

## MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Somersworth, NH  
August 17, 2015  
7:00 P.M.

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

### MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

#### MINUTES OF NON-PUBLIC SESSION HELD ON 06/15/2015.

Councilor Soldati, seconded by Councilor Dumont, made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed, 9-0.

#### MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON 07/20/2015 @ 6:45 PM.

Councilor Tapscott, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed, 9-0.

#### MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON 07/20/2015 @ 6:50 PM

Councilor Dumont, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed, 9-0.

#### MINUTES OF NON-PUBLIC SESSION HELD ON 07/20/2015.

Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Messier, made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed, 9-0.

### COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

Ross Forester of 25 Pleasant Street in ward 2, a member of the Sustainability Committee, VFW, and the American Legion in Somersworth, was pleased to announce a contribution to the memorial to the Iraq War Veterans from the Hynes Group of British Columbia. They offered to loan their heavy equipment to assist with the creation of an access road and central staging area. The access road will eventually become a 2 lane, paved road that will lead to a parking area for 30 vehicles. The employees of Briar Ridge Estates in Rochester, NH have offered to donate their expert construction skills to initiate the first step in the long journey of a suitable memorial for the Iraq War Veterans. He thanked the staff and management of Briar Ridge Estates for their generous contribution to commemorate the Veterans. The plan is to landscape the memorial in late April 2016, with a target date of Memorial Day. The project will be supervised by a civil engineering firm with the approval of the city planning department. The city is invited to participate in the dedication of this memorial on the last Monday in May; May 30, 2016.

Tamara Gerossie of 27 Hanson Street in Ward 4 said she had heard that the City intends to spray the sidewalks with Roundup. She is a massage therapist and a holistic health

coach, so health and well-being is her profession. She is opposed to the use of Roundup. She is a gardener (and) will not use Roundup. She delights in the all bees, dragonflies, hummingbirds and chickens that visit her gardens. All of these would die, along with her family if she were to use Roundup. She has evidence to back up her statements. Roundup's main ingredient is called glyphosate, which is proven to cause chronic inflammation. The inflammation is directly linked to the following conditions: gastrointestinal disorders, obesity, diabetes, heart disease, depression, autism, infertility, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's, kidney disease and failure, birth defects, Parkinson's, nervous system damage, Celiac disease, gluten intolerance, allergies, and cancer, by numerous studies and acknowledged by the World Health Organization. She is worried that we are spraying chemicals with such a laundry list of known problems around our businesses, schools and homes. She walks her dogs and will need to consider walking in another city. Prospective home buyers might consider buying in other communities if they know Roundup is being sprayed throughout the city. For our leaders to be using carcinogens around our homes, speaks of their disregard, at the very least. Roundup does not go just on weeds, and then disappear. It finds its way into the rain, air, and our blood. It damages our entire ecosystem. It is not inert. It has been shown to cause amphibians to change shape, and to kill the testicular cells in rats. Many countries have banned Roundup, including France, Brazil, Chili, South Africa, Netherlands, Bermuda, Germany, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Columbia, Mexico, Canada, Russia, and Argentina. The US is sometimes slow to react, however, we know, person by person, we can protect our own. We can make a difference. Instead of supporting big business, Monsanto, and putting our citizens in danger, why don't we support a local, organic business? Better yet, let's organize a group of citizens to volunteer to pull weeds. Somersworth Gardening Club has a nice ring to it. Let's find a way to take care of each other and our city.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CITY COUNCILORS

Councilor Soldati announced that the city does plan to spray Roundup within the city. She asked the Manager if it was possible to give the citizens the ability to opt out. It doesn't seem like we were able to get that in some kind of policy form. She said she would have liked to see a notice to be sent with the water bills to those whose streets would be affected. This has not happened, so she continued to read a list of 38 streets that will be sprayed this week:

Beacon St, Blackwater Rd, Brook Rd, Buffumsville Rd, Cemetery Rd, Constitutional Way, Depot St, Elm St, Fayette St, Ford St, Franklin St, Grand St, Green St, Grove St, Hamilton St, High St, (Note out front on the new sidewalk, how many weeds are growing in front of city hall.) Highland St, Indigo Hill Rd, Lincoln St, Linden St, Main St, Maple St, Maple St. Ext., Memorial Dr, Mt. Vernon St, Myrtle St, Noble St, Page St, Parsons Dr, Pine St, Prospect St, School St, South St, Tates Brook Rd, Union St, Washington St, and West High St.

Any residents who have concerns, since the World Health Organization has labeled glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic", should contact public works or the City

Manager's Office, and ask to opt out if you would prefer to not have Roundup sprayed in front of your home.

COMMUNICATIONS.

EMAIL FROM HARRY IRWIN

Harry Irwin announced his resignation from the Zoning Board of Adjustment in an email to the Mayor. The resignation was accepted with no objection from Council.

SCHOOL BOARD RESIGNATION

An email was received from Rene Philpott announcing her resignation from the School Board. The Mayor requested that this correspondence not be read aloud because of the sensitivity and privacy regarding the resignation. The resignation was accepted with no objection from Council.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND DISPOSAL THEREOF BY REFERENCE OR OTHERWISE.

None

MAYOR'S REPORT.

MAYORS REPORT FOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 17, 2015

Congratulations to the Somersworth Coalition for a successful "National Night Out" event which took place in Jules Bisson Park, recently. The event exhibited an amazing sense of community pride with a high level of energy and Hilltopper spirit. Highly attended by citizens, elected officials, members of the Police, Fire, and EMT responders, the goal of the event was clearly reached: "Help foster citizen engagement and make our community safer and more viable. I look forward to continuing to take an active role with the Somersworth Coalition to help solve problems as a united community.

I had the pleasure of enjoying America's favorite pastime at the Noble Pines Park recently for the Somersworth Alumni Baseball game. The game was part of the day long festivities celebrating the dedication of the renovated ballfield. The renovations took place under the successful commitment of citizens and organizations who believe in Somersworth. I was honored to be able to cut the ribbon officially declaring the ballfield open that Saturday morning along with the Superintendent of Schools, Jeni Mosca, and continue to beam with pride on how our community continues to progress.

