

# MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 22, 2014

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

## MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

- Minutes of Public Hearings held on 8/11/14 on Ordinance No. 1-15 and Resolution No. 1-15. Councilor Tapscott moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor McCallion and passed 8-0.
- Minutes of Public Hearings held on 9/02/14 on Ordinance No. 3-15 and Ordinance No. 4-15. Councilor Tapscott moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Collins and passed 8-0.
- Minutes of City Council Meeting hold on 9/02/14. Motion by Councilor Tapscott, seconded by Councilor Collins, to accept the minutes as presented. The motion carried 8-0.

## COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

Blaine Stevens from Rye, NH said she is the current Miss Strafford County Outstanding Teen, and she is an ambassador for End 68 Hours of Hunger, an organization which feeds more than 1,200 children across New Hampshire. This program feeds children during the gaps between when the child receives school lunch on Friday to a Monday morning breakfast at school. Somersworth, with 120 children receiving weekend bags of non-perishable foods, is our biggest program. Of the State's ten Counties, Strafford County residents were at the greatest risk of food insecurity, at 20% of households. This should not be happening in our country or our State. She is here to ask for your support in raising awareness on how the residents and businesses of Somersworth can help their youngest of residents. End 68 Hours of Hunger can use support via a donation of storage space to store food items and pack the weekend bags. The space would need to be lighted and heated, about 600 square feet would be perfect. They are in need of Somersworth businesses to come on board as sponsors of End 68 Hours of Hunger. Somersworth Nissan and Hyundai have been terrific sponsors. She is looking for 16 Somersworth businesses to hold peanut butter and jelly drives on their premises. She will provide the signage and collection container. Finally, she needs a donor to subsidize 120 holiday gift bags for the community's children. Any donation would be appreciated. There are five things she wants them to know about End 68 Hours of Hunger:

- 100% of every dollar contributed is earmarked for food purchase.
- 100% of End 68 Hours of Hunger is volunteer-driven.

- The program serves kids from kindergarten age through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- \$10 per week will sustain a child for the weekend; \$40 covers food expenses for a month and \$440 will meet the nutritional needs of a child for one year.
- For more information, visit [www.end68hoursofhunger.org](http://www.end68hoursofhunger.org).

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COUNCILORS.

Councilor Soldati said she is adding an addendum to the Ending 68 Hours of Hunger – the Chamber of Commerce will be a drop-off for the donations of peanut butter and jelly. Their hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Councilor Soldati thanked the entire City of Somersworth for the success of the Chamber’s Bluegrass Festival. More than 500 people came from all over. It was a wonderful success. They had more than 25 volunteers. She thanked Councilor McCallion who was there volunteering from opening to closing. They will definitely do this again next year.

#### MAYOR’S REPORT.

- Congratulations to the Greater Somersworth Chamber of Commerce and all organizations that participated and supported the first annual Bluegrass Festival. The event was a great example of how our community continues to progress forward and celebrate itself.
- Last Saturday Ward 4 City Councilor Jon McCallion and Ward 4 School Board member Bob Gibson and I hosted the Mayor’s community forum. While the event was lightly attended, we were able to have constructive dialogue in a casual setting on how to address some areas of concern.

The next forum will take place Saturday, 10/25/14 from 9:00-10:30 a.m. with the Ward 5 City Councilor and School Board member.

- On Tuesday, 9/09/14 I had the honor of addressing the Council for Equal Opportunity in Education at their 33<sup>rd</sup> annual conference held in Washington, DC. For over 50 years TRIO programs have been guiding students towards academic success. I was grateful to have been able to share the stage with five other esteemed individuals who also have been impacted by the opportunities TRIO programs have provided them during their journey through the public school system. The evening helped bring Somersworth positive attention as I was able to share with the audience how these practices have been part of Somersworth’s identity for over a century, leading not only to my personal academic successes but the success of many members of the Council and our City government. In a society that often forgets to say thank you too often, I would like to thank all of those who have impacted me on my personal journey in life and those who will continue to as I progress down its path.
- National Registry: This evening the FOS is seeking authorization from the City Council to move forward to apply to have the former Hilltop School listed as a historic building on the National Registry. The benefits to having a structure listed on the Registry are

numerous including having the ability to secure state and national grants. Being part of the Registry would not in any manner limit the City's ability to make future decisions regarding the development of the Hilltop property. I respectfully request that the Council move forward with applying to have Hilltop listed on the Registry.

