



Minutes of City Council Meeting Monday, June 21, 2021

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by His Honor, the Mayor, Dana S. Hilliard and, upon roll call, the following Council members were present: Pepin, Vincent, Dumont, Austin, Michaud, Witham, Gerding, Cameron and Paradis.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Dumont led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING

- A. **Ordinance No. 17-21** - To Amend Chapter 4, Personnel Rules and Regulations – Compensation Schedule

No comments were made by the Public.

- B. **Ordinance No. 18-21** - Transfer Between Departments

No comments were made by the Public.

- C. **Ordinance No. 19-21** - To Amend Chapter 34, Exemptions and Credits, Section 34.2 Veteran's Property Tax Credit and Section 34.3 Service-Connected Total Disability

No comments were made by the Public.

- D. **Ordinance No. 20-21** - To Amend Chapter 34, Exemptions and Credits, Section 34.1 Elderly Property Tax Exemption

No comments were made by the Public.

- E. **Resolution No. 40-21** - To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Cable Television Franchise Agreement Between the City of Somersworth and Atlantic Broadband, Inc

Special Counsel, Katherine Miller of Donahue, Tucker, and Ciandella gave a presentation on the proposed franchise agreement with Atlantic Broadband. She said this should help add competition with Comcast and noted that Atlantic Broadband is willing to put the City access channel in high definition. Councilor Witham asked if the agreement with Atlantic Broadband would be a way to help with Comcast negotiations. Special Counsel Miller replied that it should, however both agreements must be similar. Councilor Vincent stated he is in favor of this agreement in order to keep Comcast honest and provide competition. No comments were made by the Public.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

There were no opening comments by visitors.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approve minutes of the City Council Meeting on June 7, 2021

Councilor Austin made a motion to approve all items in the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dumont and passed 9-0.

COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCILORS

Councilor Paradis spoke in support of the letter from Paul Goodwin and the creation of an Arts Commission. Paradis spoke to reasons regarding her announcement that she will be running for Mayor. She also spoke in support of raising the amount for elderly tax exemption as discussed in a letter from Somersworth resident William Connor.

COMMUNICATIONS

To the Mayor and members of the City Council,

I am writing to you today as a resident in support of several community-based initiatives which are, or will shortly be, seeking support and action from the Mayor and Council. These initiatives reflect efforts from a diverse group of Somersworth residents and business owners all working with the aim of continuing Somersworth's revitalization and prosperity. They are: [1] a new Outdoor Features Ordinance, [2] formation of a Beautification Group/ implementing Bridge Planters, and [3] formation of an Arts Commission.

These initiatives reflect not only the wishes of the community but also best practices from surrounding communities which have successfully implemented similar strategies and policy. The three initiatives as I understand them are briefly summarized as follows:

[1] Outdoor Features: The Downtown Round table, a group of Somersworth residents and business owners working on downtown economic development and revitalization, has drafted and unanimously approved to advance language for your consideration regarding an outdoor features ordinance.

The objective of this ordinance is to provide a clear and streamlined application for business and property owners, to encourage them to activate and beautify the public right of way for the benefit of their business, to promote Somersworth's economic prosperity, and to foster a sense of place for the community. Such activation/ beautification measures might include placement of planters or sales racks along city sidewalks and or for the creation of outdoor dining. We aim for a one-page application that supersedes/ streamlines existing application processes and to codify allowable outdoor features in one easy to use application to better support businesses and property owners. The Downtown Roundtable is working with Councilor Paradis to advance this language and we greatly appreciate the support of the Mayor, Council, and City Staff to implement a revised policy to meet these objectives.

[2] Beautification Group/Bridge Planters: The Downtown Roundtable, Councilors Cameron and Paradis, and others have identified landscape-based beautification efforts as a strategic objective to support downtown businesses, to promote Somersworth's image, and to foster a vibrant walkable downtown community. I ask the Mayor and Council to support the community's efforts to form a group as proposed by Councilor Cameron.