Speaking of progress, I am pleased to announce this evening that through the collaborative efforts of the Mayor's office, City Manager's office, Dave Sharples and the Superintendent of Schools, Jeni Mosca, that Timberland School Corporation has chosen Somersworth as one of its sites for its annual "Serv-a-palooza". The "Serv-a-palooza" is a full day of dedication by employees of Timberland to help in the construction of projects to benefit all facets of the community. Over 300 employees will converge on Somersworth on September 17<sup>th</sup> to construct and partially fund three approved projects

by Timberland. This is an incredible opportunity for our community to have completed several of its projects which have been accumulated on a wish list. Three projects which have been approved for construction and completion that day are the following:

- 1) Completion of the Mast Point Dam project with boat launch (pending final state regulatory approval)
- 2) Construction of Esplanade seating and stair rehabilitation at the Noble Pines (pending approval of Council this evening to match this project with funding)
- 3) Creating of a low elements and fitness trail at the Willand Pond recreation site. Including in the project will be signage and meter markers for running along the trail.

It was through the joint efforts of multiple parties that we were chosen to have several improvements to our communities recreational facilities take place in one day. I respectfully request that Council affirm its commitment to moving forward with these joint projects by approval of the partial funding this evening. Without our commitment, it is likely that the full scale of these projects will not be able to be completed and we will have to continue to wait under the burden of the tax cap, for these much needed improvements.

This afternoon as I arrived back into town, I was not only greeted by the “Welcome to Somersworth” sign, but panhandlers standing on the central island. Ordinance No. 2-16 sponsored by Councilor Dale Sprague and I, was not crafted out of the intentions of violating citizens constitutional rights, and giving our law enforcement a way around the defined legal parameters of conducting searches. Its intent as stated by both Councilor Sprague and I, is to address what has clearly become a public safety issue in this and other communities. The legislation before you was crafted after the ordinance adopted by the City of Concord, an ordinance that the ACLU had a voice in helping to define. Within our democratic society, we are constantly weighing the rights of the individuals versus the rights of society to keep itself safe. Our Constitution was developed for such debate; it is this debate and review which has kept us a free society for over 230 years. The legislation before you this evening will no doubt have some elements of that debate this evening, however, I request that if the legislation before you this evening in some fashion falls short of meeting the balance of that of society, versus the individual, then it be re-referred to the Public Safety Committee for further study and work until that balance has been met. To do nothing, in my opinion, is simply not the answer. We must continue to address this public safety concern in some fashion, and if Ordinance No. 2-16 in its current form does not hold the solution, then I suggest we all roll up our sleeves collectively, and craft it.

On August 29<sup>th</sup> the Friends of Somersworth will honor the contributions of our Indonesian brothers and sisters to our community with the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Jakarta Street Festival from 11-4 on Market Street. To re-affirm these commitments, the flag of Indonesia will be raised on the City Hall flag pole on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10am and will continue to fly through the festival. Any member of Council and the public is welcome to attend this brief ceremony.

I would like to thank US Senator, Kelly Ayotte for the donation of a new United States flag. The flag flew over our nation's Capital in honor of Somersworth and will begin waving on the City Hall flag pole this evening at the conclusion of the meeting.

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilor Witham reported the meeting was held on July 30<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm.

First item on the agenda was the capacity evaluation of the wastewater treatment plant. The city received proposals. This is a budgeted item. Jamie Wood provided committee with the overview of what the capacity evaluation would entail. The proposal from Wright Pierce was under budget, and it was unanimously approved by the committee to accept this proposal.

The committee discussed the sale of the parking lot on Constitutional Way. The City put this parking lot up for sale by bid. There was one bid received, however, the committee discussed a problem with the bidding process. It is not clear if there are easements in place for this parking lot. It was also not clear if this was communicated to those who submitted bids. The committee unanimously agreed to not accept any of the previously submitted bids, and directed City Staff to look at the necessary documents to bid that again.

Finance Director Smith gave a brief update on reporting and the committee adjourned.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Councilor McCallion reported that the committee met on August 4<sup>th</sup>. The committee was charged with looking into the sale of city owned property, the former Malley Farm Boys Home. Seeds of Faith gave a presentation at the last City Council Meeting. Another group called the Silver Sisters Recovery is looking to lease the property. To make it fair to all, the committee decided to go to a RFP process. It is not for the committee to "pick and choose". City staff is working on this.

### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE.

Councilor Pepin reported that the committee met on July 30<sup>th</sup>. The committee discussed Ordinance No. 2-16, and how this will affect fire fighters being able to have boot drives. The committee also discussed the idea of possibly requiring a permit. Licenses/permits are needed for events throughout the city. Girl Scouts have to get a permit to sell their cookies, but others who do things on the streets do not (need a permit). After discussions, the committee decided to go with ordinance as written.

The committee also discussed Fireworks. There were 7 permits issued, and 7 complaints reported to the Police Department. The Oaks does a lot of fireworks displays, with permits, for weddings, mostly on Saturdays. Hilltop Fireworks said sales are up, and there were more sold to Dover and Rochester residents than to Somersworth residents.

There was discussion about the crosswalk at High Street by the old Dumont's Hardware Store. Changes had to be made because of storm drains and tip downs. There was discussion about installing electronic signs to indicate speed.

Police are looking into getting a dog for drugs and tracking in the near future. The Fire Chief interviewed 7 call firefighters, and he is requesting that all 7 be hired.

### **RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Councilor Pepin reported that the committee met on July 30th. There was discussion about installing cameras in the parks. Dave Sharples reported on different camera options. This has been added to the agenda for discussion during this meeting, on location and type of equipment. The equipment must be in a heated building. Most of the equipment is lower priced from the first time research was done on cameras.

The committee also discussed the fact that most of the stuff not being done at Mast Point Dam project is because the City is waiting on permits from the state.

The staff shared the different projects that could be selected for the Timberland Project.

Eagle Scout project was discussed. They looked at the plans to decide on a location.

They would like for the City Planner to also review the plans.

### **REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER.**

#### **VISION 2020**

Councilor Collins reported that the committee met on July 30<sup>th</sup> at Los Palmas. Worked on committees and groups, members will be assigned to one or more organizations to offer help. Jenni Holmes created a community calendar. The calendar can be obtained from the City Website. Palm cards were discussed as a presale for real estate agents. Palm Cards are meant to promote the various attributes that will appeal to buyers. The committee discussed the school ranking which was largely based on a volunteer survey, which almost no one participated in. So, the ranking on the survey means virtually nothing. The committee worked on a community survey to help

Council and the Mayor to understand opinions of those who don't come to the meetings and don't speak up. The committee is interested in recreating a Somersworth Monopoly game.

