

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 2, 2015

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

- Minutes of Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 11-15 held on 2/17/2015. Councilor Witham moved to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Councilor McCallion and passed unanimously.
- Minutes of City Council Meeting held on 2/17/2015. Councilor Pepin moved to adopt the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed unanimously.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

Marty Dumont, 73 Crest Drive, Ward 3, said he is here tonight because he submitted a letter of interest for the Ward 3 City Council seat. He thanked the City Council and Mayor for everything they are doing. It is very apparent that this is a moving body of legislation and it is showing out in the streets of Somersworth. This leads him to the reason he submitted the letter of interest. The love he has for this City brought him back to this City after many years of pursuing a career. He feels he has spent the last 19 years of his life preparing for this moment. For the last 19 years he has worked well with the people in Ward 3 being their Selectman and Moderator at the polls, and also working with some of you during some of those years. Working on the original Master Plan that was established in 2000 was a wonderful experience to have. The community was involved, the leadership of the City was involved, and a document was produced that not only has lasted, but that you have seen the vision to add to with the Vision 2020 Committee. He comes from a background of being a team player. He also participated on the Charter Review Commission. It consisted of a combination of diverse people who were elected, and they worked together tirelessly over a number of Saturdays. They presented a document to the community with 22 recommendations, all of which passed on the ballot. He takes equal pride in the participation in the selection of the Superintendent of Schools that Somersworth currently has today. Again, a committee of great community people, staff from the school, staff from the city, and negotiations. He was pleased to see the book about the horse tonight by the Superintendent of Schools. When Jeni Mosca came to us as an applicant for the position of Superintendent, we listened to the story of the dead horse. It was wonderful to hear that tonight. It was nice to hear the book about ideas from the Mayor also.

Mr. Dumont said he has done a lot in his life, he has been blessed with a wonderful wife, children, grandchildren, and he has always been actively involved in this community. He now has the time in his life to dedicate to the City Council and looks forward to that opportunity.

Ray Doyon, 41 Davis Street, Ward 4, said he is also the Commander of the American Legion Post 69 and has been for 14 years. He commended the Mayor for his efforts in spearheading a memorial for Iraqi Veterans, a memorial set up here in Somersworth. Approximately 4,400 veterans have died in the Iraqi war. The American Legion is wholeheartedly in favor of this, and they are willing to help in any way.

Mr. Doyon said something was brought to his attention recently about some Iraqi Veterans. Four decorated combat veterans are facing up to life in prison for defending themselves in war torn Iraq. Their convictions were based on no physical evidence. These brave young men helped protect our freedom, now it's our turn to help protect theirs. Former US service members Evan Liberty from Rochester, NH, and three other former service members were serving as government contractors, hired to protect foreign and domestic dignitaries during the Iraqi war. Their team, Raven 23, was responding to a distress call from another team which had been attacked with an improvised explosion device. Once on the scene the team faced a car bomb threat along with incoming enemy fire and they returned fire against these very real threats against their safety. There was a fire fight and loss of lives occurred, which is too often the case during war time. These brave men acted in self-defense to save their team and should not be punished for protecting American lives. They were convicted because there was intentionally misrepresented evidence. Iraqi civilians were not truthful witnesses. The FBI investigated weeks after the event. Our veterans who have spent their young lives protecting our country sit in jail awaiting sentence and are facing 30 years to life in prison. They will no longer be able to support their families or see their parents or be fathers to their children. American taxpayers will pay hundreds to thousands of dollars to keep these decorated veterans locked away in jail. We can help protect these veterans' freedom by speaking out. Contact your local representatives and tell them our veterans do not belong in jail. They fought for our freedom, now give them theirs. Join us at www.supportraven23.com to learn how we can help to bring these brave men home.

John Paul Lavelle, 245 High Street, said he suffers from a traumatic brain injury and is recently mentally disabled. As a combat veteran of Iraq, he thanked Mayor Hilliard for spearheading this proposal to honor his brothers and sisters for serving in this war. This humbles him.

Denis Duffy, 241 Old Rochester Road, Ward 3, said he put his name in for the vacant City Council seat. He is very interested in filling this seat and helping Somersworth move forward as they have been doing lately. He realizes there will be some very difficult questions and solutions will be tough. He feels he is prepared for that. He has extensive business experience, and a background in business management. He feels he could be a real asset in moving things forward.

