

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Somersworth, NH
February 1, 2016
7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by His Honor, the Mayor, Dana Hilliard, and upon roll call the following Council members were present: Pepin, Soldati, Dumont, McCallion, Messier, Witham, Cameron, and Paradis. Councilor Sprague was excused.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

MINUTES OF THE TIF WORKSHOP HELD ON JANUARY 19, 2016

Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Paradis, made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion passed unanimously. Sprague abstained

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 19, 2016

Councilor Paradis, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion passed unanimously. Sprague abstained

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COUNCILORS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

A letter from Peter Michaud, National Division of Historical Resources, was read by the City Clerk.

Without objection from Council, the letter was accepted and placed on file.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayors Report for City Council Meeting February 1st, 2016

Last week I attended the third meeting of the Tri-City Coalition. The Tri-City Coalition is comprised of two City Councilors from Somersworth, Dover and Rochester and the three Tri-City Mayors. The purpose of the coalition is to foster a greater partnership between our three communities and explore possibilities of sharing or consolidating some services. At last week's meeting a few requested were adopted by the coalition. The roles of the three Tri-City Mayors on the coalition are to introduce legislation or move forward

on request when the commission has endorsed ideas for the respective Councils to further explore.

This evening I am requesting on behalf of the coalition for the City Managers of Somersworth and Dover to begin exploring the feasibility of our two communities creating a partnership in the area of assessing and health inspections. If upon their discussions that a conclusion is reached, that a joint partnership in these areas would benefit our communities, then Mayor Weston and I will move forward on legislation for approval by both Councils. I look forward to hearing more progressive ideas from the Coalition as they continue their meetings. Further discussion on the meeting will be given by Councilor Sprague, who also attended the meeting.

I am calling upon the Fire Station Advisory Committee which was created through a resolution during the last session of Council to conclude their findings and report to Council by June of this year. I have no doubt given the level of experience the members of the committee hold that this deadline will be achieved.

Councilor Dumont and I recent attended a joint meeting between members of the Berwick and Somersworth Christmas Parade Committees. The purpose of the meeting was to explore the possibilities of re-merging the two community's parades into one. Both communities held a strong tradition of holding a joint parade for decades. Progress was made at the meeting and the two committees will be sitting down again to make a final decision. Councilor Dumont and I look forward to sharing what we believe will be positive news in the future.

With the NH primary only a week away, the City Clerk and I are once again reaching out for volunteers for various polling positions. While these positions are generally associated with a fixed term, the possibility of a temporary term for just Primary day does exist. The current positions we searching to fill are as follows;

Ward 1
2 Selectmen

Ward 3
1 Selectman

Ward 4
1 Selectman

Any interested in serving in one of these positions please contact the City Clerk or Mayor's office.

An insightful Mayor's community forum took place on Saturday, Thank you to all who attended and participated. The next **Mayor's Community** forum will take place on **Saturday February 13th from 9:00 – 10:30** at City Hall. Because of scheduling conflicts we will be switching from hosting Ward 2 to Ward 3 Included in this forum will be the *Ward 3 City Councilor Marty Dumont and Ward 3 School Board Member Karen Hiller*. The purpose of the forums are to foster dialog and ideas, in a non-formal setting to

continue to move our community forward. All members of the community are welcome to attend any forums.

Reminder that On Friday February 12th from 7:00pm – 11:00pm our community will take time to celebrate the positive energy which will continue to move our community forward. The inaugural celebration will honor the spirit of team in Somersworth which has the foundation of our success. The celebrating will also focus in on celebrating our “Proud Past” and “Bright Future”. Some of the highlights of the celebration will include ethnic foods and entertainment of the founding cultures of Somersworth, along with featured entertainment of the evening acoustic radio (The former Waterman’s). The cost of the event is \$25.00 dollars and will include hors d’ oeuvres, entertainment and a cash bar. Tickets can be purchased at the Chamber of Commerce, The Gathering place or at the door.

Nominations, Appointments and Elections:

Under nominations, appointments and Elections; **In accordance with Council Rule 17 Appointments**, the following are being brought forward this evening for nomination.