An initial goal of this effort is to work with the City of Somersworth and the Town of Berwick to place planters along the bridge to Maine. As a resident I fully endorse the group formation, objectives of beautification, and initial task of placing planters on the bridge and hope the City will work with the community to implement these improvements.

[3] Arts Commission: As a resident and artist, I wholeheartedly support the formation of a Somersworth Arts Commission, with an objective of supporting local artists and fostering art throughout our community. I ask the Mayor to advance the formation of an Arts Commission and ask the Council to consider modest support for the arts in the city budget, in line with neighboring communities.

I appreciate your time and consideration and am available to connect on any of these items at your pleasure

Paul Goodwin

To: City of Somersworth N.H., City Council Membership.

From: William L. Connor,

41 Pinewood Drive, Somersworth N.H., Ward Two.

Citizens Comments:

Subject: City Council Meetings Agenda, June 7, 2021,

Item 15, New Business, Ordinances,

Item D. Ordinance No. 20-21, To Amend Chapter 34, Exemptions and Credits, Section 34.1 Elderly Property Tax Exemptions.

Honorable City Council Membership.

After having viewed the subject council meeting and witnessed its proceedings, I felt compelled to submit some comments and suggestions regarding, Item D. Ordinance No. 2021, To Amend Chapter 34, Exemptions and Credits, Section 34.1 Elderly Property Tax Exemptions.

The comments are to be considered as a citizen's submittal and may be read under the Ordinance No.2021 Public Hearing Communications.

As I perused upon this subject ordinance's details and its lengthy history, there were some comments I had about some corrective editing action on the forms used during the applicant's approval process and a suggested fiscal adjustment before its passage as an amended ordinance.

Proposed Section 34.1 Elderly Property Tax Exemption, Item A. Amount of Exemption.

* Sections No.1, No.2, No.3 all state the amounts "For a Person" which leaves one to interpret this wordage in the singular tense. This detail leads to confusion when the elders are trying to comprehend, Item B. Qualifications.

Item B. Qualifications.

Section No.2 States that the taxpayer must have a "Net Income" of not more than Thirty-five Thousand, (\$35,000) Dollars or, if married, a combined "Net Income" of less than Fifty Thousand (\$50,000) Dollars.

An accountants definition of the term "Net Income" as the amount of income that is left after all of the allowable expenses are deducted from the total gross income, whether it be single taxpayer or if it is a married couples combined net income, notably so when doing ones federal tax returns.

* However, nowhere have I found on Somersworth Web Site – Assessors page, Elderly Tax Exemption forms / documents, a term definition of what a “Net Income” is and especially how it is arrived at. Maybe a listing of definitions of terms would be helpful to aid the process.

Q: Why are married couples only allowed a “Net Income” of only (\$50,000) Dollars, but a single taxpayer is allowed (\$35,000) Dollars, this exaction element appears to be a penalty for married couples and an obvious benefit to one being a single taxpayer.

*I myself would support a motion that the married couple's “Net Income” limitation should be increased to (\$70,000) Dollars, especially targeting only those in the most older age group category (No. 3 - For a person 80years of age or older) as they can clearly view the pearly gates upon the horizon as a compromise.

Q: Are we using the most current updated reversion of the, State of New Hampshire RSA, 72:39-b Elderly Tax Exemptions and is city staff trained in the process of an approval and professional communications with the claimant.

Final comments: This ordinance's original passage was executed as a resolution nearly 20 years ago with the exemptions and limitations amounts amended several times over the years, all with good intentions.

But, regardless of these thoughtful efforts, the ordinances “Qualifications and the current stated allowable net income amounts is not realistic or sufficient enough and does requires an upward fiscal adjustment for the married couples in some of the most elderly age group as previously stated.

As you may well imagine the net income amounts have not kept up with the skyrocketing inflation, record property values, unfathomable price rise in commodities and consumer price index inflation, along with the sharp decline in the value of the U.S. Dollar. These factors alone should be the root causes for stimulating a change in your thought process on the net income amounts.

