

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 5, 2014

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

- Minutes of Budget Workshop held on 4/05/14 – Motion by Councilor Tapscott, seconded by Councilor McCallion, to accept the minutes as presented. The motion carried by a vote of 8 yeas, 1 abstention, Councilor Pepin abstaining.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COUNCILORS.

Councilor Soldati announced that the Sustainability Committee will be meeting on May 15th at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. There will be a guest speaker, a master gardener from the UNH Extension Service. The public is invited to attend.

COMMUNICATIONS.

LETTER FROM GEORGE E. WENTWORTH, JR.

April 18, 2014

Dear Dave Sharples,

It is with regret that I must inform you that I will be resigning from the Somersworth Conservation Commission effective immediately. I have enjoyed my time on the Commission and wish everyone the best of luck in the years to come.

Thank you.

George E. Wentworth, Jr.

Councilor Tapscott moved to accept this resignation with regret. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier and passed 9-0.

LETTER FROM ANTHONY DELYANI.

April 18, 2014

Dana Hilliard, Mayor
City of Somersworth
One Government Way

Somersworth, NH 03878

Dear Mayor Hilliard:

It is with mixed emotions that I hereby tender my resignation as a member of the Somersworth Planning Board. My wife and I are entering a new stage in our lives, which includes moving out of the city to a location closer to my office in Portsmouth. We expect that to occur before the end of this year.

It has been a distinct privilege to serve the City and to be a member of the Planning Board. Throughout my tenure, the Board has taken its work seriously, but with a collegiality that I understand is sometimes lacking in bodies of this type. I take pride in the Board's accomplishments during the time I served.

I cannot leave unmentioned that the City is in outstanding hands with Bob Belmore as City Manager and Dave Sharples as City Planner. They are outstanding public servants who do a consistently excellent job of balancing the public's interest with the interests of responsible developers. The City is very fortunate to have them in its employ.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve, and am confident that the Board will continue to perform important and excellent work for the City in the years to come.

Very truly yours,

Anthony Delyani

Councilor Pepin moved to accept this resignation with regret. The motion was seconded by Councilor Collins and passed 9-0.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION FROM FLORIAN KOZINCZAK REGARDING CHANGED TRAFFIC AND PARKING PATTERN ON CONSTITUTIONAL WAY.

Councilor Witham commented that this is an email communication and is not addressed to the full City Council. A motion was made by Councilor Witham that this communication be redirected to the Traffic Safety Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Soldati, and passed 9-0.

MAYOR'S REPORT.

- On Saturday, 5/03/14 I had the pleasure of taking part in the 7th annual "Spirit Up" day sponsored by the Somersworth Youth Connection. The event attracted over 100 families who spent the afternoon giving back to our community. The annual "Spirit Up" day continues to reflect the fabric of all that is great about Somersworth.
- A motion for reconsideration will be requested this evening for the actions taken by the Council in regards to the adoption of Resolution No. 29-14, calling for the demolition of

the former police station. While still committed to the creation of a central green space within our downtown area, as Mayor I am also committed to ensuring the success of the actions and visions of this Council. If this body reverses its decision from the previous vote on 4/21/14, I will commit to the following actions:

- 1) Working with City officials and drafting and introducing a resolution calling for and authorizing an RFP for the Grant Building by the next meeting.
- 2) Explore how existing parks within the downtown corridor could be developed into a town green space.

- On Saturday, 5/10/14 from 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. I will hold the first series of community forums. For this Saturday’s forum I have invited the City Councilor and School Board member from Ward 1. This is an opportunity for the public to come share a cup of coffee and pastries with the Mayor and members of the City Council and School Board in a non-formal setting.

Future scheduled dates of the forums in 2014 are as follows:

- May 10th: Mayor, Ward 1 City Councilor and School Board Member
- June 14th: Mayor, Ward 2 City Councilor and School Board Member
- August 23rd: Mayor, Ward 3 City Councilor and School Board Member
- September 13th: Mayor, Ward 4 City Councilor and School Board Member
- October 18th: Mayor, Ward 5 City Councilor and School Board Member
- November 22nd: Mayor, At Large City Councilors and School Board Members
- December 13th: Mayor, At Large City Councilors and School Board Members