#### **COAST BUS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Councilor Pepin announced the board met. A point of interest was submitted to purchase 3 new busses to get onto the schedule for 2017. The board formed a nomination committee for new officers. They also went through the draft of 2016 operating budget; there are some shortfalls that will need to be addressed. Growth rate a lot lower than it has been in previous years. Advertising on the busses and shelters has been down about 22%, so they will look into that.

#### **SCHOOL BOARD**

Councilor Pepin announced that he attended the school board meeting on August 11<sup>th</sup>. The City has joined with school in IT program. This will lower costs, and a 3 year contract will be negotiated. Building and Grounds has reported looking for a Construction Manager for the Career/Technical Center. School starts September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

Councilor Dumont reported that the committee met on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The committee is still discussing the house on Emory Street that had complete fire loss. A workshop has been scheduled for August 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm to review the process of how things come to the HDC from the planning department, to see if there are some improvements that can be made to the process. There is a new chairperson, Madeline DeSantis.

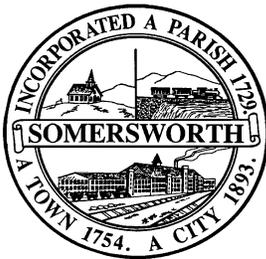
**PARADE COMMITTEE**

Councilor Dumont shared that banners are about to be purchased, Christmas decorations are well on their way, and American flags have been discussed. American Legion needs to approve the flags at their next meeting.

Councilor Witham shared that Tara Fields is a proposed 144 unit development behind Tara Meadows on Tri City Road. This was discussed at the Planning Board meeting, and will be on the agenda again at the next meeting.

Councilor Sprague announced that the Tri City Coalition meeting scheduled for August 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm will need to be cancelled. Dover members are unable to attend. Councilor Sprague asked for the Mayor's assistance in rescheduling this meeting.

**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, August 14, 2015**

**SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, August 17, 2015  
City Council Agenda**

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***6:45 p.m. Public Hearing***

***Re: Ordinance No. 2-16 Adopt New chapter 13E, the Passing of Items To or From the Occupant of a Motor Vehicle on a Roadway.***

***6:50 p.m. Public Hearing***

***Re: Ordinance No. 4-16 Amending Chapter 30 Conduct in Public Parks.***

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*Lay on the Table (under Section 12 of Agenda)*

**Ordinances**

- A. Ordinance No. 24-15 Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 3.1.G, Permits and Reserved Parking.**

*Unfinished Business (under Section 13 of Agenda)*

**Ordinances**

- A. Ordinance No. 1-16 Amending Chapter 4, Personnel Rules and Regulations, Compensation Schedule, FY 2015-2016.** This is a recommendation from the Government Operations Committee.
- B. Ordinance No. 2-16 Adopt New chapter 13E, the Passing of Items To or From the Occupant of a Motor Vehicle on a Roadway (Referred to Public Safety Committee).** City Attorney Walter Mitchell has reviewed the content of this Ordinance. It is his opinion that the City has the legal authority to adopt such an Ordinance and that, if challenged, it will be found by the court to be within constitutional parameters. The Public Safety Committee discussed this at their last meeting on Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup>.
- C. Ordinance No. 3-16 Amend Chapter 17, Forest Glade Cemetery, Clerk Salary.** The Cemetery Trustees have requested this change.
- D. Ordinance No. 4-16 Amending Chapter 30 Conduct in Public Parks.** The current Ordinance gives the enforcement responsibility to the Somersworth Police Department. The proposed Ordinance allows any other City officials to enforce the provisions of the ordinance in addition to the Police Department. The Recreation Committee supports this Ordinance change.

**Resolutions**

- A. Resolution No. 38-15 To Restrict the Use of Municipal and Transportation Improvement Fund for the Purpose of Funding in Whole or in Part Improvements to the Local or Regional Transportation System Including Roads, Bridges, Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities.** Again, this new legislation would restrict the use of these funds and eliminate its use for public transportation and intermodal facilities. Presently there is \$111,000 in the Fund.
- B. Resolution No. 1-16 Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Grant Agreement with the State of New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources for a Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant to Nominate the Forest**

**Glade Cemetery to the National Register of Historic Places.** The Cemetery Trustees have been working on this item and supports this change.

- C. Resolution No. 2-16 Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Grant Agreement with the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP) for a Grant to Complete a Natural Resource Inventory to Guide Short-Term and Long-Term Land Conversion Priorities.** The grant funds will be used to create a natural resource inventory (NRI) that indexes all of the City's important natural resources. NH RSA 36A:2 requires that Conservation Commissions shall keep an index of all important natural resources (i.e. wetlands, open space, ecological areas, marshlands, etc.). The Master Plan also has a goal to prepare an open space plan and explore greenway linkage opportunities and this will be achieved as part of the NRI.

*New Business (under Section 14 of Agenda)*

**Resolutions**

- A. Resolution No. 3-16 The City of Somersworth to Accept the Gerrish Commons Sewer Pump Station and to Authorize the City Manager to Make Certain Improvements to the Pump Station.** The residents of this homeowners association have given the City the \$12,500 to cover some needed maintenance items to the pump station. The Public Works Committee voted at their April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting (Meeting minutes are attached.) to bring the City's acceptance to the full Council once the funding was secured. The Homeowner's Association also paid for the attached Underwood Engineer examination of the Pump Station for the Public Works Committee's review and City Staff review (copy attached). Wastewater Treatment Plant Chief Operator Jamie Wood checked the pump station on July 29<sup>th</sup>. He satisfactory operated each pump, ran the exhaust fan and operated the lights; he did not operate the emergency generator.