If you have found by way of an examination that our net income allowances are positioned in the middle grouping of those communities that have been surveyed and feel comfort in doing so, then I would say that the middle of the road is generally found to be static and not far from falling into a position that is shown to be short of the mark.

Therefore, am requesting that you give more consideration to this message before the passage of Ordinance 2021, to help the elderly whom are on fixed incomes trying to stay in their own homes, with the same financial consideration that the City council has recently given to those amongst us in our community.

Ever thoughtful I'm for those individuals that serve in the cities departments and on committees that have prepared the assessment data for this ordinance's critique.

And noticeably, Mr. Robert Belmore's steadfast adherence to the proper parliamentary procedures, with him calling out for the required public hearing for this ordinance and not rushing to judgment without any forethought or public input.

Ultimately, it is still this council membership that provides the final judgment on how the passage of this ordinance will occur.

Surely, our most elderly citizens are worth more than a quick wave of the hand with only a two cent raise in our property tax rate.

Respectfully-
Bill Connor
Conservative Democrat.

June 15, 2021

To: Robert Belmore/Somersworth City Council Reference: Cemetery Road Reconstruction

We are again asking for consideration of extending the sewer line to the Maple Street end of Cemetery Road. We heard at the last council meeting of the federal government ARPA funds for water and sewerage use of \$1,200,000.00. We are hoping that the city will find it possible to allocate some of this free money to finish this project the right way!

This is not just about improving the connection for our two houses but also making it possible for the two other houses on Cemetery Road that are on septic systems to connect. There is also a house on the corner of Maple Street whose septic system is on the Cemetery Roadside. This makes three new connections and improves the connection for the two of us.

The extension would also make it possible for at least three homes on Maple Street to have the possibility to connect in the future.

So, in total we are talking about a total of eight homes impacted by this long-term decision.

Certainly, a decision equal to spending it all on Constitutional Way and doing this complete street project the right way.

Edward Fuller Paul Vallee

PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND DISPOSAL THEREOF BY REFERENCE OR OTHERWISE

There were none.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayors Report for City Council Meeting June 21, 2021

Juneteenth Speech

On January 1, 1863 two years into a Civil War which would cost our nation 620,000 lives, President Lincoln took a long overdue historic step, issuing the Emancipation Proclamation declaring;

“that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free”.

While the issuing of the Proclamation essentially ended slavery, the Union forces would have to battle through two more years of our nations bloodiest conflict before the proclamation would becoming a reality.

On April 9th, 1865 Gen. Robert E. Lee Commander of the Confederate forces surrendered at Appomattox Court House ending the 4-year bloody conflict. June 19th, 1865 two months after the ending of the Civil War Gen. Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston Texas, spreading the news to all enslaved Africa Americans that they were now free. It had been over two and a half years since Lincoln had issued the Emancipation Proclamation, two and a half years that continued to claim hundreds of thousands of American lives in a Civil War and deny our African American brothers and sisters their basic human rights and dignity.

Today, we celebrate the commitment of the human spirt and remember the courage of those who fought against the oppression and evil of slavery.

We celebrate the those we were in bondage, who's hope never ceased, that one day they would be delivered from the darkness. We commemorate this moment in history, when the United States

ended one of its darkest stains upon our nation and continued its long journey to deliver the creed that we echoed from Independence Hall on July 4th, 1776.

On Juneteenth 2021, we celebrate with the spirits of the past who on that day broke the chain of human oppression and re-committed ourselves to the cause of moving forward and building a nation where all will be celebrated, honored, and protected. A nation where all will have equal access to the America Dream, to Justice and to Freedom.

Congratulations Somersworth on your first Juneteenth celebration.

Let us continue on the journey to building the America all of us dream of the America we promised the world we would become.

Councilor Witham and I will be meeting with the City Manager over the next week to discuss the best options to ensure our honors and recognizes the new federal holiday.