- I have received and accepted a resignation letter from Zoning Board of Adjustment member Paul Drager. I will be seeking and bringing forward a nominee at the 5/19/14 scheduled meeting.
- As established during the 4/21/14 Council meeting, I have been working on seeking members for the Fire Station Advisory Committee. I will be bringing forward the members of this committee at the 5/19/14 scheduled meeting.
- 68 Hours of Hunger is an activity and vital organization within our community. Their mission is to ensure that students who suffer from social economic hardship are not forced to battle hunger when they leave the care of the school system for the weekend. For over two years 68 Hours of Hunger has had a major impact in caring for the students of Somersworth in the mission of battling poverty and hunger. It is with great honor and pride that while this organization takes time to celebrate themselves and their accomplishments this week, that I am proclaiming it 68 Hours of Hunger week in Somersworth.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Councilor Witham reported this Committee met on 5/01/14. They discussed the following items:

- Review of paving bids for the High Street paving project. There was one bid received. The matter was tabled until City staff can review some of the bid particulars. This is for the section of High Street from Sinclair Ave. to the Dover City line.
- Discussion of Resolution No. 29-14 regarding the former police station demolition and repairs to various parts of the Noble Pines ball field. Their job was to look at funding for this. A draft ordinance for a supplemental appropriation of approximately \$87,000 to the capital outlay portion of the current fiscal year budget was presented to them. The money would come from the proceeds of the sale of a city-owned property, predominantly from the sale of the Sunningdale property. There was a lot of discussion on this matter. The Committee took no action.
- Discussion of real estate property city-wide revaluation project and the contract with Corcoran Associates. The Finance Committee supports this resolution.
- Approved the purchase of approximately \$16,571 worth of loose equipment for the new fire pumper engine.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE.

Councilor Pepin indicated this Committee will be meeting on 5/08/14 at 8:30 a.m.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

Councilor Sprague reported this Committee met on 5/01/14. They also talked about High Street bids for paving. Somersworth put in a joint bid with Dover. Dover received two bids, one from Brox and one from Pike, and we received one bid which was from Brox. They did the paving for us last year from the Blackwater Road intersection up to Sinclair Ave. There are some spots we were not happy with. Before we sign a contract with Brox, we want to see how the few issues there are will be taken up. We will have to work out some of the contingencies also. Staff should be getting back to us in a week or so.

RECREATION COMMITTEE.

Councilor Pepin reported this Committee met on 4/30/14. The following items were discussed:

- Noble Pines Skateboard Park – we had problems with the paving job that was done – it was unacceptable. We have another contractor in. The old pavement has been removed and has been prepped for a new layer of pavement. Public Works will be finishing up the rest of the skateboard park fixtures in the very near future.

- There are two brand new trash cans that have been installed up there. Apparently, they have already been vandalized.
- The removal of the fence around the dugout is being taken care of.
- The splash pad will be functioning sometime in the month of June.
- Discussion of Mast Point Dam Wetlands Conservation Fund Grant for improvements. That work is on hold because the funding hasn't been released yet.
- Willand Pond – on 5/08/14 Liberty Mutual employees will be volunteering. They will be reconstructing some of the crossings over the waterlands that were swamped out during the floods a few years ago. Also, Eagle Scout David Brackett is doing some work on the bear caves. He is doing an excellent job.
- Millennium Park – The developer for the Sunningdale property will be doing some improvements to Millennium Park. There will be improvements to the driveway, new seats for the swing sets, putting in a new sewer line and upgrading the bathroom facilities, field maintenance, and repair and painting of light poles.
- Ash Street Park – We received \$6,000 from the Somersworth Housing Authority about 4 years ago for park improvements. They were planning on the Public Works Department doing the work. Due to the amount of work they currently have, it looks like that won't be happening. They will have to contract it out.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

VISION 2020.

Councilor Witham reported this Committee will be meeting on 5/28/14 at 4:00 p.m. at the SAU Office.

COAST BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Councilor Pepin reported this Committee met on 4/30/14 at the McConnell Center in Dover.

- Federal Transportation Act Grant – have to have our review of bus maintenance schedules done every three years. They go through them from one end to the other. They have been very busy with that. They also have to take a course in purchasing procedures. There are a lot of requirements involved.
- Clipper Connection – The Somersworth route is one of the most popular routes. They have had to put on an extra bus. They have been talking about buying some type of coach bus that has more seating.

RAIL SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Councilor Sprague announced this Committee will be meeting next Tuesday, 5/13/14 at 4:00 p.m. here in Council Chambers. It will be televised. It will be a presentation by Tony Donovan who is the President and founding member of the Maine Rail Transit Coalition. Mr. Donovan

will be doing a power point presentation on what we need to do to ramp up for rail. He asked the City Manager if other stakeholders could be invited also, such as General Electric, Senator Watters, SRPC, Eric Chinburg, Town of Berwick, cities of Rochester and Dover and North Coast Railroad. We are going to be talking about getting on their rail, so it is important that we invite them to hear what we're talking about.