**Other**

- A. Set Hours for 11/03/2015 Municipal Election – 8:00a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**
- B. Surveillance Cameras at Noble Pines Park (per Recreation Committee).** Attached is a memorandum from Director Dave Sharples regarding the installation of surveillance cameras at Noble Pines. The Recreation Committee discussed this at their meeting on Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup> and asked that the issue be placed on the Agenda for full Council discussion. The projected recommended cost for the unit that can be expanded to utilize up to eight (8) cameras with contingency is \$6,800. However, this unit would not be able to pick up full recognition at night. Director Sharples is securing a quote for high resolution cameras that would work at night.

**C. Timberland Volunteer Project Funding (per Mayor Hilliard).**

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

**A. Information Items:**

- 1. Rocky Hill Road Standpipe Rehabilitation Project.** The Rocky Hill Road Water Storage Tank rehabilitation project will be starting on August 24. Water Division employees will be draining the tank before start up. The contractor will be alternating between working inside the tank or on the outside as weather permits to be able to maximize productivity and meet the substantial completion timeline of 60 days. We will be painting the exterior blue. (A butter notice is attached.)
- 2. City-School IT Services.** Superintendent Jeni Mosca, Finance Director Scott Smith and I have negotiated a 3-Year Professional Services Agreement with Back Bay Networks for continued IT/Computer Network support. Through this City-School Collaborative negotiation process we have secured for the City no increase in cost over the next 3-Years. That said, our Agreement will include a non-appropriation clause (opt out if funding is cut) as well as allowing the City to terminate the Agreement without cause should we ever want to do so during this period of time. I also believe we structured an increased level of service from the vendor.
- 3. Timberland Serv-a-palooza.** Attached are three (3) Draft proposals that staff will be submitting and discussing with Timberland's Community Service Manager Brianne Wood: projects at Willand Pond, Mast Point Dam and Noble Pines. The City and School are partnering for the projects at Willand Pond and Noble Pines. Each project brings approx. 50 volunteers for 6 hours of work to complete the work as one big team making a difference in the community. We are optimistic that all of the projects will be approved for the Thursday, September 17 event!
- 4. American Red Cross Blood Drive.** The City is hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> in the Council Chambers from 9:00am – 2:00pm.

**B. Attachments:**

1. City Attorney Certifications (6).
2. Department Head Monthly Reports.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – SCOTT ORZECOWSKI, TERM TO EXPIRE 08/2017.

Councilor Collins, seconded by Councilor Soldati, made a motion to approve the nomination. Motion passed, 8-1. The nominee is affirmed.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – JOHN T. KENNEDY – ALTERNATE, TERM TO EXPIRE 08/2018.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Messier, made a motion to approve the nomination. Motion passed, 9-0. The nominee is affirmed.

LAY ON TABLE.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-15 AMEND CHAPTER 13, POLICE OFFENSES, SECTION 3.g PERMIT AND RESERVED PARKING. (RE-REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

ORDINANCE NO. 1-16 AMENDING CHAPTER 4, PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, COMPENSATION SCHEDULE, FY 2015-2016.

Councilor Witham made a motion to amend the ordinance so that the 2% increase in salary also applies to the city manager. Councilor Messier asked if it was also the intent to have the increase of the employee insurance paid premium also apply to the city manager, I believe it was 1.5% for other employees; Witham stated yes. Messier seconded the motion.

Councilor Soldati made a motion for a Roll Call vote on the amendment of the ordinance. Councilor Messier seconded the motion. The amendment passed in Roll Call vote, 7-2, with Councilors Soldati and McCallion opposed. The amendment was adopted.

Councilor Messier made a motion, seconded by Councilor Collins, further amended to make the pay increase retroactive to July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. The higher rate of insurance premiums started at this time. These employees are non-union and do not negotiate. There is a sense of fairness. The pay increase and insurance premiums should start at the same time.

Councilor Tapscott made a motion for a Roll Call vote on the amendment of the ordinance. Councilor Witham seconded the motion. The amendment passed in Roll Call vote, 8-1, with Councilor Tapscott opposed. The amendment was adopted.

Ordinance No. 1-16 was adopted, 9-0, by Roll Call Vote.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2-16 ADOPT NEW CHAPTER 13E, THE PASSING OF ITEMS TO OF FROM THE OCCUPANTS OF A MOTOR VEHICLE ON A ROADWAY. (REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE.)**

Councilor Witham, seconded by Collins, moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 2-16.

Councilor Messier stated there is an easier way to correct the problem. Nobody gives (the panhandlers) any money, and they will go away. But he is concerned that he would be fined \$500 for being kind and giving someone \$5. We should not penalize people for being kind-hearted.

Councilor Collins stated that he has read ACLU statements, as well as the details from Concord and Nashua. He dislikes the panhandlers as much as anyone. He wants to help those who need it, but he believes these are not the people who need it. He opposes this ordinance based on the fact that he has never witnessed anyone who was accosted or had any aggressive treatment. They stand outside of the public roadway. This is not a public safety issue. As much as he wants to stop panhandling, this ordinance is not the way to stop it. This law is too general. Even though he is opposed to panhandling, he is also opposed to the ordinance, since he believes it will not fix the problem.

Councilor Witham heard recently that movie theatres will no longer allow patrons to bring backpacks or bags into the theatre for safety reasons. There is a sense of concern because of what has happened throughout our nation. It's an issue of free speech. It is the same with this issue tonight. The panhandlers generate a fair amount of concern from residents. They feel intimidated, concern and discomfort. There were 2 panhandlers with their own signs that were in an argument about the turf that they wanted to occupy. He called the Police Department. He is not sure of the end result. He believes the city needs to take some form of action. He is willing to give it a try. It makes sense. He believes the city needs to act now before we have something happen and wish we had done something. He donates to food pantries etc, because it is the proper way for people to get the assistance they need versus a handout on the side of the street.

Councilor Sprague agrees there is an issue and something needs to be done. It is a safety issue. In the median is not a sidewalk. He sees it as an issue for those giving money, missing the green light, people upset, drive through the red light, accidents can happen. There is common sense; you will probably not going to get ticketed for handing lunch to your child or for going 36mph in a 35mph zone. However, if an activity is putting the public at risk, then you will probably get a ticket. The city could wave the Ordinance for Fire Department boot drives like the city does for other festivities. Councilor Sprague said this ordinance was crafted with the ACLU and the City of Concord, and it has been used all over the country to address issues. Girl Scouts and Little League need to apply for a tagging license but a person can stand in the median and solicit money all day long. There is something wrong with this picture.