I was honored to deliver the cities congratulations and best wishes to members of the class of 2021. The guidance I left them that evening is as follows:

The road speaks to us.

Each morning we awaken and begin our daily routines we are part of a never-ending race, constantly battling and trying to gain time. Yet with each sunrise, we gaze upon the clock as our enemy, fighting against it to capture just a few seconds.

The sounds of the Earth coming to life, the birds, the beginning of traffic and the echoes of morning news from our neighbors resonate with us, the start gun of another day in the race of life has begun.

The pace we set for ourselves will deprive us of the wisdom and guidance around us.

Without haste we venture onto the road, we travel at high speed, we erase our thoughts with screaming music, we raise our blood pressure as we battle for seconds, and minutes lost in the lines at Starbucks or Dunkin Donuts. We race to and from, often in a self-inflicted coma, never allowing us to see, or listen to where the road is leading us or what the road is saying.

Each morning, each afternoon, each evening, we click the seatbelt of life, we put our foot on the gas, we move forward, backwards, we turn left, we turn right, foot on the break, lower and rise the window and open the sunroof. We travel, we journey, we arrive, we leave, we drive, yet we never acknowledge, we never listen to what the road is saying to us.

Each of us is the holder of our own set of keys, despite all the internal and external factors and influencers, we turn the key to start our own ignition. We determine when to park, when to accelerate and when to turn in for gas. Despite our studies, the guiding hands from our parents and spiritual leaders, we set the course in our personal GPS system. As that key is turned, the journey begins, the journey continues, with no promises or guarantees. Some of us will reach our destination, others, the journey will be cut short by the forces of nature or our own ill choices. Yet, if we just pause, if we just move the control to neutral and listen, listen to the guiding curves, turns and straight-aways of the road, we may have clearer insight into the lane we have placed ourselves and the end point we strive to reach.

So, awaken with ease.

Look at each second as time lived, not time lost.

Flush out the superficial noises of society, and embrace the voices of nature.

Learn that in silence, the voice of God and our loved ones who have departed us speak to us, they guide us, and they help point us to the road.

And when you enter upon the road, travel with ease, embrace every turn, pothole, and unexpected obstacle. Turn off the radio, drive in silence and listen, listen to “What the Road Said.”

During your middle years as your Principal, we would often take breaks along our journey and listen to the wisdom upon the pages of children literature. As each of you are fully aware, children books are an important aspect of how I guide as an educator and your Mayor. As we reach that moment when you now venture onto your own guided highway, Middle School 8th grade class of 2017 and Somersworth High School class of 2021, my gift to you is the children book entitled “What the Road Said” by Cleo Wade.

(After reading “What the Road Said” by Cleo Wade)

Class of 2021, may the road continue to speak to you, and may you continue to listen. May it be kind to you along your journey and may you return that kindness to all travels you encounter. May the road lead you to happiness, peace and love. And from time to time, may the road return you to where you learned to love, and be kind, your home Somersworth.

Congratulations on your accomplishments; Best Wishes as you continue down the road. May you dedicate part of your travels, continuing to build a state, nation and society based upon the universal theories of equality for all. May happiness, love and the spirit of your ancestors guide you safely towards each discovery and success. May your blood forever run Hilltopper Blue.

Item 12 Nominations, Appointments and Elections:

•Under nominations, appointments and Elections; In accordance with Council Rule 17 Appointments, the follow are being brought forward this evening and placed in nomination; Michelle Mears, Director of Planning & Community Development as the Representative to the Strafford MPO Technical Advisory Committee – term to expire June, 2023

What are the wishes of the Council?

This respectfully concludes my June 21st, 2021 Mayors Report

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Economic Development Committee – Councilor Dumont stated the Committee last met on June 16. They discussed potential wayfinding signs and agreed to have staff do more research on the specifics and return to the Committee with information. Dumont said the Committee also received an update from Manager Belmore that the developer previously interested in Plaza is stepping back at the moment.