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 2, 2014
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, May 5, 2014
City Council Agenda

6:00 p.m. – Private Meeting (Non-meeting Session)
With School Department Negotiations Team

6:30 p.m. – Public Hearings

Re: Ordinance No 15-14; Ordinance No. 16-14; Ordinance No. 17-14;
Ordinance No. 18-14; Ordinance No. 19-14.

Old Business (under Section 13 of Agenda)

Ordinances:

- A. Ordinance No. 15-14 Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 3.1.D No Parking Anytime.**
- B. Ordinance No. 16-14 Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 3.1.F Time Limited Parking.**
- C. Ordinance No. 17-14 Amend Chapter 19, Zoning Ordinance, by Adding a New Section 31 Backyard Chicken Ordinance.**
- D. Ordinance No. 18-14 Amend Chapter 19, Zoning Ordinance, Section 25, Definitions.**
- E. Ordinance No. 19-14 Amend Chapter 19, Zoning Ordinance, Table 4.A.5 Principal Uses.**

New Business (under Section 14 of Agenda)

Ordinances:

- A. Ordinance No. 20-14 Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 3.1.D No parking Anytime, Pleasant Street.** This Ordinance amendment is a recommendation from the Traffic Safety Committee.

Resolutions:

- A. Resolution No. 43-14 To Grant Permission to Twelve Month LLC to Install a Sewer Line on City Owned Property.** City Attorney Walter Mitchell has assisted in preparing this resolution for Council action. This pertains to the residential subdivision of the former Sunningdale property recently approved by the Planning Board.
- B. Resolution No. 44-14 To Authorize the City Manager to Contract with Corcoran Consulting Associates In., of Wolfeboro, NH to Perform a Revaluation of all Properties as Required by the State of New Hampshire.** This project was vetted out at a previous Finance Committee meeting as well as at a City Council Workshop. Please consider swift passage of this action item. Council has appropriated \$40,600 in this fiscal year's budget to start this project. The remainder of this City-wide Revaluation cost is budgeted in next year's budget (\$37,000).

Other:

- A. Council Vote on Approval of Annual Permit to Sell Permissible Fireworks for Hilltop Fireworks, and Approval of Use of Outside Storage Units for Storage of Additional Fireworks between April 1st and August 1st.** This year's Permit has been signed by the three members of the City Licensing Board, and Fire Chief Hoyle conducted an inspection of the property and submitted a letter that the facility was code compliant and the operations observed were satisfactory.
- B. Vote to Ratify a 2-Year Agreement Between the Somersworth School Board and The Somersworth Association of Educators.** There is a confidential summary of the key elements of this tentative agreement reached with the Somersworth Teachers' Union in the meeting packet.
- C. Reconsideration of Vote on Resolution No. 29-14 To Demolish the Former Police Station Establish a City Park and Make Improvements to the Noble Pines Ball Field.** This was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting last week; Chairman Dave Witham requested this be an agenda item.

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

A. Information Items:

- 1. Market Street Residential Properties.** The City's Code Office is actively engaged in attempting to bring property maintenance violations by KAB Realty into compliance and will pursue enforcement efforts if need be.

2. **Police Equipment Grant.** I have authorized a Police Department Grant Application to the USDA – Community Facility Program: 65-35% match for \$20,900 Public Safety Recording Replacement System (\$7,315 Grant application plus \$13,585 City funding match). The Public Safety Committee will be discussing this needed equipment as well as other equipment needs of the Police & Fire Department at their meeting this week (Thursday, May 8th at 8:30 a.m.).

B. Attachments:

1. City Attorney Certifications Five (5).

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS.

- A. Somersworth Housing Authority Board of Commissioners – Amy Michaels, term to expire 04/2019.
- B. Planning Board Member – Aaron Fournier, term to expire 04/2017.
- C. Conservation Commission Reappointment – Dale Smith-Kenyon, term to expire 04/2017.
- D. Board of Assessors Reappointment – Patty Roberge LeHoullier, term to expire 04/2017.

Mayor Hilliard indicated these nominations will remain open until the May 19th scheduled City Council Meeting.

Councilor Witham moved to suspend the rules to act on Item B, naming Aaron Fournier as a regular member of the Planning Board. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed by a vote of 8 yeas, 1 nay, Councilor Messier voting in the negative.