Donna Donovan re-appointment as a member of the Library Board of Trustees with a term to expire in February 2019

Mark Fearis as an Alternate to the Planning Board with a term to expire in February 2019

Jeanette Radan as the Supervisor of the Checklist in Ward 4 with a term to expire in February 2019

In accordance with Council Rule 17 Appointments, the nomination shall remain open until the February 16th scheduled Council meeting.

Also under nominations and appointments, in accordance with **Council rule 15** I am naming the following Mayoral appointments:

Karen Terletzky Business representative to the Hilltop Commission

In accordance with Council rule 15 this nomination does not require Council approval.

Finally under nominations and appointments In accordance with Council **Rule 17 Appointments**, the following citizens before the council this evening for a confirmation vote.

- **Bill Griffith**, as an Alternate member to the **Zoning Board of Adjustment** with a term to expire on January 2019

- **Megan Dubois** as an Alternate member to the **Planning Board** with a term to expire on January 2019
- **Jameson Small** as an Alternate member to the **Planning Board** with a term to expire on January 2019

I would respectfully request that council confirm all nominees

This respectfully concludes my February 1st, 2016 Mayors Report
REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance Committee – Councilor Witham said they got an update on the rehab of the, so called, Eddy Bridge on Salmon Falls Road between Somersworth and Berwick. Maine is taking the lead on the project. They have moved it up on their timeline which gives us flexibility on funding our portion. It is a rehab project and not a replacement project. Somersworth's commitment to that project is about \$50,000. The committee endorsed utilizing the Transportation Fund.

Committee discussed the PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) for Frisbie Memorial. They are a 501c3; a not for profit. They are looking to extend that program. The committee endorsed a move forward with the extension.

The Assessor updated the committee on other PILOTS in the city. There are a handful. They discussed the implications but took no further action.

The committee discussed a mobile home on Brook Drive that the City owns. The condition of the unit is in disrepair and uninhabitable. There was discussion to see if the city should pay to have the unit moved. Estimated cost to have the unit removed would be about \$3000. At this point, the committee decided to wait. It isn't costing the City anything to have it there.

There was discussion about a pre-order SUV Police Cruiser. Every year for the past several years, the Council has authorized the Police Department to pre-order a police cruiser so that they can get it ordered before the budget is finalized. By pre-ordering, it gets us in the que to get a vehicle, without having to wait. The committee liked the idea of a lease purchase; finance provided some numbers. Committee endorsed the idea of moving forward with the preorder of 2 SUV units, not just one. There will be a resolution before council at next meeting.

There was then a discussion about Post Withdrawal Capital Payments from the trust fund, concerning the Rollinsford School District. The Town of Rollinsford put money into this trust fund 15-20 years ago, for improvements to the high school. Every year the City has to authorize the withdrawal from the trust fund.

The City Manager informed the committee that it is time to begin negotiations with Comcast, according to FCC Regulations. There is need to meet with attorney. The City Manager is inclined to see if we can do an extension of the current agreement. It would save the City money on legal fees. The council favored that approach.

The Finance Director gave the committee an update on the current fiscal year budget. There are short comings in the fire department overtime. There has been movement of personnel, injuries and illnesses that took it toll on the department. No action at this meeting, but the committee wanted an estimate of the shortfall.

Government Operations – Councilor Soldati said they spent part of the meeting by reviewing the current status of employees. We currently have 94 full time employees, 9 part time employees, and 30-32 on-call or seasonal workers. We are down 2 police officers and an equipment operator. We seem to be holding steady with our employees right now.

They reviewed a number of proposed changes on the administrative code. Elimination of the requirement that department heads be residents of the city. Since we are such a mobile society now, it will help in recruiting candidates. Another proposed change is that the City Manager have more discretion with vacation time for new recruits.

The committee also approved a suggestion that exempt employees can carry over some vacation time; 40 hours. These will be coming back to the council as ordinance changes. The committee also approved the change that the City Manager have the sole authority of suspending an employee without pay for various reasons.

Economic Development – Councilor McCallion said they met last Tuesday, and discussed the TIF. There will be a resolution before council to adopt the State law for the TIF.

There was much discussion about 2 applicants for the old Police Station. The committee wants to make sure that the project gets completed. The committee came up with a lease agreement, changes to the lease agreement. A resolution will be before Council soon.

There was brief discussion about Certificates of Occupancy not being issued until the improvements to the ballpark were completed by Sunningdale.

There was also discussion about having city staff reach out to Aclara. Possibly having a workshop and bring them in.