- Vacant City Property: Time can be a great asset in the ability to sort information before making decisions in our community's best interest. It can, however, be a double sword when it comes to vacant property. As time continues to move on and buildings remain vacant, the risk of damage incurred by system failures or vandalism increases. We have reached the point with several City-owned vacant properties where the scales of assets are slowly tipping to the scales of liability. I therefore am calling upon the Economic Development Committee to conduct a full review of all City-owned vacant properties and present to the Council by January, 2015 a plan for future renovation, use or sale. I have full faith that the committee will keep in mind the balancing act we must execute between the wants, needs, investment and reality of decisions limited and driven under our tax cap system.

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

### Finance Committee:

Councilor Witham reported this committee met this evening and discussed the following:

- Unutil agreement that was received in draft form to extend gas service to the former police station building. They reviewed the agreement in some detail. The committee took no action. This is on the agenda this evening.
- Downtown TE Grant (sidewalks and streetscapes) – There were two bids received. The low bid was received from Northeast Earth Mechanics, Inc. of Pittsfield, NH. VHB reviewed the bids and recommended this company. The committee authorized \$20,000 to come from the City's contingency fund for matching funds.
- Reviewed bids received for repair of City Hall exterior. The low bidder was Masonry Unlimited of Wakefield, NH.

Government Operations Committee: Councilor Soldati indicated this committee will be meeting on 9/26/14 at 8:00 a.m.

Economic Development Committee: Councilor McCallion said the plan is to meet one week from today. He is waiting to hear from a business to find out if they can meet there.

### Public Works & Environment Committee:

Councilor Sprague reported this committee met this evening and discussed the following:

- Reviewed the downtown infrastructure project. Paving is set for the first week in October. Will be talking about not doing the overlay until springtime at tonight's meeting. The committee voted 4-0 to delay the overlay until springtime.
- Talked about the Unitil Agreement.
- Talked about High Street paving work. There is an ordinance on tonight's agenda to waive the noise ordinance. This would allow the project to be completed in six weeks instead of twelve weeks.
- Downtown TE Grant – committee voted 4-0 to award the bid to Northeast Earth Mechanics, Inc. of Pittsfield, NH.

#### REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

##### Rail Service Advisory Committee:

Councilor Sprague indicated this committee will be meeting on 9/30/14 at 4:00 p.m.

##### Fire Station Advisory Committee:

Councilor Pepin reported this committee met on 9/05/14 at the Fire Station to determine what the needs are. They took a guided tour through the interior and exterior of the building. They will need some feedback from the City Council. A part of their decisions will be based on whether or not Code Enforcement will be part of the Fire Department since this would impact the size of the building. Also, if we do increase the size of the building, will need to determine if the lot is big enough. They will be looking at new fire stations to see their designs and layouts. They will be touring the Dover Fire Station with Chief Driscoll.

##### School Board:

Councilor Pepin reported the School Board met on 9/09/14 and they discussed the following:

- They acted on PSNH Smart Starts Program which consists of converting to energy efficient light bulbs. PSNH installs the lights. We would pay the same amount until the cost of upgrades is paid off.
- There is now a new government access channel at the School Department, Channel 95.
- They had a sewer problem just before school started. They thanked Public Works for their help. The problem seems to be outside the building.
- They had discussion on the Career Technical Center (CTC) renovation. They talked about whether to have a joint effort or local. They decided on a local effort.

##### CTC Renovation Committee:

Councilor Pepin reported this committee met on 9/10/14. Teachers at CTC are making up their programs which have to be submitted to the State.

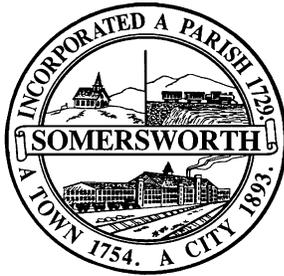
COAST Board of Directors:

Councilor Pepin reported this committee met on 9/10/14. They are experiencing some shortfalls and they had discussions on how they are going to address this problem.