Motion was made by Councilor Witham to move on the nomination. Mr. Fournier has been sitting as a member in an Alternate capacity. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-14 AMEND CHAPTER 13, POLICE OFFENSES, SECTION 3.1.D, NO PARKING ANYTIME.

Councilor Witham moved to approve this ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilor Soldati. The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 15-14 passed by roll call vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-14 AMEND CHAPTER 13, POLICE OFFENSES, SECTION 3.1.F, TIME LIMITED PARKING.

Councilor Witham moved to approve this ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilor McCallion. The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 16-14 passed by roll call vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays.

ORDINANCE NO. 17-14 AMEND CHAPTER 19, ZONING ORDINANCE, BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 31 – BACKYARD CHICKEN ORDINANCE.

Councilor Sprague moved to amend Ordinance No. 17-14 as follows:

- Section 19.31.A PURPOSE AND APPLICABILITY: Change the granting of Permits from the Planning Board to Code Enforcement.
- Section 19.31.B CRITERIA AND CONDITIONS: Change the responsibility of notifying abutters from the Planning Board to Code Enforcement and delete the requirement of holding a public hearing. Also, note that permit may be granted after 7 days if all criteria have been met. (Delete #3: The proper operation of the use will be insured by a maintenance plan submitted by the applicant that outlines how the coop and enclosure will be kept clean and maintained.)
- Section 19.31.C APPLICATION AND FEES: In the last paragraph strike Planning Board from both places and replace with Code Enforcement.
- Section 19.31.D REVOCATION/RENEWAL OF PERMIT: In first section strike Planning Board and replace with Code Enforcement and strike the section requiring a public hearing.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott.

Councilor Sprague said when the Committee worked on this ordinance they did not hone it down. They wanted the full Council to participate in making this ordinance more palatable to the people wanting to house chickens and also the abutters. The abutters should have consideration also. These amendments put in some protection for people who are abutters.

Councilor Soldati said she is opposed to this amendment and to the ordinance in general. Two weeks ago this Council passed a backyard chicken ordinance similar to Dover's. It actually goes a step further, requiring people to get a permit every year so that we can track how many people own chickens in this city. She thinks the ordinance they passed was sufficient.

Councilor Witham said this seems to vary from what we passed on one point, the notification of abutters. Other than that is very similar with the amendments. He asked the City Manager if Code Enforcement goes out to make sure the setbacks are met, the coops are the right size, etc.

The City Manager replied that he is not sure. The principal requirements are the setbacks.

Councilor Pepin said he has received more calls on this than anything else. He would like to have abutters notified. He was irritated that the Zoning Board approved two permits in the past but the most recent requests were denied. He can understand that, because personnel change and views change. If a person has a complaint and it goes to the Planning Board how do they decide what to do about it? He is struggling with this and would like to see something that is fair to

everybody. A lot of people do not communicate with their neighbors, and he has a hard time grasping that. Even if people are doing things correctly, it could have an effect on a neighbor.

Councilor McCallion said he applauds the Committee for doing the right thing. It's not easy to determine what will or will not work. He will not be supporting this, but it is a step in the right direction. There should be a complaint format.

Councilor Sprague commented that after the abutters are notified, if we do not hear from them within 7 days, the special use permit is given. If we do hear from an abutter, it has to be because of one of the following reasons listed under Section 19.31.B Criteria and Conditions:

- Adverse effects of the proposed use, including but not limited to noise, glare, or odor, which would need to be eliminated or controlled through screening or buffering designed to alleviate the effects.
- The use infringes upon the rights of nearby property owners to enjoy the reasonable use of their property.

Also, #10 of this section states that the use of scrap, waste board, sheet metal, or similar material to construct the coop or fenced enclosure is prohibited.

Councilor Sprague said he feels this should be passed and that the ordinance that was passed was rushed.

Regarding the ordinance that was recently passed, Councilor Witham wondered what would happen if there were complaints, property maintenance violations, loose chickens, etc. Is it the understanding that the permit would not be issued the subsequent year?

The City Manager replied there is no revocation process that he is aware of, other than if you did not meet setback requirements. In that case, Code Enforcement would have to take some action.

Councilor Soldati said she does not believe the ordinance that was passed two weeks ago was rushed. The process began on March 3rd and it is aboveboard and open. There has been a lot of debate about this.

Councilor Hebert said this past weekend he was helping his friend with a fence and the yard next door was full of dog excrement. We have no rules for dogs and he cannot understand why this chicken business is taking so long to pass once and for all. There are only four people that have gotten permits. He would like to move on with this and get it done once and for all.

