. This would not ban dogs from parks, but would specifically ban dogs from the athletic fields at the Noble Pines Park ball field, Millennium Field softball field, and the Jules Bisson Park softball/baseball field. There would also be a sign affixed at these parks as required by ordinance so people are aware of this. This is a reasonable attempt to put some controls around this.

Councilor Soldati indicated she supports this ordinance, however she is not sure how effective enforcement is going to be. That brings to her mind that perhaps we should start having a conversation about providing a dog park for our residents so they will have some place where they can bring their dogs, where they can let them off leash, and where they are responsible for cleaning up after them. The Dover dog park is utilized by many Somersworth residents. The park is totally maintained by the dog owners on a volunteer basis. The City does supply water and they lay down wood chips in the spring. She feels there would be room for something like this at Millennium Park. This might be something we want to look into. She feels this would reduce the number of people using the City parks as a place where they surreptitiously let their dogs run loose.

Councilor Collins said he attended the Hilltop yard sales this weekend, and the thought occurred to him that the back part of the Hilltop School building would be a good place for a dog park. We do not have a water supply there now, but the land is largely unused and it has trees and shade.

Ordinance No. 21-14 passed by roll call vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays.

ORDINANCE NO. 22-14 AMEND CHAPTER 30, CONDUCT IN PUBLIC PARKS, SECTION 2.2, DEFINITIONS.

Councilor Pepin moved to adopt this Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham.

Councilor Pepin indicated this is a housekeeping thing. Pine Street has been changed to Ash Street so the name of the park should be changed to reflect the change. The park will be the same.

Councilor Sprague asked if we will have to redo any signs, to which Councilor Pepin replied in the negative.

Ordinance No. 22-14 passed by roll call vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays.

NEW BUSINESS.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-14 TRANSFER BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS.

Somersworth, N.H.

June 2, 2014

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH ORDAINS THAT pursuant to Section 7.7 (D) of the City Charter, the following General Fund unencumbered balance transfer be made:

<u>DEPARTMENTS</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
ELECTED LEADERSHIP		
CITY MANAGEMENT		
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION		
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES		
POLICE		
FIRE		
PUBLIC WORKS		38,000

CAPITAL EXPENSES (<i>DEBT SERVICE</i>)		11,754
OTHER EXPENSES (<i>CONTINGENCY</i>)	49,754	
INTERGOVT ASSESSMENTS-COUNTY TAX SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	_____	_____
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	49,754	49,754

This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Introduced by

Mayor Dana S. Hilliard

By Request

Approved:

City Attorney

Motion by Councilor Witham that this Ordinance be read by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed unanimously.

Following the first reading of Ordinance No. 23-14, Mayor Hilliard indicated it will remain in first reading until the next scheduled Council meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 45-14 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE PURCHASE AND REDEVELOPMENT OF THE FORMER POLICE STATION SITE.

Somersworth, NH

June 2, 2014

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth owns a certain tract of land identified as Tax Map 11 Lot 210, located at 5 Main Street, also known as the site of the former City of Somersworth Police Station; and

WHEREAS, Goal 1.12 of the City’s Master Plan encourages the “Renovation of the former police building”; and

WHEREAS, the City Council would like qualified developers to submit proposals for the redevelopment of the site consistent with the City’s Master Plan and the revitalization of the downtown consistent with Smart Growth principals,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to issue a Request for Proposals for the purchase and redevelopment of the former Police Station site located at 5 Main Street.

Introduced by

Mayor Dana S. Hilliard
Councilor Brian Tapscott
Councilor Sean Collins

Approved:

City Attorney

Note: This Resolution only authorizes a Request for Proposals to be issued. It does not authorize the sale or transfer of the property. Any sale of the property will require a further vote of the City Council specific to a proposal received.

All Councilors, with the exception of Councilors Soldati and Sprague, asked that their names be added to this resolution.

Councilor Tapscott moved to suspend the rules to have a second reading of this Resolution tonight. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 45-14 was given a second reading by title.

Councilor Witham moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 45-14, seconded by Councilor Tapscott.

Councilor McCallion said we were supposed to give the City Manager feedback/direction on the draft document.

City Manager Belmore indicated that Council could give him their feedback on the RFP over the next several days. He pointed out that this resolution only authorizes the RFP to be issued but does not authorize the sale of the property. That would require a further vote of the City Council.

Councilor Messier said the point is we are getting it out on the market. There is plenty of time to finalize the agreement.

Motion by Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor McCallion, to suspend the rules to allow staff members to speak. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Soldati asked if any developers have expressed an interest in developing this site since it came back to the City. Development Services Director Sharples indicated they have had two inquiries in the last couple of weeks. He does not know if they would submit a proposal.

Councilor Sprague commented that we are currently working on Station Street. We originally thought we would be tearing down the building. He hopes we are having Severino put in a 6" stub in case it is needed in the future. City Manager Belmore replied that has been done.

Resolution No. 45-14 passed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays.

VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A DEED CONVEYING TAX DEEDED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4 BROOK DRIVE, TAX MAP 85, LOT 16M, BACK TO THE PRIOR OWNER, ERIK CARLSEN, IN CONSIDERATION OF PROPERTY TAXES AND PENALTIES PAID.

Councilor Witham moved to authorize the City Manager to convey a deed to Erik Carlsen on property located at 4 Brook Drive, Tax Map 85, Lot 16M, in consideration of property taxes and penalties paid. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin.

City Manager Belmore reiterated that all back taxes, penalties, and interest have been paid. This also authorizes the City Manager to sign the deed.

The motion carried by a vote of 9-0.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Councilor Messier spoke about the traffic patterns because of the construction, stating it is deplorable. In the past there was conversation about possibly changing the traffic pattern to something similar to what we have now. If that ever comes up again in the future, he will never vote to change the traffic pattern. He will bear with it for now but will never vote for it in the future.

Councilor Witham indicated that on 5/27/14 Foster's had an article outlining the City's observance of Memorial Day. Our veteran's groups in Somersworth do us very proud in honoring our veterans. Part of the article indicated that recent construction throughout town threatened to dampen residents spirits when the City Council suggested cancelling the parade. He doesn't recall any conversation about us cancelling the Memorial Day parade. Stuff like that drives him up a tree because this Council has been nothing but supportive of these types of things. We are doing whatever we can to make sure we continue to thrive in the downtown, not to do away with events.

Councilor Collins said he was privileged to go to the Hilltop yard sale this past weekend. It was much larger than it was last year, and they had a fantastic performance and a great turnout. He gives a lot of props to the Friends of Somersworth for all the work and planning that went into this. It was a fantastic event.

Councilor Collins said he lives on the corner of Route 9 and Hamilton Street. He has witnessed many extremely dangerous violations of left and right turns. It is all posted with no turning signs. He has received numerous calls from constituents indicating police patrol of that corner is inadequate. It is an accident waiting to happen.

Councilor Sprague agreed that the traffic is annoying. He feels the hangup is the stop sign, and maybe we should consider putting it on the Main Street side on a temporary basis and letting the traffic from Washington Street flow through. We should also consider putting up more defined barriers on Constitutional Way. That is starting to be dangerous.

ADJOURNMENT.

Councilor Witham moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hebert and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. DuBois, City Clerk