With GE moving their headquarters to Boston, there was discussion that employees of GE should visit the Summersworth Historical Museum, because of the great history there..

Public Safety – Councilor Pepin reported that the committee met on January 28th, and discussed the pre-order of the Police SUV. They discussed why they wanted to get an SUV instead of a car. The SUV is larger, easier to get a person in and out, carry more gear, weather condition. The committee unanimously endorsed the pre-order of an SUV. There was a demonstration from one of the Police officers about fire arm holsters to secure their guns. There have been some upgrades on the holsters. The new holsters secure the firearm with 3 different methods. It is quite an improvement. The officer is the only one that can get ahold of it and can be quickly taken out of the holster by the officer. They also demonstrated the new bullet proof vests. They are lighter and worn outside of the uniform.

Paul Robidas from American Ambulance gave report that they were able to purchase 2 more AEDs to be located in the city. These will replace older ones. Mr. Robidas is also working with the superintendent and principals to do a mock

disaster. The students can have an eye-opener about the effects of alcohol and driving.

The committee also got a report from fire. Shafer grant was a 2-3 year project. There is money left over, and it can be used for new call firefighters. The City currently has 3 call fighters in classes. There was brief discussion about the overtime replacement. The reason for this is changeover of personnel and medical issues. You can plan for vacation, but not when people leave or get sick. Want to keep four personnel on duty for the safety of the public.

Public Works & Environment – Councilor Sprague said they discussed the Eddy Bridge rehab project. There will be a resolution to take money from the transportation fund, also known as the registration surcharge fund. There is about \$140,000 in there now and it generates about \$5000 a month. For this project, we would need about \$5,000 for FY17, and about \$45,000 for FY17.

Vice Chair of the Public Works and Environment Committee, Councilor Witham said they talked about road resurfacing projects. Mike Bobinski and the City Engineer from Dubois and King outlined a memo to take approximately \$350,000 over the next 3 years which showed a number of roads and the type of treatment for each. It is preliminary draft information. We currently have available \$611,000 for road resurfacing. The number could go up depending on the budget. The Public Works Director and Engineer will revisit the plan and provide an updated list in a few weeks. The committee would like this to go out to bid sometime in early spring. With diligence and luck, we could see some resurfacing in the upcoming construction season.

The committee discussed the Wastewater Treatment Facility and a capacity study that was conducted by Wright Pierce Engineers. The Lead Engineer for Wright Pierce attended the meeting. He ran through the scope of the project, their findings and recommendations. This is about Biochemical Oxygen Demand - BOD. A type of loading on waste treatment, and is particularly exacerbated by larger industrial users. There is plenty of capacity available at the plant, but oxygen use needs to be addressed. If not addressed the State Department of Environmental Services could put a damper on future development in the city. There were short term and long term recommendations provided by the engineer, all of which have a cost element associated. The committee tasked staff to continue to work on this and present at a later time.

The enterprise fund for wastewater treatment is very healthy now, running in the black to tackle the needs. Need to work with large industrial users and educate them, encourage them to have more aggressive pretreatment strategies. There is a surcharge for industrial users. Ours is one of the lowest in the region.

They discussed a number of miscellaneous items; salt application, utility poles, and such.

Recreation – Councilor Pepin reported that the committee met on January 28. Without objection, Councilor McCallion reported that the meeting was for reps of any clubs, boosters, school departments, athletic director, and many others. They are trying to get everyone on the same page to go after certain things all together. One action item that came out of this meeting was the high school athletic director

has the ability to put all sports and activities on one web page. This spurred some conversation between all of the parties. There will be more to come on that.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

Vision 2020 – Councilor Paradis reported that they met last Thursday. They updated the list of the Somersworth organizations, and different committee members were assigned to invite these organizations to future meetings to discuss how Vision 2020 can assist them in marketing their events. There was discussion about the use of the Vision 2020 social media page to maximize city impact. They also want to get updates on channel 22. They discussed replacing flags on the posts in the downtown area. Economic Development Manager, Christine Soutter provided draft of the real estate brochure. They talked about the possibility of providing the 2020 banners to events. Growth and Development strategic plan for the Vision 2020 goals were discussed and they resolved that the members will review the matrix and plan for future goals. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 8th.