Councilor Messier moved to vote on the amendment. The motion was seconded by Councilor McCallion and passed unanimously.

Councilor Sprague requested a roll call vote, seconded by Councilor Tapscott. Council voted in favor, 9-0.

The motion to amend Ordinance No. 17-14 failed by roll call vote of 4 yeas, 5 nays, Councilors Pepin, Soldati, Hebert, McCallion and Messier voting in the negative.

Councilor Witham moved for the passage of Ordinance No. 17-14 for discussion. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott.

Councilor Witham said he does not support this ordinance the way it is. He agrees with Councilor Hebert that it is time for us to move on.

The motion to pass Ordinance No. 17-14 failed by roll call vote of 1 yea, 8 nays, Councilor Collins voting in the affirmative.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-14 AMEND CHAPTER 19, ZONING ORDINANCE, SECTION 25, DEFINITIONS.

Councilor Witham moved to adopt this Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed by roll call vote of 7 yeas, 2 nays, Councilors Messier and Witham voting in the negative.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-14 AMEND CHAPTER 19, ZONING ORDINANCE, TABLE 4.A.5 PRINCIPAL USES.

Councilor Witham moved to adopt this Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed by roll call vote of 8 yeas, 1 nay, Councilor Messier voting in the negative.

NEW BUSINESS.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-14 AMEND CHAPTER 13, POLICE OFFENSES, SECTION 3.1.D NO PARKING ANYTIME, PLEASANT STREET.

Somersworth, NH
May 5, 2014

The City Council of the City of Somersworth ordains that the Ordinances of the City of Somersworth, as amended, be further amended as follows:

Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 3.1.D No Parking Anytime, by deleting the following:

- Pleasant Street on the northerly side from 41 Pleasant Street westerly to High St.

Further amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 3.1.D No Parking Anytime, by adding the following:

- Pleasant Street on the northerly side from High Street easterly to Green Street.

This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Introduced by Councilor

David Witham

Approved:

City Attorney

Mayor Hilliard indicated Ordinance No. 20-14 will remain in first reading until the May 19th scheduled meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 44-14 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH CORCORAN CONSULTING ASSOCIATES, INC., OF WOLFEBORO, NH, TO PERFORM A REVALUATION OF ALL PROPERTIES AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Somersworth, NH

May 5, 2014

WHEREAS, the State of New Hampshire requires municipalities to perform a revaluation on all real estate properties to include land and buildings every five years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth is required to comply and perform a revaluation on all properties at this time; and

WHEREAS, Corcoran Consulting Associates, Inc. is the City's contract assessor and has submitted a proposal to perform a revaluation of all properties for an amount not to exceed \$77,600 (Seventy Seven Thousand Six Hundred dollars),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to contract with Corcoran Consulting Associates, Inc. of Wolfeboro, NH, to perform a revaluation of all properties at a cost not to exceed \$77,600 (Seventy Seven Thousand Six Hundred dollars) and to take any other action required to complete this project in the best interest of the City.

Introduced by Councilors

David Witham

Martin Pepin

Dale R. Sprague

Approved

City Attorney

Councilor Witham moved to suspend the rules in order to act on Resolution No. 44-14 tonight. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed unanimously.

Following the second reading of Resolution No. 44-14 by title, Councilor Witham moved for adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin. Resolution No. 44-14 passed by roll call vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays.

COUNCIL VOTE ON APPROVAL OF ANNUAL PERMIT TO SELL PERMISSIBLE FIREWORKS FOR HILLTOP FIREWORKS, AND APPROVAL OF USE OF OUTSIDE STORAGE UNITS FOR STORAGE OF ADDITIONAL FIREWORKS BETWEEN APRIL 1ST AND AUGUST 1ST.

Councilor Witham said he is not interested in seeing this back in front of the Council year after year. He is fine with the Licensing Board issuing this license. He is also fine with their storage units.

Councilor Pepin also commented that this doesn't need to come before the Council every year. Both the Fire Chief and Police Chief sign off on it and that should be sufficient.

Councilor Messier agreed with this also. Unless there is a complaint, this shouldn't come before the Council.

City Manager Belmore said he is pretty sure that state law requires the governing body's approval. He will do some research into this.

The Council voted 9-0 to approve the annual permit to sell permissible fireworks for Hilltop Fireworks and approval of outside storage units for storage of additional fireworks between April 1st and August 1st.