Sustainability Committee:

Councilor Soldati reported a meeting of this committee was scheduled for 9/18/14. They did not have a quorum. They have scheduled a garden cleanup on 10/25/14 at 10 a.m.

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, September 19, 2014**

**SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, September 22, 2014**

**City Council Agenda**

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*6:30 p.m. – Public Hearing*

*Re: Ordinance No. 5-15 Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 3.4.E Motor Vehicle Operation; Ordinance No. 6-15 Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 3.3 One Way Streets.*

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*Unfinished Business (under Section 13 of Agenda)*

**Ordinances:**

- A. Ordinance No. 5-15 Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 3.4.E Motor Vehicle Operation, Right on Red (Prohibited), for High Street (North Bound) at Indigo Hill Road Intersection.**
- B. Ordinance No. 6-15 Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 3.3 One Way Streets, Relative to Constitutional Way.**

Both of these Ordinances are recommended by the Traffic Safety Committee.

*New Business (under Section 14 of Agenda)*

**Ordinances:**

**A. Ordinance No. 7-15 Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 3.4.B Motor Vehicle Operation, Speeds, Rocky Hill Road.** Attached is a memorandum from the Chairman of the Traffic Safety Committee Captain Timmons regarding the Committee's recommendation.

**Resolutions:**

**A. Resolution No. 16-15 Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with Resource Management Inc. of Holderness, NH for Water Treatment Facility Lagoon Cleaning.**

This project was reviewed by Public Works & Environment and Finance Committee. Attached is a copy of the bid results and a recommendation. Please consider waiving Council Rules to consider awarding the project this evening. This is a budgeted project and it would be in the City's best interest to begin this project as soon as possible.

**B. Resolution No. 17-15 Authorize the City Manager to Contract with Industrial Protection Services LLC of Wilmington, MA for the Purchase of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Fire Department.** The Finance Committee did review and accept Fire Chief Hoyle's recommendation which is attached. This year's budget appropriation of \$55,764 covers the purchase.

**C. Resolution No. 18-15 To Authorize the City Manager to Waive Ordinance Chapter 13D (Noise/Nuisance Control) for Pike Industries, Inc. and/or its Subcontractors to Permit Night Work as Needed as Part of the Road and Utility Improvements on 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.** Pike Industries is requesting the ability to work from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. to mitigate potential traffic issues during this project. It is important to consider waiver of Council Rules to act on the Resolution this evening in order to meet the projected project timelines.

I did receive a phone call from Mr. Keays stating he is concerned about this because there will be quite a lot of noise during this project.

**D. Resolution No. 19-15 Authorizing the City Manager to Contract with Masonry Unlimited of Wakefield, NH for Repairs to the Somersworth City Hall Exterior.** Attached is a memorandum from Director Sharples that explains the project need. We budgeted \$30,000, however, low bid came in at \$36,250. I believe our overall general fund budget can absorb the needed extra \$6,259, however the additional funding may need to be addressed at the fiscal year's end via a Budget Transfer Ordinance.

- E. Resolution No. 20-15 Authorizing the City Manager to Contract with Northeast Earth Mechanics, Inc. of Pittsfield, NH to Construct the Downtown Sidewalk and Streetscape Improvement Project.** Please see attached information from the State of NH DOT in regards to the Construction award going to the low bidder. It is important to consider waiver of Council Rules to act on the Resolution this evening, again, in order to position the TE project being completed on schedule and in conjunction with the downtown infrastructure bond project.

**Other:**

- A. Downtown Infrastructure Project – Move Final Paving Overlay to Spring 2015.** City Engineer Joe Ducharme recommends moving the final paving overlay until the spring. This will allow for any possible settling due the extent of the underground utility work completed.
- B. Authorize City Manager to Sign Unutil Agreement to Extend Natural Gas Service to Former PD Building Site.** Attached is a copy of the Contract. Please note that the City may be subject to a charge if a tenant is not found and fuel is not used.
- C. Approval to Seek Adding Hilltop School to the National Historic Registry.** Attached is a letter Mayor Hilliard received from Peter Michaud from the NH Division of Historical Resources.

