



CITY OF SOMERSWORTH

Office of the City Manager

TO: Mayor Dana Hilliard and City Council Members

FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager

DATE: Friday, January 29, 2016

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, February 1, 2016
City Council Agenda

6:45 p.m. City Council Group Photo

New Business (under Section 14 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. Ordinance No. 11-17 Amending Chapter 13, Police Offenses.** The Traffic Safety Committee reviewed this proposed Ordinance change at their January 20th meeting and supports the “no parking” change on King’s Lane. I recommend a Public Hearing prior to the next regular Council meeting on February 16th at 6:45 p.m.

Resolutions

- A. Resolution No. 20-16 Adopting the Provisions of New Hampshire RSA Chapter 162-K Municipal Economic Development and Revitalization Districts.** The Economic Development Committee reviewed this proposed action at their January 26th meeting and supports the adoption of this Resolution. Attached is a memorandum from Director Sharples highlighting the fact that adoption of this Resolution does not create a TIF. If approved this vote would allow the City Council to create a TIF in the future. A Public Hearing is required by State Law. I recommend it be scheduled prior to the next Council meeting on February 16th at 6:50 p.m. following the Parking Ordinance Hearing.

Other

- A. Discussion and Possible Vote on Lease/Purchase Agreement for Former Police Station Site (Requested by City Councilor Dave Witham).** Attached is a copy of the latest “*Draft*” Agreement that was prepared based on the Economic Development Committee discussions and their recent direction provided at their January 26th meeting. Economic Development Manager Christine Soutter has provided a copy of the Agreement to the two (2) individuals interested in developing the site. I would note that City Attorney has not yet provided a legal review.

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

A. Information Items:

1. **Solar Project.** I recommend the Mayor and City Council consider a Workshop prior to the next regular Council meeting on Tuesday, February 16th starting at 6:00 p.m. This would allow the project Consultants a chance to brief the Council on any progress in moving forward with the Solar Project at the Landfill Superfund Site.

With your permission, it would also be my intent to invite our State Representatives and Senator so they could weigh in or perhaps assist in pursuing any available assistance at the State level.

2. **Comcast Cable TV Franchise Renewal Process.** I have attached a copy of a letter from the City's Special Counsel in this matter, Attorney Kate Miller. Finance Director Scott Smith, Superintendent Jeni Mosca and I recently conducted a conference call with Attorney Miller in regards to the Comcast Cable TV Renewal Process.

We recommend the City Council vote to authorize our pursuit of a 3-Year amendment to the existing franchise agreement. You will read that I have also authorized Attorney Miller to start a franchise audit as recommended. Additionally, prior to April 22, 2016, the City Council will need to schedule a Public Ascertainment Hearing.

The present 5-Year Agreement term runs from 2013-2018; therefore, a 3-Year Amendment would extend the term to 2021. A copy of the present Franchise Agreement is attached.

3. **Former Breton's Cleaners – Brownfield's Grant.** I have authorized City Staff to submit a Grant Application to secure EPA Brownfields Targeted Assessment funding in the amount of \$100,000. This Grant would fund additional Phase II site work to move forward with any clean-up effort of the Breton's site on Winter Street.

There is a no required City funding match. Staff has also prepared a preliminary timeline in regards to the next steps towards the City's acquisition of this property and application for additional Brownfield's Grant funding to raze the building and clean-up this contaminated site for reuse. I am recommending a City Council workshop be scheduled with NHDES and EPA representatives in the coming months prior to a regularly scheduled meeting in March or April. There are several documents attached for your review and consideration in regards to this process.

B. Attachments:

1. City Employee Positions Listed by Department.