VOTE TO RATIFY A TWO YEAR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD AND THE SOMERSWORTH ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATORS.

Councilor Witham stated the Council was briefed by the School Board negotiating team. This is money that will be available in the budget. This is a fair contract and he will support it.

Councilor McCallion said his hat's off to the School Board, administrators, and the teacher's union for what they have done over the past four years. He will support this.

Councilor Witham moved for a roll call vote. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed unanimously.

The ratification of a two year agreement between the Somersworth School Board and the Somersworth Association of Educators passed by roll call vote of 9-0.

RECONSIDERATION OF VOTE ON RESOLUTION NO. 29-14 TO DEMOLISH THE FORMER POLICE STATION AND ESTABLISH A CITY PARK AND MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE NOBLE PINES BALL FIELD.

Councilor Witham moved that Resolution No. 29-14 be reconsidered. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sprague.

Councilor Witham said the resolution passed a couple of weeks ago. Since that time, there have been a couple of developments. There were communications from residents that brought a few new issues to light about the history of the building. Although the building is not historic, there is history associated with the building. Some residents have said when we tried to market the building a few years ago the economy was not good. Some thought that times have changed and the economy has rebounded somewhat, the image of the downtown is changing, and over the last couple of weeks it has come to light that we may have to use our dollars in other places. He supported it the last time around, but feels that he may want to reconsider it.

Councilor Messier asked if there is a sunset date for selling this piece of property or if the plan is to keep it.

Councilor Witham said it would require another resolution to put out an RFP or put the building on the market.

Councilor McCallion said he did not vote to tear it down. We did not have funds to do anything with it. A person who developed this building could possibly take advantage of 79-E for a tax break.

Councilor Soldati said she plans to vote against reconsideration of this resolution. The building is neither attractive or historical. She thinks the building is an eyesore.

Councilor Pepin said he is in favor of keeping the building. He has heard rumors that we are going to tear down the building, buy the gas station across the street and tear it down, and make some kind of a park with a shell. He is wondering where all this money would come from. He hasn't seen any kind of proposal or plans. He hasn't seen anything come to the Recreation Committee about any of this. He feels we rushed into things a little too fast.

Motion was made by Councilor Witham for a roll call vote on the question of reconsideration of Resolution No. 29-14. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed unanimously. The motion to reconsider Resolution No. 29-14 passed by roll call vote of 5 yeas, 4 nays, Councilors Soldati, Hebert, Messier and Collins voting in the negative.

Councilor Witham moved to defeat Resolution No. 29-14. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin. The motion carried by roll call vote of 5 yeas, 4 nays, Councilors Soldati, Hebert, Messier and Collins voting in the negative.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Councilor Pepin asked that staff incorporate "unfinished business" documents into the agenda so they will have that information in front of them on their iPads.

Councilor Pepin said he has received many phone calls about chickens. He hopes the people of Somersworth can communicate with their neighbors. This should be done out of consideration and would be very well respected.

Councilor Soldati brought up Willand Pond. There seems to be a question about whether or not hunting is allowed there. Apparently the State Fish & Game is under the impression that hunting is allowed. She is working on this issue with Senator Watters. She wants the Council to be aware that this item is still questionable.

Councilor McCallion thanked all the volunteers who came out for “Spirit Up” over the weekend. He loves taking part in that. It is amazing to see what a group of people can do when they get behind a cause.

Councilor McCallion said we have put a lot on the taxpayers the last few years. We need to do something to give our citizens a little tax relief. We need to tread carefully so we don’t price people out. He knows we do try to balance everything out.

Councilor Witham said Mr. Delyani has brought a level of professionalism to the Planning Board for many years and he will miss his presence on the Board.

Councilor Witham said he has been involved with Little League baseball for 35 years. This year, for the first time in his memory, the Mayor threw out the first pitch on opening day. He thanked the Mayor for doing that.

Councilor Witham said he went up to the Noble Pines last Sunday morning to find that litter from the trash barrels had been strewn across the field and the port-o-potty had been toppled. Later that day, vandals found their way into the dugout and destroyed the wall mounted bench. He thanked Public Works for getting the dugout repaired. The vandalism in our City parks continues to be a matter of concern to him. He respectfully requested the Recreation Committee look at the idea of cameras again. He feels this needs to be pursued. He also feels that people think the Noble Pines ball field is a place to let their dogs run loose. He also respectfully requested the Recreation Committee Chair to address dogs in City Parks.

ADJOURNMENT.

Councilor McCallion moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hebert and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. DuBois, City Clerk