Marc Hiller, 3 Lenox Street, Ward 3, said he spoke here a couple of weeks ago when he introduced himself as an interested resident for the Ward 3 Council seat. He comes to you tonight simply to identify what a hard decision you are facing, but also to illustrate as best he can some specific qualities and attributes that may have not been focused on in the past. He is not a life-long resident of the City, he has been here only a short time compared to the other candidates. He has lived in this area for the last 30 years plus, and he seeks this position largely because he thinks he can bring some new insight into the City. He comes with a background in facilitating and teaching and education regarding decision making, critical analysis, looking at the facts in looking at the hard decisions that are before the City and critically analyzing them both in terms of the positives and the negatives in reaching decisions. He is here seeking that opportunity to serve the City, a City he has grown to love. They made a conscious choice to live here as opposed to anywhere else in the seacoast. He would characterize himself as being somewhat futuristic. He tries to think about ways of resolving problems both with the evidence, and with a perspective of being innovative and visionary. Somersworth has made some major progress over the last several years. There are challenges ahead but he is convinced that collectively those decisions that need to be made can be made to bring a brighter future to the community. He asks for their support.

MAYOR'S REPORT.

I would like to thank the members of the community who have engaged with me in conversations via email, phone, while I grab my morning coffee and at the gas pump discussing their concerns on the impact the tax cap will have on education and services. While I agree with the context of all of the concerns raised, I am not yet at the point where I have been convinced that an override is within order without first examining how we can continue to operate government in a 21st century model. Yes, the elimination of teaching positions, substitutes and supplies will all have a drastic effect upon the quality of education provided within our community. Equally, the further reduction of investment in road improvements, police and fire safety, recreation and expansion in commerce will also decrease the momentum our community has experienced within the last year and a half.

Somersworth is awakening and quickly gaining a reputation as an up and coming community, not only throughout the seacoast, but statewide. Any variables hindering this progress are very concerning to me, but equally concerning is continuing to govern our community with short term approaches absent of seeking long term solutions. The annual budgetary shortfalls which Somersworth and other municipalities and townships experience will not dissipate. Like every member of this Council and I have expressed at some point, we are held hostage to revenue schemes adopted by the State Legislature which force local communities to provide the bulk of all services with little to no help from the State, all while disguising the fiscal inequality under the veil of the New Hampshire advantage.

I am well aware that this political rant and diatribe will do little to solve the problems which must be resolved as we move into the debate of passing our budget, however I will continue to use this office and pulpit to echo the concerns of our struggling community until Concord acknowledges the fiscal inequality which it has created and continues to harbor.

At our local level, as I have stated at meetings and have begun to discuss, we must take into serious consideration how we can remodel the day to day operations of our government. This will allow us to increase efficiency, consolidate duplication of services, and allocate the limited budgetary resources to areas where our citizens will directly benefit. I believe this model will aid us as we continue our journey navigating under a tax cap.

While these meetings are occurring and future proposals are being examined and drafted, I am hesitant to call for any override. In my opinion we can still do better, better than eliminating services and positions which will have a direct effect upon the quality of life within our community. As talks continue, I will sit and await the results. If I believe an honest effort has been put forward and 21st century proposals are presented, then I, like the other members of this body, would support an override in some fashion. In the interim, I will await to see results.

Congratulations to Tri-City Christian Academy and the Greater Somersworth Chamber of Commerce on a successful business after hours event held on 2/24/15. As an educator, I was thoroughly impressed with the mission and dedication of the academy to instill positive values to our youth and community.

The next Mayor's Community Forum will take place on Saturday, 3/14/15 from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. at City Hall. Included in this Forum will be the Ward 2 City Councilor Jen Soldati and the Ward 2 School Board Member Dana Rivers. The purpose of the forums is to foster dialogue and ideas in a non-formal setting to continue to move our community forward. All members of the community are welcome to attend any forum.

I am proud and honored on how our community continues to embrace the roots of its history and celebrates its proud cultural diversity. We will continue the practice we began last year of celebrating the founding ethnic groups of our "Proud Past" and the new ones of our "Bright Future" by flying with honor the flags of our founding ethnic groups on their major national/provincial holidays.

- March 17th – The Irish National Flag for St. Patrick's Day
- March 25th – The Greek National Flag for Greek Independence Day
- April 23rd – The Flag of the United Kingdom for St. Georges Day
- June 24th - The Provincial Flag of Quebec for St. Jean the Baptiste Day

Nominations, Appointments and Elections:

This evening in accordance with City Charter Article 3.2 A – C, Council will act upon filling the Ward 3 City Council vacancy. Council Rule 10A requires that vacancy shall be filled by a roll call vote. I would respectfully ask Council to bring forward and nominate all applicants. We will then proceed with comments by Councilors before entering into the roll call vote process. At the conclusion of the voting process, I will recess the meeting to allow the City Clerk to swear in the new member so they may immediately begin their term.