School Board – Councilor Pepin reported that he attended the School Board meeting and the Budget Workshop. The school board is looking at laying off of 4 positions to meet the budget needs. This is due to the loss of educational grants and tuition from Rollinsford. Another budget workshop is scheduled for February 4th at 6:00 and on February 9th at the CTC at 6:30. On February 15th there will be a presentation of the School Board Budget.

COAST Bus – Councilor Pepin said the clipper connection is doing very well in Somersworth. One of the most popular routes and they are talking about putting a second bus on. They discussed buying 3 small ADA busses, to replace other busses and are in need of repair. They discussed the FY17 municipal fund budget. They will need to cut some routes, because they are not supplying many riders; Route 20, Rochester to Pease and Route 7, from Exeter.

Sustainability Committee – Councilor Soldati reported that the committee reviewed where they want to focus. There are three areas of interest to explore; Solid waste, electricity, and water conservation.

City Manager Belmore attended the meeting and discussed the Right to Know Law. They wanted working documents online but they learned they cannot do that. They can't even communicate in email, because the public does not have access to that. There are pages of ways that citizens could make a small change to make us a more sustainable city. Instead of taking this document and putting it on the City website, they decided to pick one tip that you could do as citizen to help the city become more sustainable. Looking for new members.

Historic District Commission – Councilor Dumont reported that the committee reviewed three items, all approved. An application from 13 Linden St, for solar panels, an application for 149 High Street, where chimneys are old so liners won't

go down them. Professionals will construct a chimney on outside wall and will be covered.

The other is the Mill at 14 and 22 Canal Street. They are doing more renovations and they will construct an atrium between the buildings. There will be more river space utilization and the front much more appealing.

There was discussion about the size of the historic district. They have identified about 300 homes that fall under the category of historic district. He has encouraged the discussion that they recommend some changes. The focal point will be the Hilltop School, which offers an opportunity to be the hub of the wheel. The Council can expect to hear something in the next 3-4 months from Hilltop District.

Hilltop Commission – Councilor Dumont said they will have first meeting this Thursday, February 4th at 6:00pm. They are excited and have a full complement of appointees.

Cultural Commission – Councilor Dumont said their first meeting will be scheduled for February 11th, at 6:00pm.

Drug Task Force – Councilor Witham reported that the Mayor attended the meeting last Tuesday January 26th, and reminded the group of their charge to shepherd the master plan to combat the drug crisis that is facing us and seemingly, every other community in the state. The committee saw a presentation from Officer Eric Adams from Laconia, who is assigned to deal with the drug crisis in the City Laconia. This unique position allows him to do outreach, follow up, and counseling for those struggling. We would struggle to achieve such a model, but there are pieces that could work here.

Tri City Coalition – Councilor Sprague reported that the coalition met last Thursday, January 28th, in the Rochester Council Chambers. They discussed that each member of the coalition go back to their respective council and discuss that the city manager would engage in talks about the health inspector and assessing, and see what cost savings can come from that.

Without objection, this will be discussed under NEW BUSINESS: Other, B.

Rail Authority – Councilor Sprague said the committee met on Friday, January 29th. Four million dollars have been added to the 10 year highway plan, from the Feds for a rail study, specifically for the capital corridor which is from Lowell, to Nashua, Manchester, and on to Concord. Six years ago, the money was pulled and put to Florida's fund. This is Federal money, not free money. New Hampshire would have to come up with \$500,000. The study would be effective in 2018 or 2019. The committee meets about once every quarter.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



CITY OF SOMERSWORTH

Office of the City Manager

6:45 p.m. City Council Group Photo

New Business (under Section 14 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. Ordinance No. 12-16 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.

The public hearing was scheduled without objection from Council.

Resolutions

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.

The public hearing was scheduled without objection from Council.

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.

The workshop was scheduled and an invitation to members of legislation delegation will be extended, without objection from Council.

- 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.

Without objection from Council, this will be listed on the February 16, 2016 City Council agenda.

- 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.

We recently set up an internal website committee. Brenda Breda, Executive Assistant to the City Manager, Krista Morris, Human Services, and Christine Soutter, Economic Development Manager are members of this committee. They are looking to review the website and electronic newsletters that we send out every month. Any thoughts or pictures or suggestions should be forwarded to the City Manager's office.