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

**A. Information Items:**

- 1. Transportation Alternative Program (TAP).** I have authorized Director Sharples to prepare a TAP grant to reconstruct the sidewalks and other streetscape improvements on Washington Street, Main Street from John Parsons Drive to GE and Government Way. The application is due September 26<sup>th</sup>. Attached is a memorandum from Director Sharples explaining the process. I would appreciate any Council input and as stated by Dave, we respectfully request a letter of support regarding the application.
- 2. COAST.** Attached is a copy of an email I received from COAST Executive Director Rad Nichols on September 15. Rad clarifies an issue regarding a possible voting by-law change discussed by Council at your last meeting. Summary – The City of Somersworth is not presently in jeopardy of losing it's board member vote based on our finding support.
- 3. Fire Department Open House.** Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Attached is the Flyer with information on the Open House.

**B. Attachments:**

1. City Attorney Certifications: Five (5).

2. Department Head Reports.
3. Hoyle Tanner's July/August Monthly Project Report.

Mayor Hilliard indicated a letter of support would be written regarding adding Hilltop School to the National Historic Registry.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE NO. 5-15 AMEND CHAPTER 13, POLICE OFFENSES, SECTION 3.4.E MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATION, RIGHT ON RED (PROHIBITED), FOR HIGH STREET (NORTH BOUND) AT INDIGO HILL ROAD INTERSECTION.

Following the second reading of Ordinance No. 5-15 by title, Councilor Witham moved for its passage. The motion was seconded by Councilor Collins.

Councilor McCallion said he feels there would be more of an issue taking a left turn onto Indigo Hill Road. It would be helpful for people exiting their driveways, or exiting CVS.

Councilor Witham said this came from the Traffic Safety Committee. They received a communication from a resident who had difficulty exiting his driveway. This will allow more opportunity to exit safely. The crosswalk is heavily used also. There have been a couple of close calls for pedestrians.

Ordinance No. 5-15 passed by roll call vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays.

Councilor Hebert arrived at the meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 6-15 AMEND CHAPTER 13, POLICE OFFENSES, SECTION 3.3 ONE WAY STREETS, RELATIVE TO CONSTITUTIONAL WAY.

Following the second reading of Ordinance No. 6-15 by title, Councilor Witham moved for adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier.

Councilor Sprague said he believes we should postpone doing this. We have not tried out the correct traffic pattern yet. We do not have the corridor working correctly yet. We should have this discussion in February or March. It will be a little bit different then. The Council took a lot of heat through this whole construction project. He feels the problem is that we are not used to change.

Councilor Witham said this came from the Traffic Safety Committee. Many cars have been going the wrong way down this street. It has been tempered a bit by putting the barricade at the end of the street. He believes some people are confused and go the wrong way. If it is going to remain one-way, we need to do a much better job with striping, etc.

Councilor Pepin said he received a lot of calls from people wanting it back to two-way traffic. Citizen's Bank and the American Legion both want it to be two-way traffic. He has only seen one or two cars parked on this street during the day. He is against the two-hour parking. It should not be restricted here. He does not see where this has been beneficial at all.

Councilor Soldati said she feels this is a premature action. Nobody is coming downtown because of the construction. The parking spaces will be utilized when people start coming downtown again. She is not in favor of the two-hour limitation, but we need to wait until the construction is done to consider this being two-way again.

Councilor McCallion said he went through a lot of pain over this. He wanted to try a one-way pattern before the construction even began. The compromise was to make Constitutional Way one-way. We have not fully seen it work. We should hold off until the project is done.

Councilor Messier said it is not working. Business at the bank is considerably lower because of this. At some point you will have to admit it is not working. We should go back to two-way traffic.

Councilor Sprague made a motion to table Ordinance No. 6-15. The motion was seconded by Councilor Soldati.

Councilor Witham moved for a roll call vote. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott.

The vote to table Ordinance No. 6-15 passed by roll vote of 5 yeas, 4 nays, Councilors Pepin, Messier, Tapscott and Witham voting in the negative.

#### NEW BUSINESS.

#### ORDINANCES:

#### ORDINANCE NO. 7-15 AMEND CHAPTER 13, POLICE OFFENSES, SECTION 3.4.B MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATION, SPEEDS, ROCKY HILL ROAD.