Public Works and Environment – Councilor Witham stated the Committee last met on June 15. The Committee discussed the need for repairs or replacement to the Hamilton Street water storage tank. The consensus of the Committee was that the tank needs replacement, however due to the working condition of the tank and the high cost to replace, agreed to replace the roof to buy the City time before preparing a plan to replace the tank completely. Witham stated the Committee also reached a consensus on staff recommendations for the well field on Rocky Hill Road. Well R1 will be left alone, Well R2’s roof will be replaced, and the Committee will wait for additional information before decommissioning Well R3. The Committee also heard an update that BETA is currently undergoing the sidewalk analysis and should be done in the coming weeks. Witham stated the Committee also heard an update on change orders necessary for the work being done on the Waste Water Treatment Plant. After the change order, there is approximately \$12,000 left in the project’s contingency.

Witham stated the Committee voted unanimously to support the agreement with the Lamprey Regional Cooperative by way of a Resolution to the full Council.

Recreation Committee – Councilor Cameron stated the Committee last met on June 16. The Committee discussed potentially installing planters on the bridge between Somersworth and Berwick. She stated the bridge is owned by the City of Somersworth, the State of Maine and the State of New Hampshire (DOT). NHDOT asked for specifications when asked if we could install the planters and the State of Maine said, No. A consensus was reached to come up with a new plan and have Manager Belmore reach back out to the Maine DOT.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

National Guard Building Reuse – Councilor Witham stated the Committee last met on June 15. The Committee learned that the National Guard plans to vacate by the end of June, however, a number of items still need to be removed in addition to paperwork being finalized. The Committee discussed temporary maintenance necessary to include mowing, heating, and plowing. Witham said the Committee also discussed a report from Nobis Engineering on the phase 1 environmental assessment. He stated there were no surprises, but a few items to address. He said the next step is the phase 2 assessment to quantify the items to address and their associated costs. Witham said the Committee plans on beginning discussions on the use of the building by the end of summer.

Planning Board – Councilor Vincent updated Council on a few projects that have recently been before the Planning Board.

Mayor's Monarch Butterfly Pledge – Councilor Gerding briefly gave a few updates to the Mayor's Monarch Pledge between SYC, SAU56, and the City of Somersworth. He mentioned there will be a coloring contest and the group will be distributing milkweed seeds.

Sustainability Committee – Councilor Paradis stated the Committee last met on June 8. She said the Committee discussed NH legislation surrounding Community Power Coalition, the adopt-a-spot program from Forest Glade Cemetery, and organic pesticides and herbicides.

City Manager's Report

Office of the City Manager

TO: Mayor Dana S. Hilliard and City Council Members

FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager

DATE: Friday, June 18, 2021

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, June 21, 2021

Unfinished Business (under Section 14 of Agenda

Ordinances

- A. Ordinance No. 17-21: To Amend Chapter 4, Personnel Rules and Regulations- Compensation Schedule.** Again, the Government Operations Committee and the Finance Committee voted to recommend this Ordinance amendment to the full Council.

- B. Ordinance No. 18-21: Transfer Between Departments.** Again, the Finance Committee voted to support this Transfer Ordinance. Attached is a copy of the latest projection from Finance Director Scott Smith. Staff's recommendation is to amend the transfer amount from \$60,000 to \$80,000.
- C. Ordinance No. 19-21: To Amend Chapter 34, Exemptions and Credits, Section 34.2 Veteran's Property Tax Credit and Section 34.4 Surviving Spouse.** Again, the Government Operations Committee and the Finance Committee voted to recommend this Ordinance amendment to the full Council.
- D. Ordinance No. 20-21: To Amend Chapter 34, Exemptions and Credits, Section 34.1 Elderly Property Exemption.** Again, the Government Operations Committee and the Finance Committee voted to recommend this Ordinance to the full Council.