Councilor Soldati asked Mayor Hilliard if he is planning on putting the Italian Flag out soon.

Mayor Hilliard said he will take that under advisement. He is open to celebrating all ethnic groups.

Councilor Witham moved on suspending Council rules to act on nominating and electing a person to fill the Ward 3 City Council vacancy. The motion was seconded by Councilor McCallion and passed by a vote of 8-0.

Councilor Soldati nominated Marc Hiller. The nomination was seconded by Councilor Collins.

Councilor Witham nominated Martin P. Dumont, Sr. The nomination was seconded by Councilor Messier.

Councilor McCallion nominated Denis Duffy. The nomination was seconded by Councilor Soldati.

Councilor Witham said he has had the opportunity to chat with all three applicants and he applauded all of them. This is not an easy thing to do. He wished the seats at election time had this much competition. He would feel confident in having any one of them serve on the Council. They are all very different in terms of background, but all the same in terms of their love for the community. He knows Marty Dumont more than he knows the others and he will support him tonight. He finds his connectivity to the community very valuable.

Councilor Soldati said she is very pleased that we had 3 individuals apply for this position. Her one concern about it is that there were no women. She wants to encourage them and feels we need a woman's perspective on the Council. She encouraged all 3 individuals to put their hat in the ring for the November election. All 3 candidates have strong points.

Councilor McCallion said it was exciting to see that many people apply under circumstances that weren't so exciting. Having talked with all 3 candidates, he too extracted their love for the community. No matter what happens tonight, he encouraged all of them to stay involved.

Councilor Collins agreed with everyone's sentiments. He feels that any one of them would be very good on the Council. He manages dynamics on an engineering team and he thinks it is very important to consider the contributions of each candidate in terms of the team as a whole. Balancing out perspectives and personality types is an absolutely critical thing to having an

effective group and organization. Each one of our candidates has some outstanding and noteworthy qualities.

The result of the roll call vote of the City Council was that Martin P. Dumont, Sr. received 6 votes (Pepin, McCallion, Messier, Tapscott, Witham, Sprague) and Marc Hillier received 2 votes (Soldati, Collins).

Mayor Hilliard called for a 5 minute recess in order for the City Clerk to administer the oath of office to Mr. Dumont.

Mayor Hilliard called the meeting back to order, whereupon Mr. Dumont took his seat as the Ward 3 City Council member.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

Economic Development Committee

Councilor McCallion reported this Committee met on 2/27/15 at 3:45 p.m. They discussed the following items:

- Update on staffing – They had asked the City Manager to reach out to our local municipality organization resources on the availability of a person for the position of Code Enforcement. They did not have anybody with the qualities needed for that position. They were provided with a job description and the City will be posting the position. We hope to get someone on board by April or May.
- Review of City owned properties – At the next meeting we will go through each property individually to see which ones we do want to market and which we may want to hold on to. In regards to the former police station, the thought was that now that we have had some interest in 79-E, the Committee felt that it might be advantageous to put out another RFP.
- They have talked about creating some kind of destination in the downtown area in order to have a draw to the City. City staff were charged with looking at this idea.

Public Works & the Environment Committee

Councilor Sprague reported this Committee met on 2/27/15 at 3:00 p.m. They discussed the following items:

- Deliberated Resolution 29-15, which is amending HTA agreement by adding another \$15,000 to their contract. This is for final oversight for paving and punch list items. They came down from \$25,000 to \$15,000. The Committee voted unanimously (reluctantly) to approve the resolution.

- They also talked about the Geosyntec Engineering agreement to see if we could make it a multi-year contract. They are not interested in doing this because EPA and DES figures change so rapidly it would be hard to accomplish.
- They talked about the Waste Management contract extension. They have offered us a multi-year contract. Staff is deliberating with them. We will have more info at a later date.