Somersworth, NH  
September 22, 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 3.4.B Motor Vehicle Operation, Speeds, by adding the following:
  - When signs are posted, it shall be unlawful for any person to drive a motor vehicle on Rocky Hill Road at a speed in excess of thirty (30) miles per hour.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Introduced by Councilor

Martin Pepin  
David Witham

Approved:

City Attorney

Councilor Witham asked that his name be added to this Ordinance.

Following the first reading of Ordinance No. 7-15, Mayor Hilliard indicated it will remain in first reading until the next regular City Council meeting.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 16-15 AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INC. OF HOLDERNESS, NH FOR WATER TREATMENT FACILITY LAGOON CLEANING.

Somersworth, NH  
September 22, 2014

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 adopted budget contains an appropriation for lagoon cleaning at the Water Treatment Facility and funds were encumbered from the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget for lagoon cleaning at the Water Treatment Plant; and

WHEREAS, City staff solicited bids from qualified companies to clean and remove sludge from each lagoon at the Somersworth Water Treatment Facility and recommends contracting with Resource Management Inc. of Holderness, NH,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to enter into a contract with Resource Management Inc. of Holderness, NH for Water Treatment Facility lagoon cleaning and to take any and all other such actions relative to this project determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Introduced by Councilors

Dale R. Sprague  
David Witham  
Denis Messier  
Jennifer G. Soldati  
Martin Pepin

Approved:

City Attorney

Councilor Tapscott moved to suspend the rules in order to have a second reading on Resolution No. 16-15 tonight. The motion was seconded by Councilor Collins and passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 16-15 AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INC. OF HOLDERNESS, NH FOR WATER TREATMENT FACILITY LAGOON CLEANING.

Following the second reading of Resolution No. 16-15 by title, Councilor Witham moved for adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed by roll call vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-15 AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH INDUSTRIAL PROTECTION SERVICES LLC OF WILMINGTON, MA FOR THE PURCHASE OF SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Somersworth, NH  
September 22, 2014

WHEREAS, the Somersworth Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2015 through 2020 contains a recommendation to replace all self-contained breathing apparatus used by the Fire Department over 4 years; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal year 2014-2015 adopted budget contains an appropriation for the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus representing the second year of this program; and

WHEREAS, Industrial Protection Services LLC. is a certified vendor for self-contained breathing apparatus on the Massachusetts State Bid List; and

WHEREAS, City staff recommends purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus from Industrial Protection Services LLC utilizing the Massachusetts State Bid list at a cost not to exceed \$55,764 (Fifty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Four dollars),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to contract with Industrial Protection Services LLC of Wilmington, MA for the purchase of seven self-contained breathing apparatus for the Fire Department at an amount not to exceed \$55,764 (Fifty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Four dollars) and take any and all other such actions relative to this purchase determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Introduced by Councilors

David Witham

Martin Pepin

Approved

City Attorney

Following the first reading of Resolution No. 17-15, Mayor Hilliard indicated it would remain in first reading until the next regular City Council meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-15 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO WAIVE ORDINANCE CHAPTER 13D (NOISE/NUISANCE CONTROL) FOR PIKE INDUSTRIES, INC. AND/OR ITS SUBCONTRACTORS TO PERMIT NIGHT WORK AS NEEDED AS PART OF THE ROAD AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS ON 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

September 22, 2014

WHEREAS, Chapter 13-D prohibits excessive noise as a result of construction activity between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution 11-15 to authorize the City Manager to contract with Pike Industries, Inc. of Belmont, New Hampshire for road and utility improvements on 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; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City of Somersworth to minimize the disruption to the business and commerce within the designated area as much as possible during the construction activity; and

WHEREAS, it may be in the best interest of the City to allow Pike Industries, Inc. and/or its subcontractors to perform portions of the construction contract during night time hours,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT THE City Manager is authorized to waive the provisions of Chapter 13-D (Noise/Nuisance Control) for Pike Industries, Inc. and/or its subcontractors to permit night work between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. as needed for road and utility improvements on 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 and to take any other necessary action to meet the needs and the best interest of the City in regards to this authorization.

Introduced by  
Mayor Dana Hilliard  
By Request

Approved:

City Attorney

Councilor Tapscott moved to suspend the rules in order to have a second reading on Resolution No. 18-15 tonight. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham and passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-15 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO WAIVE ORDINANCE CHAPTER 13D (NOISE/NUISANCE CONTROL) FOR PIKE INDUSTRIES, INC. AND/OR ITS SUBCONTRACTORS TO PERMIT NIGHT WORK AS NEEDED AS PART OF THE ROAD AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS ON 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.

