

CITY of SOMERSWORTH

City Council Goals – 2009

The Council discussed the February 23, 2008 session's 36-goals listed in the summary under "to continue to be addressed and/or new goals". The Council agreed that certain goals were no longer valid, had been accomplished, or could be removed from the list as redundant to other goals listed, while certain ones should be bundled together due to their commonality.

The following is a summary of the Council's consensus for 2009 Goals (15 in total).

1. Use of former Police Station

- Ad Hoc Council Committee established.
- RFP is out & due back March 12th.
- If there are no bids, ideas will need to be developed.

2. Reuse of Hilltop Elementary School

- Ad Hoc Committee established.
- RFP for consultant assistance is ready.
- Funding will be proposed in next FY budget at \$ 20,000.
- Staff is preparing another Grant for private assistance worth \$ 10,000.

3. High Street Infrastructure

- City Manager has sent application letters for Economic Stimulus funding assistance to US Congressional Delegation, Governor Lynch, and DOT Commissioner Campbell.
- City staff has sent separate requests to Delegation in regards to earmarking funding in Federal special appropriations bills.
- Councilor McCallion suggested the City ensure any new developments along the corridor assist in planning and funding improvements especially in regards to the major intersections such as the CVS project at the corner of Indigo/Blackwater/High Streets.

4. Create New Image for City of Somersworth

- Council bundled other 2008 goals into this goal: increase volunteer opportunities & create reasons for young people to stay.
- Vision 2020 Committee is established and has begun its work.
- Master Plan update project has started.

5. Tax Rate Stability

- Level Fund CIP over 6-years of Plan.
- The use of Fund Balance and other revenue approaches was discussed.
- Council will discuss setting a CIP Funding Policy during upcoming Budget review process.

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6. Sidewalk Plan – Street Work

- School / City Task Force has been established to apply for “Safe Routes to School Grant” for sidewalk improvements and other program benefits.
- Downtown Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District study funding is proposed in CIP FY 2011. If created, the TIF District would set aside a portion of property tax revenue for improvements within the District such as sidewalks and streetscaping improvements.

7. Connector Road (High Street to Route 108)

- Funded with private escrowed money.
- Under construction.

8. Continue Mill Development

- 54 Market rate (1-2 bedroom units) built at the Mill with no vacancies.
- Presently there is mixed use.

9. Riverfront Development

- Pedestrian Bridge over the canal is earmarked for repair.
- GE has increased operations with new hiring.

10. Website Development

- 2008 Committee was established and new site launched with “.gov”.
- E Newsletter subscriber list established.
- Council bundled in several of last year’s goals to include continual governmental transparency with more City Board meetings being televised on Ch. 22 and continued mailing of City-wide Newsletter (next issue asks Citizens to offer ideas for future edition inclusion).
- Cable Committee should explore Ch. 22 funding support during franchise renewal process via grant and/or franchise fee.
- New Web design is under construction and scheduled for March release.
- Council consensus reached for staff to launch Web re-broadcasting of Council Meetings from City website.

11. Review of City Policies and Ordinances

- Internal City financial policies were completed last year.
- Land Use regulations and Ordinances were amended.
- Ordinance / Chapter 30 Conduct in Public Parks Draft revision approved by Council Recreation Committee and will be submitted to the full Council in March / April.
- Staff is working on amendments to water and wastewater Ordinances for submittal to City Council in 2009.
- Council agreed to support a Resolution authorizing the use of Credit Cards/Debit Cards for on-site (City Hall) payments.
- Council agreed to re-look the authorization of E-payments and discuss resident tax program which is an impediment to internet E-payments.

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12. Job Promotion and Marketing of the City

- Economic Dev. Ad jointly done with Ports., Dover, Roch., PDA.
- City promotional Movie is in development (CGI) for City website.
- Regional and State networking done.
- ERZ Zone, a State DRED Program, is on next Council agenda.

13. Library Expansion & ADA Improvements

- A new HVAC system was recently installed.
- Consensus to continue ADA Improvement Program.
- Council asked staff to check with Library Trustees and Library personnel in regards to any long range plan / Master Plan they might have in regards to expansion needs, etc.

14. Recreation Center

- Staff should continue to search for grants, both public and private.

15. Housing and Code Compliance

- The Council discussed building code compliance issues; Councilor Tapscott expressed particular concern with run down multi-family units.
- Chief Crombie gave police response statistics in regards to calls for service to multi-family units throughout the City.
- Council agreed that a Council Ad Hoc Committee should be created to examine the City's PILOT with the SHA (Housing Authority).

2008 Goals marked as Accomplished or Deleted-requiring no further action

- ✓ Spaulding Turnpike Exit 10
- ✓ City Charter Review
- ✓ Review land use
- ✓ Address RR concerns
- ✓ Encourage effective departmental communications – emphasis was made to ensure cross department communications
- ✓ Purchase of green space – done through Council & Conservation Committee actions, recent acquisitions used funding from Land Use Change Tax

The City Council did delete some other goals that were being addressed within the context of other goals or the Council consensus was not to pursue further discussion.

2008 Summary - under commitments: The Council discussed if there was a need to form an Advisory Review Committee to give feedback on city and school facility needs. The Consensus was that City and School have Committees or staff in place to handle. Finance Director Smith gave an update on improving the City's financial software in conjunction with the school department, generally stating that it presently would not be financially viable to do so.