Resolutions

- A. Resolution No. 38-21: City Council Vote to Adopt the Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices for Maintaining the Furber Memorial Chapel at The Forest Glade Cemetery in Compliance with LCHIP Historic Preservation Funding.** This vote is required as part of the LCHIP Grant funding process.
- B. Resolution No. 39-21: Authorizing 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) to Grant to Perform an Update to the City's Historical Survey Forms.** This Grant continues Staff's efforts to utilize Grant funds to further the mission of the Historic District Commission. Attached is a *red-lined* Amendment to this Resolution's title that I am requesting to accurately reflect the actual Grant funded project.
- C. Resolution No. 40-21: To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Cable Television Franchise Agreement Between the City of Somersworth and Atlantic Broadband, Inc.** Special Counsel, Attorney Kate Miller will be attending Monday's Council meeting to answer any questions you may have. I have requested that the Mayor move this item up in the Agenda in order to release our Attorney early on.

New Business (under Section 15 of Agenda)

Other

- A. Vote to Ratify a 2- Year Tentative Agreement between the City of Somersworth and the New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA) Local #19.** I have attached a "*confidential*" Memorandum that outlines the changes as well as the projected cost for this Tentative Agreement.
- B. Vote to Ratify a 2-Year Tentative Agreement between the City of Somersworth and the Somersworth Professional Administrators Association.** I have attached a "*confidential*" Memorandum that outlines the changes as well as the projected cost for this Tentative Agreement.

City Manager's Items (under section 11 of Agenda)

Informational Items

- A. Cemetery Road Complete Streets Project.** Attached is a summary from Finance Director Scott Smith regarding the project's approved budget. As you can see, we will need Council action at some point to reconcile our project funding needs.
- B. Water Treatment Plant Repair.** Attached is a Memorandum from Public Works Director Mike Bobinsky that provides a summary of this completed repair. The repair budget of \$55,000 was approved by the Council's Finance Committee.
- C. Public Library Improvements.** Attached is a copy of the June 10th kick-off meeting notes with our Consultant Architects, Placework.

Attachments

1. Department Head Reports

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Nominations for Council Confirmation Vote:

- A. Michelle Mears, Director of Planning & Community Development as the Representative to the Strafford MPO Technical Advisory Committee – term to expire June, 2023

Councilor Gerding made a motion to appoint Michelle Mears as the Representative to the Strafford MPO Technical Advisory Committee with a term to expire June, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dumont and passed 9-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

- A. **Ordinance No. 17-21** - To Amend Chapter 4, Personnel Rules and Regulations – Compensation Schedule

Councilor Austin made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 17-21 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

- B. **Ordinance No. 18-21** - Transfer Between Departments

Councilor Witham made a motion to amend Ordinance No. 18-21 changing the amount going from Public Works to the Police Department from 60,000 to 80,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Paradis and passed 9-0.

Councilor Paradis inquired about the reason for the change. Manager Belmore informed her that the amount changed based on the newest projections from the Finance Director. He stated moving the amount to \$80,000 gives us a firmer footing and said that anything not utilized goes back into the unexpended fund balance.

Councilor Witham made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 18-21 as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

- C. **Ordinance No. 19-21** - To Amend Chapter 34, Exemptions and Credits, Section 34.2 Veteran's Property Tax Credit and Section 34.3 Service-Connected Total Disability

Prior to a motion, Councilor Dumont recused himself for reasons regarding his status as a veteran. Dumont inquired about why a recusal may be necessary for him during this item on the agenda. Mayor Hilliard replied recusal is an individual choice based on any conflict or financial benefit.

Councilor Austin made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 19-21 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 8-0 by roll call vote. Councilor Dumont recused himself.

- D. **Ordinance No. 20-21** - To Amend Chapter 34, Exemptions and Credits, Section 34.1 Elderly Property Tax Exemption

Councilor Paradis made a motion to amend Ordinance No. 20-21 to replace the words "a person" under items 1, 2, and 3 in Section 34.1, A to the word "homeowner". The motion was seconded by Councilor Gerding.

Councilor Witham made a motion to rerefer Ordinance No. 20-21 to the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 9-0.