Councilor McCallion shared that there is much (panhandling) activity in Boston. People wash your car windows, give paper roses. It is ridiculous. They are offered jobs and they turn them down. There was a Professor in Florida who did an experiment and made \$70,000 a year by panhandling. On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, in Portland, Maine there were 8 panhandlers at the exit. One person stopped to give money to one of them. The truck behind her (in front of Councilor McCallion) got angry, flipped her off, pulled out around her and almost hit another car in the process. There needs to be a better system. Back in the day, citizens went to faith-based organizations to get help. Not so much now. If panhandling escalates, there will be flowers, window washing, papers for sale, just like he witnessed in Boston. Concord did it and we need to try it to see if it works.

Councilor Pepin said he was against it at first. He has had bad experiences; first at Applebee's (which is private property), and then, the same person at a gas station. This person was very persistent and would not take no for an answer. Councilor Pepin said he took out his phone to call the cops when the store manager came out and drove him away. When the Police Chief says others need a permit, it is not fair that peddlers do not need a permit. Councilor Pepin said he would be voting in favor of this ordinance.

Councilor Collins stated that he has been approached by the same man that Councilor Pepin spoke of. This guy is not one of the guys that stands out in the median of the road. He has been blackballed by every cop in Somersworth, Rochester and Dover. He is not a panhandler, he is a con-artist.

Councilor Collins made a motion to suspend the rules and ask Police Chief Dean Crombie to come up to answer questions, seconded by Councilor Tapscott. The motion passed, 8-1. Council Rules were suspended and Chief Crombie approached the podium. Councilor Collins asked Chief Crombie if there have been any official crimes, arrests, or accidents based on panhandlers. Chief Crombie's response was, "No." He went on to say that Somersworth doesn't have any panhandlers in the medians or along the public roads. They are in Dover. If panhandlers are seen in the city, the police move them along. What Somersworth does have is stalkers. They are usually on private property, like Walmart, or Demoulas, and the Police Department will get complaints about that. Councilor Sprague asked if the road by Walmart was a public way, and Chief Crombie confirmed that it is a public road.

Councilor Witham asked if he should call the Dover PD; Chief said yes, because of the location.

Councilor Collins said the ACLU condemns the law and sent an email out, stating it is not a good law. That reason why Nashua did not accept it and it is also the reason why we should not accept it. The letter of the law says "traveled way". The median strip is not a traveled way. He does not support panhandling, but they are not in the traveled way. ACLU does not support the ordinance. He has a letter to prove it. A person would "probably" not be prosecuted if they hand lunch to their child. We can't have laws based on "probably". Bad legislation is worse than no legislation.

Councilor Soldati said she has seen panhandlers, just like everyone else. Some of the, she likes to call Misguided Entrepreneurs. These are the ones that are well organized, change shifts and change signs. They could use that motivation to make money and steer it another way. She is uncomfortable with this ordinance. It is discriminatory and it is unsafe. She sees them at the town line. What is to prevent the panhandlers from walking 2 feet and standing in Dover? She suggests that people stop giving them money. You are feeding drug habits and enabling them. Money would be better spent to donate to End 68 Hours of Hunger. Councilor Soldati believes this ordinance will not be effective. She is not comfortable with it and will not support it.

Councilor Dumont said when this was first proposed, he did not relate this to panhandlers, because it did not clearly state “panhandlers”. It was not clear to him. What about the fire fighters and their boot drives? There was survey taken on a national basis. These people have an annual income average of 40,000 a year. While standing at Staples, he observed vans dropping people off, and teams of 3 taking turns at panhandling. Most of this happens in Dover, as Chief Crombie said. Councilor Dumont said he believes the penalty is unfair. Fining the driver of the car for doing an act of kindness is more disturbing than taking care of the person standing out there. He analyzed the amount of resources that are available for people in need in the communities or Somersworth, Dover and Rochester, and found them to be plentiful, but the results are nightmarish. We all believe that people will act in the best of faith and are truthful. However, they show up at on a Friday afternoon at 4:00 pm, because they know the municipalities are closed. The only one left in the office is the pastor. Councilor Dumont shared a story about how one individual went to a church on a Friday afternoon, asking for assistance and was given a Walmart gift card. The person returned a few minutes later and asked for a Hannaford gift card instead. These people have a lot of backbone. His issue with the ordinance is that it will not change. They will move to the Dover side. The fine is large for a motorist to stop and try to do the right thing. He is not sure how he is going to vote on this, but agrees with Councilor Collins; bad legislation is worse than no legislation.

Councilor Witham said it’s an interesting point as to the geography of the Dover/Somersworth line and how it muddles things. He has had hundreds of phone calls and conversations with residents regarding this issue, asking what can be done. There is nothing the Council can do. Thankfully someone has done the research and came up with this (ordinance). It is not our issue if they are on the Dover Side. It would be great if both communities were on the same page. The boot drive keeps being brought up, but it hasn’t been done it years. When it is done, it is at Walmart or Demoulas. It is very organized with traffic cones, and the participants are wearing traffic vests. It looks different than someone just anchored up on the edge of the roadway. The fine needs to get people’s attention.

Councilor Sprague said there are three things we can do: pass the ordinance, reject it, or send it to committee to fix it. There is a need. We have all seen it with our own eyes. This has been implemented in Concord. ACLU did not craft this. They helped the councilors in Concord come up with something more palatable. There are 2 councilors in

Concord who are State Representatives, and 2 who are lobbyists. Many other cities have done the same thing. He is not against this going back to committee, but this is something they need to work on and not just ignore it.

Councilor Collins stated, in consideration of comments, regardless of opinions, we know factually, the ACLU condemns this ordinance/law. He has a letter from the ACLU saying they do not support this law because it's not right. He is against it as much as anyone else. Bad legislation creates more problems it solves.

Councilor Dumont said this legislation, as it stands, applies to nothing that we are currently having problems, because the issues we are currently having in Somersworth, I think the term used was "Stalkers." There is definitely a violation of the law there. Tagging/permits should be required. He said he has stood out there with the Little League, and there seemed to be more children from Rochester out tagging in Somersworth, than the Somersworth kids. He supports this because it doesn't affect anyone who is doing anything in Somersworth.