Following the second reading of Resolution No. 18-15 by title, Councilor Witham moved for adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sprague and passed by roll call vote of 7 yeas, 2 nays, Councilors McCallion and Messier voting in the negative.

Manager Belmore replied they have notified property owners that this will be taking place.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-15 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH MASONRY UNLIMITED OF WAKEFIELD, NH FOR REPAIRS TO THE SOMERSWORTH CITY HALL EXTERIOR.

Somersworth, NH  
September 22, 2014

WHEREAS, the adopted budget for fiscal year 14-15 has an appropriation to make repairs to the exterior of the Somersworth City Hall; and

WHEREAS, the City requested sealed bids from qualified contractors for these repairs; and

WHEREAS, City staff reviewed the results of the bids received and recommends contracting with Masonry Unlimited of Wakefield, NH for a cost not to exceed \$36,250 (Thirty Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty dollars),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to contract with Masonry Unlimited of Wakefield, NH to make repairs to the exterior of the Somersworth City Hall at a cost not to exceed \$36,250 (Thirty Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty dollars) and take any and all other such actions relative to this project determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Introduced by  
Mayor Dana Hilliard  
By Request

Approved

City Attorney

Councilor Tapscott moved to suspend the rules in order to have a second reading on Resolution No. 19-15 tonight. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham and passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-15 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH MASONRY UNLIMITED OF WAKEFIELD, NH FOR REPAIRS TO THE SOMERSWORTH CITY HALL EXTERIOR.

Following the second reading of Resolution No. 19-15 by title, Councilor Witham moved for passage. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed by roll call vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-15 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH NORTHEAST EARTH MECHANICS, INC. OF PITTSFIELD, NH TO CONSTRUCT THE DOWNTOWN SIDEWALK AND STREETScape IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

Somersworth, NH  
September 22, 2014

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Somersworth adopted Resolution 16-12 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation for a transportation enhancement (TE) grant for a downtown sidewalk and streetscape improvement project; and

WHEREAS the grant agreement provides a grant of 80% of the project costs with the City providing a 20% match of the project costs; and

WHEREAS, the City requested sealed bids through their consultant engineer to construct the downtown sidewalk and streetscape improvement project; and

WHEREAS, the City's consultant engineer has reviewed the results of the bids received and recommends contracting with Northeast Earth Mechanics, Inc. of Pittsfield, NH for an amount not to exceed \$445,310 (Four Hundred Forty Five Thousand Three Hundred Ten dollars),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to contract with Northeast Earth Mechanics, Inc. of Pittsfield, NH to construct the downtown sidewalk and streetscape improvement project at a cost not to exceed \$445,310 (Four Hundred Forty Five Thousand Three

Hundred Ten dollars), and take any and all other such actions relative to this project determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Introduced by

Mayor Dana Hilliard

By Request

Approved

City Attorney

Councilor Tapscott moved to suspend the rules in order to have a second reading on Resolution No. 20-15 tonight. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham and passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-15 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH NORTHEAST EARTH MECHANICS, INC. OF PITTSFIELD, NH TO CONSTRUCT THE DOWNTOWN SIDEWALK AND STREETScape IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

Councilor Tapscott said this is part of the TE Project in order for it to be completed on schedule.

Following the second reading of Resolution No. 20-15 by title, Councilor Tapscott moved for passage. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham and passed by roll call vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays.

OTHER:

DOWNTOWN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT – MOVE FINAL PAVING OVERLAY TO SPRING, 2015.

Manager Belmore indicated a lot of drainage work has been done as part of the project, all new water lines, and a lot of sewer work. All the work done was under the roadway. This should be allowed to settle over one winter. We would like to move the final paving overlay to spring.

Councilor Sprague said we would still be striping the roads, which would cost about \$5,000. It would be to our advantage to wait until spring. The Public Works Committee supported this 4-0.

Manager Belmore commented that the project engineers support this also.

Councilor Witham said the additional \$5,000 is short money when you consider what will be given. This is the smart decision.