RESOLUTIONS

- A. **Resolution No. 38-21** – City Council Vote to Adopt the Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices for Maintaining the Furber Memorial Chapel at The Forest Glade Cemetery in Compliance with LCHIP Historic Preservation Funding

Councilor Paradis made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 38-21 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

- B. **Resolution No. 39-21** - Authorizing 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 Perform an Update to the City's Historical Survey Forms

Councilor Gerding made a motion to amend Resolution No. 39-21 to replace the words in the title "Perform an update to the City's Historical Survey Forms" with "Provide Educational Workshops". The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham and passed 9-0.

Councilor Gerding made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 39-21 as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

- C. **Resolution No. 40-21** - To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Cable Television Franchise Agreement Between the City of Somersworth and Atlantic Broadband, Inc

Councilor Dumont made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 40-21 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER

- A. Vote to Ratify a Tentative 2-Year Agreement between the City of Somersworth and the New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA) Local #19

The Vote to Ratify a Tentative 2-Year Agreement between the City of Somersworth and the New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA) Local #19 passed 8-0. Councilor Pepin recused himself.

- B. Vote to Ratify a Tentative 2-Year Agreement between the City of Somersworth and the Somersworth Professional Administrators Association

The Vote to Ratify a Tentative 2-Year Agreement between the City of Somersworth and the Somersworth Professional Administrators Association passed 9-0.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

Maggie Roberge updated Council on a few items relating to the Forest Glade Cemetery.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Michaud said, Happy Summer!

Councilor Paradis thanked Ms. Roberge for her updates. She restated her plan to run for Mayor and encouraged people to take this as an opportunity to run for Council. Paradis stated she hopes more women and/or members of the Indonesian community will run, bringing more diversity to the City Council. She said she hopes to address the Capital Improvement Plan, add more money to the arts in the next budget, create an arts commission and housing task force. Paradis said she is running now based on those items because she feels they are urgent matters to address. She added that the Master Plan we have is important to lead us for the next 10 years.

Councilor Austin noted the retirement of Superintendent Gadomski and said he brought a skillset that was desperately needed at the time of his hiring. He said Gadomski was a true asset to the SAU and the Community as a whole.

Councilor Cameron stated her plans to run for another term on City Council. She also mentioned the amount of trash seen while walking trails and hopes to have a trail cleanup day in the near future.

Councilor Dumont mentioned an instance where he saw residents making a catch basin look nicer on their own and thanked them for their efforts. He also spoke to a missing section of sidewalk near the new apartments on Royal Drive and hopes the developer will come back and fix this. Dumont also mentioned the amount of littering he has seen especially on West Alley and thanked those he

saw taking their own time to pick up trash. He thanked Superintendent Gadomski for being a great asset to the Community and School SAU. He said the Superintendent was an integral reason the City and School District continued to have such a great working relationship.

Councilor Gerding thanked Jenne Holmes for her article about the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. He thanked Ms. Roberge for her comments and informed her that he did mention the idea of adopt-a-spot to the Historic District Commission and there is interest in it. Gerding mentioned the food composting program is beginning on July 1 and encouraged residents to bring their food waste to the compost disposal bin at Public Works Department.

Councilor Vincent thanked Ms. Roberge for her updates and asked if Somersworth FD has taken Berwick off of the run card and requested the City Manager get back to him with an answer.

Councilor Witham stated he wished Dr. Gadomski had found us sooner. He helped immensely with the relationship between the School SAU and the City. He said Continental Paving did start work on 7 roads today. Witham also said that the issue of the missing sidewalk at Royal Drive was due to the Flatley Company who, when before the Planning Board in the future, will be asked to rectify the issue.

Councilor Pepin restated he is in favor of extending the sewer line on Cemetery Road and hopes the Public Works and Environment Committee gets the opportunity to look into this issue further.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Michaud made a motion to adjourn the City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gerding and passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Slaven, City Clerk