Councilor Sprague made a motion to move from questioning and end debate. Councilor Pepin seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The ordinance was adopted by Roll Call vote, 6-3, with Councilors Soldati, Messier, and Collins opposed.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 3-16 AMEND CHAPTER 17, FOREST GLADE CEMETERY, CLERK SALARY.

Councilor Messier made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 3-16, seconded by Councilor Dumont. The ordinance was adopted by Roll Call vote, 9-0.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 4-16 AMENDING CHAPTER 30, CONDUCT IN PUBLIC PARKS.

Councilor Pepin made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 3-16, seconded by Councilor Tapscott.

Councilor Witham, asked Police Chief Crombie if, as a city official, he could police the parks if this ordinance were to pass. Chief Crombie said this was correct. Councilor Witham said he would need a case of tickets, because he sees violations every day. Chief said Witham does not have the power to summons people. He would have to call the police, and an officer would issue the summons.

Councilor Witham made a motion to table Ordinance No. 4-16, with all in favor of the motion.

### RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 38-15 TO RESTRICT THE USE OF MUNICIPAL AND TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING IN WHOLE OR IN PART IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LOCAL OR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM INCLUDING ROADS, BRIDGES, BICYCLE AND

PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES. (RE-REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.)

Councilor Witham made a motion to adopt Resolution 38-15, seconded by Councilor Sprague.

Councilor Pepin says there is no need for this resolution. He agrees that the majority of this fund should be used for roads, and he wonders how we funded the COAST Bus from this fund, and is concerned because it should be a line item in the city budget. There would have been no funding and no busses throughout the community. He would like to see a small portion of the fund used to keep the fees down to ride the bus. The board reduced it to .50 cents because of the advertising on the sides of the busses and at the bus stops. If they would have taken \$5,000-6,000 out of this fund, the residents of Somersworth wouldn't have had to pay anything extra. Councilor Pepin agrees most of it should be for roads, but because of the tax cap, he wants the ability to juggle money. Council has the right to use the money for roads and transportation, saying he is totally against it, because he thinks it is against COAST Bus.

Councilor Sprague said just because his name is on a resolution does not mean he will fully support it. This is a second chance for all of the Councilors to define what that fund will be used for. When they first passed the ordinance to have residents pay an extra \$5 when they registered their vehicles, he assumed it would go toward roads and sidewalks. He wants all councilors to understand what is happening with this money. He has no problems with COAST Bus. We fully funded COAST Bus requests up to three years ago. We are now in a tax cap situation. There are no free rides in this world. There is no free transportation. What is wrong with a person paying an extra .50 cents? They are choosing to take the bus. If COAST can't run their organization correctly, than why should it come on the tax payers of the community? By using this money for COAST, we are robbing it from our roads. This fund is not a safeguard or emergency piggy bank. If we want to fund COAST Bus, then we need to fund it with another budget. He does not like the fact that this will not be used for rail depots or trolley systems that come to the city. He will probably not be supporting this resolution tonight, and he believes the \$5 surcharge should go to roads as the people have been told.

Councilor Witham said he has gone back and forth. Going back to original passage of resolution, it was intended for roads and sidewalks. It was a difficult spring budget and an eye-opening moment when he realized that this can be used for COAST Bus. The original intent of this fund was not to fund the COAST Bus. This resolution is to help clear up the intention of the original ordinance. It is interesting that the school department and other departments are required to bring a budget forward in line with the tax cap. Although not required, our county officials bring a budget forward that is in line with the tax cap. It would be interesting if COAST Bus would also bring a budget forward. It is not COAST's fault that they request the level of funding that they do. Some of the costs are shifted down to them from the state and federal government. However, the intent of the original ordinance was for roads and sidewalks; it was not to fund public transportation.

Councilor Dumont compliments Councilor Sprague. Legislation is an art, and he appreciates the opportunity to discuss this. Everyone has the right to change their mind and re-evaluate what is presented to them. Councilor Dumont recommended that the word “transportation” be removed. He is a strong supporter of the public transportation system, whether it is COAST or anything that comes along. This ordinance has a place in the municipality, but clarification is needed. The Somersworth residents, those who paid their registration, contributed the money to this fund. As it was written, he would not support it as it is, with the understanding that transportation mean something that directly supports the people of Somersworth, like a trolley or train.

After a Roll Call vote, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 38-15. The motion failed by a vote of 1-8.

Councilor Sprague made a motion to table Resolution No. 38-15. The motion failed, 4-5, by Roll Call vote.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to defeat Resolution 38-15. The resolution was defeated by Roll Call vote, 8-1.

RESOLUTION NO. 1-16 AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER NTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES FOR A CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CLG) GRANT TO NOMINATE THE FOREST GLADE CEMETERY TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Pepin moved to adopt Resolution 1-16. The motion passed by Roll Call vote, 9-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-16 AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE PISCATAQUA REGION ESTUARIES PARTNERSHIP (PREP) FOR A GRANT TO COMPLETE A NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY TO GUIDE SHORT TERM AND LONG-TERM LAND CONVERSION PRIORITIES.

Councilor Dumont, seconded by Councilor Tapscott, moved to adopt Resolution 2-16.

Councilor Messier asked if this was to inventory city owned land, and Manager Belmore said it is for all land. He requested the Planning Director, Dave Sharples, to come for questioning.

It is stated in the resolution that the city and the Conservation Committee will match the grant amount. Sharples said the Conservation Commission is required by state law to keep inventory of all wetlands, marshlands, etc. Somersworth does not have an inventory at this point. UNH started one in 1999, but it was not completed. The commission

wanted to do this and pursued the grant to do it. This will help them identify the resources within the city.

City Manager Belmore asked Mr. Sharples to clarify the issue of private land. These are properties that are not city owned; maybe non-profits that own the land.

Mr. Sharples said they will not be infringing on property rights, and won't be entering private property to conduct this inventory. This is mostly GIS based to identify important natural resources within the city. The city bought a piece of land off a private land owner; that is now the MAST Point Dam project.

Councilor Sprague asked how they would know what wetlands, water resources, or other natural resources, to acquire if they don't investigate private property.

Mr. Sharples reiterated that it is done through GIS, and not hands on. There is a lot that can be found on GIS. We can see wetlands, forested areas, clearing, wildlife action plans, biologically important sensitive areas, and many more. It is more of a planning level.