Recreation Committee

Councilor Pepin reported this Committee met on 2/27/15 at 8:30 a.m. They discussed the following items:

- Resolution No. 28-15, which would establish a memorial for “Marcel’s Lilies.” Councilor Sprague brought up that the location may be better in another area. The recommendation they came up with is: in the last paragraph of the resolution strike “public adopt-a-spot located at High Street and Government Way” and replace with “a public location within 800 yards of City Hall.” This would give us an area either at the park near the old police station, or near the Library, or near City Hall.
- Councilor McCallion recently brought up a suggestion about trying to combine some recreation sports programs with the School Department. We requested staff to possibly set up a meeting with a representative from Portsmouth where they have done this, to see if consolidation could save us some money.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

COAST Board of Directors

Councilor Pepin reported the COAST Board of Directors met on 2/18/15. They discussed the following items:

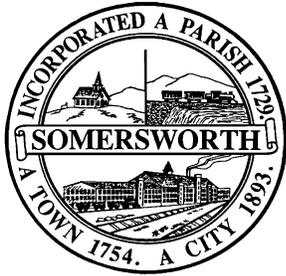
- Route 7 (Exeter to Portsmouth) – As it stands right now, Greenland has not contributed and Stratham is thinking of dropping out. That route will probably be discontinued. They are trying to work something out for Newmarket and Exeter because several people rely on the bus service. It does not look promising at this time.
- The Board approved a 3-year lease for office space in a building near their location. They have expanded out of their space. The Board of Directors has been meeting at the McConnell Center in Dover.

Ad Hoc Committee for Downtown Parking

Councilor Pepin reported this Committee met on 2/19/15. They will hopefully have an ordinance for the next Council meeting. Some of the business owners on Market Street had a

petition they brought forward for one hour parking from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. They also talked about public education regarding parking and signage.

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, February 27, 2015
SUBJECT: City Manager’s Report for Monday, March 2, 2015
City Council Agenda

5:30 p.m. – State of the City Address

In Accordance with City Charter

Lay on the Table (under Section 12 of Agenda)

Other:

- A. Authorize City Manager to Sign Unutil Agreement to Extend Natural Gas Service to Former Police Department Building.**

Unfinished Business (under Section 13 of Agenda)

Resolutions:

- A. Resolution No. 28-15 To Establish a Memorial to be Named “Marcel’s Lillies” in Loving Memory of Ward 3 City Councilor Marcel Hebert (Assigned to Recreation Committee).** The Recreation Committee met on Friday and Committee Councilors will be offering the attached amendment. Councilor McCallion also wanted to be added as a sponsor.
- B. Resolution No. 29-15 To Authorize the City Manager to Amend the Contract with Hoyle Tanner and Associates Inc. of Portsmouth, NH for Professional Engineering**

Services with the Downtown Improvement Project (*Assigned to Public Works & Env. Committee*). This contract amendment will provide additional engineering services to inspect and oversee construction work performed by the contractor throughout the completion of the paving project as well as any other project punch list items.

- C. Resolution No. 30-15 To Authorize the City Manager to Enter in a Memorandum of Understanding with American Capital Energy of Lowell, MA to Develop a Solar Project to NH RSA 362-A on the Somersworth Sanitary Landfill Superfund Site on Blackwater Road.** This Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed by Attorney Mark Beliveau, the City's Superfund legal counsel prior to signing.

New Business (under Section 14 of Agenda)

Ordinances:

- A. Ordinance 12-15 Amend Chapter 4, Personnel Rules & Regulations, Appendix 1, Assignment of Class to Grade, Code Compliance Officer.** Government Operations Committee reviewed this amendment change at their February 12th meeting and recommends adoption. The incremental cost to fill a new position effective May 1st is approximately \$6,500 (this assumes a 2 person health plan). It would put the Code Division over budget by about \$3,500, however, it appears we can absorb this amount within the overall Development Services budget.

Resolutions:

- A. Resolution No. 31-15 To Allocate Five Acres of the Malley Farm Property to Create a Memorial Forest to Honor Veterans of the Iraq War.**

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

A. Information Items:

- 1. Letter from Department of Transportation.** Attached is a letter and map from DOT regarding their proposal to discontinue certain State maintained streetlights. The proposed 5 streetlights are located on Route 108.
- 2. Historic District Workshop.** Reminder: This Workshop regarding our Historic District zoning regulations is scheduled for March 16th 6:00 p.m. prior to City Council meeting. Director of Planning & Community Development Dave Sharples will provide a presentation.

B. Attachments:

1. City Attorney Certifications, Three (3).

Calendar Reminders

- March 14th, (Saturday) Mayor's Community Forum, 9:30 a.m.
- March 21st (Saturday), Public Safety Forum, 9:30 a.m.
- March 28th (Saturday), City Council Annual Goal Setting Session, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- April 4, 2015 (Saturday), City Council 2015 Budget Workshop, 8:30 a.m.