City Manager Belmore expressed that he is saddened to say goodbye to Director Sharples. He extends his sincere appreciation. Dave was quite an addition to the City's Management team. He has given a lot to the community. He will be missed and those will be tough shoes to fill.

B. Attachments:

1. City Employee Positions Listed by Department.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Mayoral Appointment

Karen Terletzky Business representative to the Hilltop Commission

Mayoral Nominations – Requires Council confirmation vote.

Donna Donovan re-appointment as a member of the Library Board of Trustees with a term to expire in February 2019

Mark Fearis as an Alternate to the Planning Board with a term to expire in February 2019

Jeanette Radan as the Supervisor of the Checklist in Ward 4 with a term to expire in February 2019

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Soldati, made a motion to suspend council rules to act on the nominee. The motion passed by voice vote, 9-0.

Councilor Soldati, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion that Jeanette Radan be approved as the Supervisor of the Checklist for Ward 4. The motion passed by voice vote, 9-1.

Mayoral Nominations – Requires Council confirmation vote.

Bill Griffith, as an Alternate member to the **Zoning Board of Adjustment** with a term to expire on January 2019

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Paradis, made a motion that Bill Griffith be approved as an alternate member of the Zoning Board. The motion passed by voice vote, 8-1.

Megan Dubois as an Alternate member to the **Planning Board** with a term to expire on January 2019

Councilor Dumont, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion that Megan Dubois be approved as an alternate member of the Planning Board. The motion passed by voice vote, 8-1.

Jameson Small as an Alternate member to the **Planning Board** with a term to expire on January 2019 *Councilor Dumont, seconded by Councilor Messier, made a motion that Megan Dubois be approved as an alternate member of the Planning Board. The motion passed by voice vote, 8-1.*

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinances

ORDINANCE NO. 12 - 16 AMENDING CHAPTER 13 POLICE OFFENSES

February 1, 2016

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 13.5, Police Offenses, Section D. No Parking Anytime, by adding the following:

When signs are erected giving notice thereof, it shall be unlawful for any person having custody or control of any vehicle, to park or cause the same to be parked at any time at any of the following locations:

Kings Lane on the northerly side.
Kings Lane on the southerly side.

This Ordinance shall be effective upon its passage.

Introduced by:

Councilor David Witham

Approved:

City Attorney

Explanation: Kings Lane is a narrow “Dead End” way, off Union Street. There are areas of the travel portion of Kings Lane that measure 12 to 15 feet in width. It appears most homes have adequate off street parking. The concern is, that any vehicle parking on the travel portion of Kings Lane has a potential to create a safe passage issue to vehicles and emergency equipment that may respond to that road. The matter is compounded during winter months.

Ordinance 12-16 will remain in first reading until the February 16, 2016 Meeting.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION NO. 20 -16 ADOPTING THE PROVISIONS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE RSA CHAPTER 162-K MUNICIPAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION DISTRICTS.

Somersworth, NH
February 1, 2016

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH that the City of Somersworth hereby adopts the provisions of Chapter 162-K Municipal Economic Development and Revitalization Districts.

WHEREAS, RSA 162-K enables municipalities to adopt its provisions to authorize the establishment of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) development districts; and

WHEREAS, TIF districts provide an opportunity for economic development; and

WHEREAS, The addition of TIF districts pursuant to the statute will enhance the attractiveness of the City of Somersworth for economic development creating a stronger tax base for the citizens of Somersworth; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the provisions of RSA 162-K permitting the establishment of TIF districts in the City of Somersworth are adopted by the Somersworth City Council to promote economic development.

Introduced by

Jonathan McCallion
Martin P Dumont, Sr.
David Witham
Dale R. Sprague

Approved:

City Attorney

A PUBLIC HEARING IS REQUIRED WITH POSTING FOR SEVEN (7) DAYS IN A NEWSPAPER. NO ACTION MAY BE TAKEN BY THE CITY COUNCIL UNTIL FIFTEEN (15) DAYS AFTER THE PUBLIC HEARING IS CONDUCTED.

Resolution 20-16 will remain in first reading until the February 16, 2016 Meeting and until the requirements have been met.

Other:

Discussion and Possible Vote on Lease/Purchase Agreement for Former Police Station Site (Requested by City Councilor David Witham).