Councilor Sprague asked why we need this if it is so accurate; Mr. Sharples said it's not that accurate.

Councilor McCallion asked if this will be helpful in getting our NRI index points up for future grants, and Mr. Sharples said he is not sure.

Councilor McCallion also asked if there is a lot of staff time required for this project. Mr. Sharples said no, the hired consultant would be performing this work.

The motion to adopt Resolution No. 2-16 passed by Roll Call vote, 7-2.

NEW BUSINESS.

Councilor Witham made a motion, seconded by Councilor Dumont, to suspend council rules, and have the resolution read by title only. The motion passed 9-0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3 – 16 THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH TO ACCEPT THE GERRISH COMMONS SEWAGE PUMP STATION AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO MAKE CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PUMP STATION.**

Somersworth, NH  
August 17, 2015

WHEREAS the developer of Gerrish Commons was required to install a sewage pump station as part of the plan approval dated January 19, 2006, and

WHEREAS the Gerrish Commons Homeowners Association has requested the City of Somersworth to accept the sewage pump station as City property, and

WHEREAS the Gerrish Commons Homeowners Association has provided \$12,500 (Twelve Thousand Five Hundred dollars) to the City for certain repairs and maintenance to ensure the pump station meets City and State of NH standards, and

WHEREAS the City Council's Public Works and Environment Committee has reviewed this request and supports this action as being advantageous to the City's infrastructure assets,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH that the City accepts the Gerrish Commons Sewage Pump Station, and an access easement to that station,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is authorized to expend an amount not to exceed \$12,500 (Twelve Thousand Five Hundred dollars) to make certain improvements to the Gerrish Commons Sewage Pump Station to ensure the pump station meets City and State of NH standards.

Introduced by Councilors

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

Approved

City Attorney

Councilor Messier made a motion to suspend rules to authorize a second reading. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham. 9-0.

After a second reading of Resolution No. 3-16, Councilor Messier made a motion to accept the resolution, seconded by Councilor Collins.

Messier, they have been through a process with Public Works and Environment. They (Gerrish Commons Homeowners Association) were asked to do a few things and they concurred. They also gave a check to do the improvements that were called out. They can work with the City Manager. This is the best sewer pump station in the field. It is not like the city is taking something that is not worthy.

Councilor Pepin asked if the generator was in proper working order, and Manager Belmore stated that the check for \$12,500 that was received from Gerrish Commons Association will be used to make sure everything is up and running including the generator.

Councilor Sprague said they looked at the pump station back in April, and made recommendations to the Association at that time. This passed out of committee, 4-0. The city wanted a check to oversee improvements. It is an asset to our community and there is also some land with other leech beds that could be tied into this pump station. Gerrish Commons Association has gone above and beyond with the specifications that the city required.

Resolution No. 3-16 was adopted by Roll Call vote, 9-0.

#### OTHER

#### SET HOURS FOR 11/03/2015 MUNICIPAL ELECTION – 8:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

A motion was made by Councilor Sprague and seconded by Councilor Soldati to amend the poll hours to open at 7:00am.

Councilor Dumont said he has many years of experience at working the polls. There are a small number of people and having worked it, the one hour is a lot. We don't have factories in the city anymore, and don't have to accommodate those people. There are not a lot of people that will come in at the 7:00 hour.

Councilor Messier said with it being a Municipal Election, there will be approximately 8 people during that hour. He cannot support 7 am, plus the ward workers don't really like it.

A roll call vote was requested by Councilor Witham and duly seconded. The motion to amend the polling hours failed by Roll Call vote, 3-6.

The election hours of 8:00am to 7:00pm were adopted by a vote of 8-1. The election is set to take place on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015.

#### SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS AT NOBLE PINES PARK (PER RECREATION COMMITTEE.)

Councilor Pepin said he would like to speak with Dave Sharples, about the coverage of the area.

Councilor Witham asked if we move forward, where the funding will come from, and City Manager Belmore said there is escrowed money in the Police Department.

Councilor Witham said things need to be done right, like we did with the streets. We chose a more expensive option, but we did it right. Although things happen during the day, more damage happens under the guise of darkness. He favors installation of the high definition cameras at \$10,000.

Councilor Messier stated he agrees with Councilor Witham. Let's get the high definition cameras and let's do it right.

Councilor McCallion said he has been asking for cameras in the parks for years. It needs to be done right. Money has been spent at the Pines and we need to take care of the parks. He'd like to see the \$10,000 get enough cameras that it can be pulled up online.

Councilor Collins asked where the cameras were going to be focused. Councilor Pepin resounded, saying he believes there will be 4 cameras in place. Dave Sharples came to the podium and said he spoke to Paul Hackworth of Hackworth Fire and Security. There will be 4 cameras; one on recreation building, pole at concession stand with 3 cameras on that facing towards the ball field, pavilion, and tot lot. There will be an 8 channel DVR for the ability for up to 8 cameras.

Councilor Pepin said they want a heated building because temperatures drop in the fall. The equipment needs to be in a heated building. There will also need to be a facility in other parks. He is concerned about the lighting. Lights were installed in the past and there were a lot of complaints about how bright the lights were. He is unhappy with the light that is there now. It is not bright enough and needs to be in a better location.

Councilor Sprague inquired how long a recording can be kept, and Mr. Sharples said the cameras will record for 6 months and then it starts writing over.

Councilor Witham said a heated building makes sense because of sledding and other activities that occur at the parks in the winter. There is more activity in the summer months because of the splash pad, so there are more problems in the summer.

The Mayor referred this to the Finance Committee to explore the financial feasibility and to draft an ordinance to be brought to next City Council meeting.

TIMBERLAND VOLUNTEER PROJECT FUNDING (PER MAYOR HILLIARD.)

This is a full collaborative effort between Mr. Sharples, the City Manager, the Superintendent of Schools, and the Mayor. Somersworth was chosen from many other cities. Timberland was very impressed. There is funding ranging from \$3,000-\$5,000. Timberland supplies all the labor. This is a tri-city joint project, with Dover and Rochester. Somersworth is getting 3 good projects completed.