Councilor Witham asked if it would be possible to have the City Manager direct the NH DOT street light discontinuance issue to the Traffic Safety Committee. We have had a couple of pedestrian fatalities in the Route 108 corridor and he is concerned about the reduction of street lights.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

RESOLUTION NO. 28-15 TO ESTABLISH A MEMORIAL TO BE NAMED "MARCEL'S LILIES" IN LOVING MEMORY OF WARD 3 CITY COUNCILOR MARCEL HEBERT.

Councilor Soldati moved to further amend the Recreation Committee's amendment to Resolution 28-15 by striking the amendment the Committee adopted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Collins.

Councilor Soldati said she does not feel that having this memorial at the public adopt-a-spot located at the corner of High Street and Government Way would delay any future projects. She recalls that a memorial plaque and a tree were moved to a different location after the City notified the family and they were fine with that. She does not recall there being any duress or delay because of it. There is no issue and controversy about what a future Council can do with some lilies that are planted.

Councilor Pepin said he was under the assumption that the Council wanted to amend the resolution due to Councilor Sprague's concerns about the memorial having to be relocated in the future. The Recreation Committee came up with the amendment that it will be located within 800 yards of City Hall so we could keep the memorial intact. This is the best solution they could find.

Councilor Sprague said his earlier comments had nothing to do with the tree, they had to do with the lilies that we talked about a year and a half ago. We almost did not rip the granite out because the lilies were planted there and they were special, etc. It makes no sense to him to hold up a project ten or twenty years down the road because of something that is memorialized.

Councilor Soldati withdrew her motion for amendment.

Councilor Pepin moved that Resolution 28-15, as amended, be approved. The motion was seconded by Councilor McCallion.

Councilor Witham commented that when Councilor Soldati first brought this forward he thought it was appropriate. As time has passed he thought about the point of memorializing people. He is worried about something like this setting a precedent. He will not support the resolution at this time. We do not have a good process about doing this.

Councilor Messier said a lack of criteria on how to do this makes him skeptical. If we wanted to put a plaque in City Hall with Councilor Hebert's name on it, he would support that. He does not support this resolution.

Councilor Soldati said she doesn't know how many Councilor's have died in office. She thinks it would be fitting to plant the lilies out here. This type of lily blooms continuously throughout the summer.

Councilor Pepin said Marcel Hebert is the one who bought these lilies for the community to make it look good. It's not like we're putting up a statue, it's a plaque. Marcel would have liked to see the lilies planted somewhere in the City.

Councilor Dumont said this is always a difficult time. Councilor Messier mentioned there is a plaque on the Ward 5 building in honor of his uncle. The park in Ward 5 was named after Jules Bisson. Both of these gentlemen served on the Council for many years and both were from Ward 5. He feels it might be more appropriate to place something in Marcel's ward. He doesn't know how we would go about doing this, but he would like to see something located in Ward 3.

Councilor Witham moved to table Resolution No. 28-15 and send it back to the Recreation Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sprague and passed by roll call vote of 5 yeas, 4 nays, Councilors Pepin, Soldati, McCallion and Tapscott voting in the negative.

RESOLUTION NO. 29-15 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO AMEND THE CONTRACT WITH HOYLE TANNER AND ASSOCIATES, INC. OF PORTSMOUTH, NH FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

Councilor Witham moved to adopt Resolution No. 29-15. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott.

Councilor Witham said he does not debate the work HTA has done and plans to do. His only objection is that we were told there would be no additional engineering costs because of delaying the project until spring, and now they are asking for more money. We need to move forward.

Councilor Sprague agreed with this. As long as he is sitting in this seat, HTA will not get his vote to do anything else in this City. They do need to do this final oversight in case we have implications down the road.

Councilor Pepin said he also will not vote for them on another contract here. There are numerous things they fell short on.

Councilor Sprague wanted it made clear that he is talking about the engineering firm and not the contractor. Severino did a wonderful job for us.

Resolution No. 29-15 passed by roll call vote of 6 yeas, 3 nays, Councilors Dumont, McCallion and Sprague voting in the negative.

RESOLUTION NO. 30-15 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH AMERICAN CAPITAL ENERGY OF LOWELL, MA TO DEVELOP A SOLAR PROJECT PURSUANT TO RSA 362-A ON THE SOMERSWORTH SANITARY LANDFILL SUPERFUND SITE ON BLACKWATER ROAD.