Councilor McCallion said there are two applicants. The committee wanted to tighten up the language in the lease to protect the city. The committee went back and forth, because they all want what is best for the committee. The committee chose one applicant by unanimous vote, and a resolution will come before council soon.

Councilor Witham said his first desire was to develop another RFP to use the lease purchase as a guideline. There were two interested parties in the agreement, but if they went back out with an RFP with this lease purchase structure in mind, they may have additional interest. Due to lack of a second, that motion didn't go anywhere. The reluctance of the group is the fact that we have two interested parties, and if we go out with another RFP we might have no interested parties. They deliberated over the two applicants and unanimously chose Mr. Gagnon. There is nothing to vote on this evening. Just discussion.

To authorize the City Manager to begin conversation with the Rochester and Dover City Managers on the feasibility of creating cooperative services in assessing and health.

Councilor Sprague said there was discussion at the meeting of the Tri City Coalition and Council needs to vote to determine if the City Manager can begin talk with the City Managers of Dover and Rochester, about the possibility of the creating cooperative services for the positions of assessor and health inspector position. The assessing portion appealed to all of the cities. He suggests that the City Managers meet, and then report back to the coalition.

Councilor Sprague, seconded by Councilor McCallion, made a motion to authorize the City Manager to begin conversation with the Rochester and Dover City Managers on the feasibility of creating cooperative services in assessing and health.

Councilor McCallion said we have been talking about how we can consolidate efforts this for years. He asked if there was a way to get the county involved.

Councilor Sprague said the register of deeds getting involved would be an instance where they would oversee what assessing is doing.

Councilor Sprague said the three largest communities in the county are under a tax cap restraint. Getting the registry of deeds involved would be a start. These are the questions we want to answer.

The Mayor said, the purpose of forming the coalition was to bring legislation forward. The coalition is made up of 6 city councilors, when they approve something at the coalition level; we move it forward, and then draft the legislation.

In examining small things first, where we can create cooperative services, as we have started in Somersworth with cooperative services between the city and school side. Looking at how we can restructure so we are mirroring 21st Century government practices, while living in a tax cap. The Coalition is looking at Dover, Rochester and Somersworth, each with their own identities and characteristics. They are not talking about blending the three cities, but erase the boarder lines when it is feasible. There are some large things, that the coalition has discussed, but they are looking at starting with the smaller things and have some success. The coalition will then start to examine some big ticket items.

Councilor Cameron asked for clarification on who pays for the position and if it would be divided between the 3 cities.

Mayor Hilliard said all the details would need to be worked out. What the coalition can do is make a decision to move forward. This conversation is happening at each city. The plan is to have the City Managers speak first. If there is success, then they will draft an agreement. There would be a resolution, and a vote at each city. Not saying that things can happen quickly, but the 3 cities are already looking to move forward with legislation. Coalition members are thinking outside the box to create better services. He thanked the mayors of other cities for continuing their commitment to move forward.

Councilor Soldati said she is highly skeptical that we can overcome the political obstacles. She hopes that we can overcome our political and geographical differences. Wish you luck. She is proud that we have taken on something so daunting. She will support this.

Councilor Dumont said this excites him. Whatever the past may have been, we are looking at the future. There is only one way to eat an elephant, one bit at a time. We have to look for ways to receive the best services as possible for our communities. He compliments this coalition, and would endorse the City Manager to have conversations with the City Managers of the other communities.

The motion to authorize the City Manager to begin conversation with the Rochester and Dover City Managers on the feasibility of creating cooperative services in assessing and health passed by voice vote, 9-0.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

Jeannette Radan thanked the Council for the approval of her nomination as Supervisor of the Checklist for Ward 4.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Pepin said he is sorry to see Dave Sharples go. He has done an outstanding job. Everything at Noble Pines has been through him. He has done repair work on Saturdays, donated his time. The hat that he wore was more than just his job. It was broad. He will be missed.

Compliments those who showed up for the sports meeting, some said that they should all get together and brainstorm.

Councilor Soldati said Dave Sharples has been a member of the Sustainability Committee from day one. He lives a sustainable lifestyle. Dave attacked projects and he was very enthusiastic about the solar panels. He is very creative and his pursuit of grants to help us become a sustainable city. He will be sorely missed by the Sustainability Committee. Very big shoes for the city to fill. Thank you so much for your personal dedication to the welfare of this City.