Manager Belmore said there are two components; what the city will be utilizing for funds for the 3 projects, and the other sources of funding. The total cost for the projects is \$29,300, and the breakdown is as follows:

Noble Pines \$21,300  
Mast Point, Grant Funded  
Willand Pond \$8,000

With the minimum of \$3,000 per project, contributed from Timberland, and \$3,000 contributed by the school, Manager Belmore is asking the Council to consider an amount of \$20,300 to complete these three projects, which could be taken from the contingency

line of the budget. The amount may be less based on the contribution from Timberland. It is in the Capital Improvements to do Noble Pines.

Councilor Messier is for this project. If we believe we have the \$20,000, to get 3 projects completed for that money and that much help, it should be supported.

Councilor Witham asked the Mayor, prior to the meeting, if this should be routed through the Finance Committee, since the amount is within the spending authority of the Finance Committee. Councilor Witham decided to defer to full Council, not just Finance.

Councilor Soldati, to Manager Belmore, "What balance does that leave in the contingency line?" Manager Belmore said it really depends on how things shake out to the end of the year. When pay raises are not absorbed, they are taken from contingency, and are estimated at about \$30,000. The city has carried an \$80,000 balance for the past few years. This would immediately discount the contingency to \$60,000, which would leave about \$30,000, after anticipated raises, if not absorbed in the budget line.

Councilor Witham made a motion for the City Manager to be authorized to expend the amounts as stated for the Timberland Serv-a-Palooza Projects. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin. The motion passed, 9-0.

#### COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

John Kennedy, Ward 3, Cemetery Rd. Since the resolution for the transportation fee was defeated, he would like for the \$5 fee be removed. It's not fair that the people pay this fee when registering vehicles and that money can be used for other funds. It is not fair for homeowners to pay extra to be funding COAST. It should be revoked. He will be hounding the board until it is done. He would like this to be removed by January 1, 2016.

#### CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Councilor Pepin said the fire fighters did have a toll booth, but it was many years ago. The reason the Fire Department did away with it was because they had to hire a police officer and that cuts into the cost.

Councilor Dumont said hopefully there will be a proposal for the elderly tax exemption. It has been a number of years since it has been reviewed. All councilors need to consider a workshop for the specific purpose of putting together thoughts for the economic improvement for the city. Revenue sources are more of an issue than we would like and it seems like there is a wave starting to build with opportunity for municipalities like Somersworth. If we don't seize the day, then Somersworth will be passed by. In 2000, the tax rate for Somersworth was \$16.00. In 15 years, we have successfully raised the tax rate 138%. That is a 9% per annum increase on taxes, and it is very rare that the assessed value on our properties is greater than the appraisals. There are a lot of pressures that drive that. But for a person with a \$200,000 home, paying approximately \$3,200 in property taxes and now in 2015 their property tax is \$7,600, show that we are

tight on our spending because of the tax cap, but we are short on revenue. That is a drive for the elderly tax exemption. If they retired 15 years ago, how do they come up with another \$4,400 a year for their property tax? Councilor Dumont would like to consider a goal-setting workshop to discuss this issue.

Councilor McCallion stated that the next time we meet, school will be in session. He is asking groups and organizations to get together for fundraising. He heard some disturbing news recently of people leaving boards and groups. It is sad to know that some programs could be decimated. More volunteers are needed. He encouraged the residents to look into local boards. As an example of what a group of people can do, look at the Pines. It took a lot of volunteers. It's the greatest thing when people get together. He called upon every committee and organization in Somersworth to get the boards together. The committee chairs and presidents can contact him to set up a meeting. Long term planning can have fruits of what we have seen at the Pines.

Councilor Messier thanked all the people who volunteered for the National Night Out. It was a fine showing and a good evening. Pines Ball Field was also a good showing and a good job. Are they totally blocking off Market Street? The Children's Festival used to be held on Market Street and was moved to Main Street because tractor trailer trucks had to up through the hill section of town. Roughly 20,000 a day cars pass through Market Street. There were problems before and they are not going away. Thanks to Timberland for the individuals who will come and help with the projects, as well as the city staff and everybody who worked on that. The volunteers and community of Berwick did a great job on the Berwick's boat launch. He wished Rene Philpott well.

Councilor Witham shared that we have heard from 2 residents that they are resigning from boards. Harry Irwin served this community in a number of ways for many years, most recently as the Chair of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. A bag of history is what he brings with him. Thank you for your service and citizenry over the years. Rene Philpott served with pride, and we will miss her contributions and wish her the very best. National night out was a great evening. Thanks to the folks who pulled that off. Jules Bison Park was a great venue for that event.

The Pines project was dedicated a couple of weekends ago. Lots of baseball history unfolded that day. Thanks to all who came out to support that effort.

Councilor Collins stated that the tax rate is a problem for all. The elephant in the room is the municipal bonds. There was a lot of discussion about the rates. What we deal with is not indicative of why taxes are so high. We hear mostly about what people disagree with. We hear a lot of negative feedback. Need to discuss the elderly tax break, and this is something that, as a community, we need to consider. Things get more expensive on fixed incomes. And, lastly, everyone who watches on TV or who attends council meetings or other events is qualified to be a councilor. Some of the people have been in this city for decades and they need to be more involved. Throw your hat in for election. He encouraged the community that it is your civic duty that anyone who has any complaints about what is happening in your city should get involved. Get up here, sit in a seat, and try your hardest.

Councilor Sprague thanked Councilor Dumont. There is a revenue problem in this city. Dover and Rochester have different revenue than we do. It is tough to pay for those services with limited revenue. We can get the talks going and it will hopefully open our eyes to spur some economic development that we haven't looked at. National Night Out was a very nice night. He applauded the staff with the youth, Police Department, Fire Department, and American Ambulance. Ball field at the Pines looks spectacular. The infield looks like Fenway Park. With cameras, that field will be great for years to come. The kids coming up through will have home field advantage. It was a great day! The speed limits in the city, with the improvements to the downtown area, he would like to see something happen. Speeding is becoming a problem.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

NONPUBLIC SESSION (AS NECESSARY, PENDING ROLL CALL VOTE BY COUNCIL).

Councilor Soldati, seconded by Councilor Witham, made a motion to go into non-public session. The motion passed by Roll Call vote, 8-1.

ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m., and Council entered into nonpublic session.

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Trish Harris, City Clerk

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Dana S. Hilliard, Mayor