Councilor Witham moved to adopt Resolution No. 30-15. The motion was seconded by Councilor Collins.

Manager Belmore indicated that Council has received a draft copy of the MOU. Attorney Beliveau said he had some comments he will be working with American Capital to modify to ensure it is only an MOU and will not cost the City any money. A contract will be coming back to us with definitive numbers before this project starts.

Following further discussion, Resolution No. 30-15 passed by roll call vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays.

NEW BUSINESS.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-15 AMEND CHAPTER 4, PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, APPENDIX 1, ASSIGNMENT OF CLASS TO GRADE, CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER.

March 2, 2015
Somersworth NH

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the Ordinances of the City of Somersworth, as amended, be further amended as follows:

Amend Chapter 4, Personnel Rules and Regulations, Appendix 1, Assignment of Class to Grade (Covering Classes Classified as Nonexempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act) as follows:

- ADD the position of Code Compliance Officer with a corresponding Grade 20 under Inspection/Planning.

This ordinance change shall take effect upon passage.

Introduced by Councilors

Jennifer G. Soldati
Brian Tapscott

David Witham
Sean Collins

Approved:

City Attorney

Mayor Hilliard indicated Ordinance No. 12-15 would remain in first reading until the next Council meeting on 3/16/15.

RESOLUTION NO. 31-15 TO ALLOCATE FIVE ACRES OF THE MALLEY FARM PROPERTY TO CREATE A MEMORIAL FOREST TO HONOR VETERANS OF THE IRAQ WAR.

Somersworth, NH
March 2, 2015

WHEREAS, the Malley Farm Property comprises of 179 [one hundred and seventy nine] acres of land; and

WHEREAS, the cost of the project will be borne by private organizations independent of the City of Somersworth; and

WHEREAS, the project will provide the city with an offset to carbon emissions and provide a habitat to many wildlife species; and

WHEREAS, it is the unanimous request of the Somersworth Veterans of Foreign Wars that the City Council place prompt and serious consideration for this proposal; and

WHEREAS, the “Memorial Forest” will consist of 4487 [four thousand four hundred and eighty seven] trees to represent the 4487 [four thousand four hundred and eighty seven] American lives lost in Iraq,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Somersworth set aside 5 [five] acres of the Malley Farm property to allow the creation of a 4487 [four thousand four hundred and eighty seven] tree “Memorial Forest” to honor the 4487 [four thousand four hundred and eighty seven] veterans of the Iraq War who lost their lives protecting the United States of America.

Introduced by

Mayor Dana S. Hilliard

Approved:

City Attorney

Mayor Hilliard referred Resolution No. 31-15 to the Recreation Committee.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

Karen Hiller, 3 Lenox Street, said Marcel Hebert was a life-long resident of Somersworth. His family was a well respected family. He left the City to build his career then came back. He served the City in more ways than being on the City Council and was a valued member of the community. He bought these flowers himself and he wanted them in the downtown area. The time the Council spent talking about this is ridiculous. You should plant the flowers, put up the plaque, and move on.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Councilor Dumont thanked everybody that supported him. He looks forward to his tenure on the City Council.

Councilor Dumont said he was very impressed at the Tri City Christian Academy open house. He has been impressed for some time. They lost a dear friend this year. He thanked them for being part of Somersworth.

Councilor Messier spoke regarding the former police station building, stating that at some point, after we run the cycle of RFP's, we will need to make a decision about this building.

Councilor Messier said the email received from a citizen giving accolades to American Ambulance, the Police and Fire Departments, was wonderful to hear about.

Regarding the streetlights on Route 108, Councilor Messier said we should be prepared for the State to give up much more. He commented that some of the lights we purchased for the downtown project could go out there.

Councilor Witham welcomed Marty Dumont to the Council, stating it is a valued addition.

Councilor Collins thanked all 3 candidates. He welcomed Marty Dumont.

Councilor Sprague welcomed Marty Dumont. He thanked the candidates for staying through the meeting. He urged them to try to get on some committees. It is hard for them to vote for someone they really do not know. He felt comfortable going with the known commodity.

Councilor Sprague referred to emails, stating that if someone sends him an email that is extremely long and contains about 50 questions, he will not respond to it. If you leave your phone number he will gladly call and talk to you.

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Councilor Collins to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier and passed 9-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. DuBois, City Clerk