Councilor Dumont echoed the sentiments of Councilor Soldati. It has been a pleasure working with Mr. Sharples on the planning board. He always represented the city in a stellar fashion.

Councilor Dumont thanked the Somersworth Housing Authority, for the workshop on Section 8 housing vouchers. Thanked the Mayor, Jeni Mosca, Councilor McCallion, Tim Metivier, Joe Devine, and those who inspect the properties.

On the Comcast agreement, he is in favor of anything that saves the city money. Rely on the expertise of the negotiating committee. He would like to include the Portland feed into Somersworth, rather than the Boston feed. They look at distance as the crow flies. He can get Hispanic stations, but the Somersworth culture is not Hispanic. It is mainly French and Irish. It would be great if Comcast would accommodate the community.

The Council had a presentation by the engineering firm regarding resurfacing. However, he remembers the number being about one million dollars a year to resurface, to just get us to a point where the condition of the roads were acceptable in the engineering aspect. He encourages everyone to do our best to get what we can get. Resurfacing in Somersworth will always be an issue. Its just a matter of the revenues not being great enough to accomplish everything that we need to accomplish, but he encourages the committee to continue doing the great job that they are doing.

The Parade Committee, spirit of cooperation. It always should have been a joint committee. The current people involved in the parade in Somersworth and Berwick have had a frank discussion. The second meeting has been scheduled in Somersworth. Both communities will be rewarded handsomely. Although we already have a great parade as it is, it can always be improved.

He encouraged the public to get your tickets quick for the inaugural. There will be a special cultural presentation, and it will be wonderful!

He has heard about a new Committee for the fire station, but he hasn't seen an update come to council, and it sure would be nice to have something as we get into new budget season.

Councilor McCallion said he will miss Director Sharples' expertise. Being part of the committees that he has been a part of, he would always do the research and if he didn't have an answer to a question, he would find the answer. He had great knowledge of planning. He was very enthusiastic and wore many hats and great job.

He thanked the committee. When we vet things out and when you have other peoples' future in your hands, it weighs heavily on your shoulders. It's good when things can happen.

The Inauguration only happens every 2 years. He encourages everyone to attend. A lot of good things are happening in our community. Let's keep the momentum going with the TIF.

Thanks to all who attended the sports meeting. It's time to start planning for what can be. There has to be another entity that can plan what needs to be done enhance the facilities.

Councilor Witham said he would like to hear from the Fire station advisory committee and the need to report.

In the Finance Committee, it was brought to our attention, the concern of the Fire Department overtime. We have worked hard as a community, as a council, as an administration to get to the point where we have four fire fighters on duty at night and three during the day. It's been a particularly difficult year with fires in the city. These events are not planned and it is difficult. He hopes that the administration can maintain the staffing levels. He would like to be included in that future conversation, because he thinks we need to support existing staffing levels.

He was pleased to hear that Vision 2020 has come to some direction with the banners on the light poles. And, just a thought, with it being warm this week, maybe it is time to take down the large Christmas tree, and put that back into storage.

Councilor Served with him on the planning board for many years, other duties as assigned including using a ditch witch to install the cable in the Pines. He is a quality city employee. Thank you for your time.

Councilor Sprague said thanks to Mr. Sharples. He has always heard nothing but good things from developers that come to our city. One of the big things that Dave does is reel in the Zoning Board and Planning Board to reality, which is worth its weight in gold.

Councilor Cameron said she just met Mr. Sharples, but what he has done for the City of Somersworth, we will have hard shoes to fill.

There is a nice community event this weekend; Winterfest, Breakfast with Frosty, and Prom Fashion Show. A little something for everybody this weekend.

Councilor Paradis reminded everyone to vote. The poll hours are 7a to 7p. IF you will not be around on Election Day, the City Clerk's office has Absentee Ballots. So pick one of those up and cast your vote.

She thanked Dave Sharples. Looking through the Growth and Development Plans, he had his hands on everything that was accomplished. We don't know who we will get to replace him, but she hopes he can train the person to adjust the air conditioning in Council Chambers.

As far as Hispanic population, they may not have been founders, but there are many Hispanic families in this community. Most of the high school students are taking Spanish instead of French.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Cameron, seconded by Councilor Messier, made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Trish Harris, City Clerk

Dana Hilliard, Mayor