The Council voted 9-0 to move the final paving overlay in the area of the downtown infrastructure project to the spring of 2015.

AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN UNITIL AGREEMENT TO EXTEND NATURAL GAS SERVICE TO FORMER POLICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING SITE.

Councilor Sprague said the committee had some concerns about the agreement, including the stipulation that “customer” use the gas service within 180 days from completion of work. PUC has mandated that if it is not used within the stipulated time they have to go in and shut it off. We have the flexibility to have a few questions answered before we decide on this. This could wait until the next meeting.

Councilor Witham indicated developers have shown an interest in the property and in having gas service to the property. We would like to get this done, but we do have a little time before things get buttoned up.

Councilor Tapscott said he does not know how far the gas line would have to be placed under the sidewalk. He wondered if this would damage anything that has been done on Station Street.

Councilor Sprague replied that it would.

Councilor Witham moved to table this item. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 9-0.

APPROVAL TO SEEK ADDING HILLTOP SCHOOL TO THE NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTER.

Mayor Hilliard said this was brought forward on behalf of the Friends of Somersworth (FOS).

Councilor Collins said this is exactly what our City needs and he is proud to support it. This is creative thinking and he urged everyone to support it. He thanked Peter Michaud for bringing this to their attention.

The Council voted 9-0 in favor of seeking the addition of the Hilltop School to the National Historic Register.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

Thomas Kefalas, owner of Somersworth House of Pizza, said he is disappointed to hear we will have to deal with construction again in the spring when they pave the downtown area. He wants to talk about parking. You have to decide what the downtown parking is for, businesses or residents. If it is for businesses, there should be time limited parking. The parking is even more limited now than it was before. You should look at the businesses and what their needs are when it comes to parking.

Gordon Hilliard, 1 Indigo Hill Road, Ward 4, thanked the Council for their favorable vote regarding “right turn on red” at Indigo Hill Road.

## CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Councilor Hebert said some Councilors indicated at the last meeting that they do not like Foster's and do not read it. We have been given Casey Conley, and he has been following him since he began. He indicates what happens and follows up on how things are going. There is an issue with the editorials, and the editor is retiring. If you read what Casey writes, it is accurate.

Councilor McCallion thanked everybody who went to NH Speedway this weekend. We have that in our backyard, and it is a huge fundraiser. He urged the School Board and Recreation Department to consolidate Boosters in the City. Everybody needs to work together.

Councilor McCallion said we will be adopting better code enforcement in the near future. Whether we do it at the Fire Department is a decision for the future. Economic Development Committee and housing should have a joint meeting.

Councilor Witham spoke regarding parking, stating there was an Ad Hoc Committee for Downtown Parking formed in the past, charged by Councilor Pepin, that was put on hold until completion of the construction project. We will be striping in the not too distant future and need to get our hands around this. He does not know where this committee stands.

Mayor Hilliard indicated it is still in effect.

Councilor Witham said that it is now time for them to start meeting again.

Councilor Witham addressed Adopt A Spot areas, noting some are well maintained and some are not. There is a bench on the corner of Washington Street and Constitutional Way adopted by a women's garden club. He went there and picked up a number of buckets of dirt. Now there is a very large pile of debris. He wonders if the Public Works Department could help out with this.

Councilor Witham said that Dave Sharples briefed the Planning Board with details of the application for a TAP Grant. He explained it would make sidewalks more accessible to people with disabilities. We'll keep our fingers crossed.

Councilor Witham said we were at Loudon to raise money locally for our community. There was a fantastic turnout. He is proud to represent Somersworth. We did not have as many volunteers as we could have, but it paid off. Regarding vandalism at Hilltop School, they surveyed the area and were able to find the area that was entered. With help from code enforcement, they were able to secure the building.

Councilor Sprague said he agrees that it is time that the committee on downtown parking should start meeting again.

Councilor Sprague said that Casey Conley is one of the hardest working reporters he has come across. His attention for follow-up of issues is very good. None of his comments about Foster's are directed at Casey Conley.

Councilor Sprague thanked Senator Watters for contacting DOT to help restore our TE grant funding.

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Councilor Hebert, seconded by Councilor McCallion, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Diane M. DuBois, City Clerk