

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Somersworth, NH
June 19, 2017
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, Sprague, Cameron, and Paradis.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

MINUTES FOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 5, 2016

Councilor Cameron, seconded by Councilor McCallion, made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion passed, 5-0. 2 abstain. Paradis, Soldati.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

Lindsey Gagnon of 10A Maloney St, Ward 1, thanked all who were involved with the amazing weekend. Friday afternoon and evening was rained out and they are planning a celebration. More information will be announced shortly. Saturday, the Children's Festival is starting to regrow life. It is encouraging to see it move forward.

On Sunday, the Food Truck Festival became bigger than they all anticipated. They couldn't have done it without the City and Councilors support. The Police went above and beyond. Those who made this possible, it felt like we were all connected to each other. These events highlight how amazing Somersworth is. Thanks to those who organized and participated in the 2 cleanup days prior to the weekend, to make our city look as good as possible for festival days. She is on a happy high and proud to be a citizen of Somersworth.

COMMENTS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Soldati said she was at the event on Sunday. There were so many people; it was unbelievable. Everything went very well. She commended Lindsey for all of her hard work.

COMMUNICATIONS

Progress update by Vision 2020 Committee

Director Shanna Saunders gave a presentation of the progress of the Vision 2020 Committee. The presentation is attached.

Following the presentation, Councilors asked these questions:

Councilor Pepin asked about synchronization of the traffic lights on High Street and the communication with Dover, and if there has been any communication with Berwick to synchronize the lights through that end of town.

Director Saunders said they have not been in communication with Berwick yet.

Councilor Soldati said the signage for the City looks great, except for the two signs that have the gold leaf. They are difficult to read.

Director Saunders said they are in the process of getting the upgrade to the signs. Councilor Paradis said they are looking into better signage in the future.

Councilor Soldati said signs should also be considered to inform the community that there are 18 parking spots available to the public in the Citizen's Bank parking lot on Constitutional Way.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayors Report for City Council Meeting June 19th, 2017

- What an amazing weekend for an amazing community "On the Move!" Hilltopper pride illuminated throughout our city this past weekend as part of all the weekend festivities. During each event, our cities greatest asset, its citizens and commitment to community continued radiate and be reinforced.

The weekend began with a large turnout of runners and walkers for the 4th annual Hilltop Hustle. City Hall was proudly represented by the City Manager and his wife, the Director of Public Works and my partner and I. Congratulations to all runners and walkers and Special congratulations to my partner, Sean Peschel, for successfully completing his first road race.

The downtown and Nobel Pines were then bustling throughout the day for the Somersworth Internal Children's Festival. As I walked throughout the downtown and Pines I was amazed by the large turnout and participation reflected of the early days of the original festival. The day was truly a family event, highlighting Somersworth's Proud Past, Bright Future and commitment to cultural diversity. I cannot emphasize how proud I am of the festival association for hanging in there and bringing back to life what has been a staple of Somersworth's history.

The weekend concluded with an epic downtown event which drew record numbers of visitors to our Hilltop community again highlighting how we continue as a community to be "On the Move!"

Those who were able to experience the Food Truck and Craft Beer Festival yesterday, not only consumed great eats and top of the line beverages but in the tradition of Yankeeism were able to spend a Sunday afternoon with neighbors and friends. I highlight for me was a comment which was shared with me this morning from a Somersworth resident.

While in line awaiting food the Somersworth citizen had conversation with two residents from Boston visiting Somersworth for the day. Neither Bostonian had ever visited Somersworth and were here to attend the festival. Both Boston went on to comment on how wonderful, kind and welcoming each citizen from Somersworth was who they met. They also commented on how apparent it was the amount of pride the city has and how they welcoming diversity through the display of our flags.

Despite the record number of people at all three events, vendors and beer aside, the true success of this past weekend was highlighting the uniqueness of Somersworth. While our journey towards success and reaching our Vision 2020 goals is far from over. While financially we are still struggling and are only mile 5 in the marathon ahead of us, we have made progress. The closeness and commitment of each citizen to each other and our community shined throughout this weekend. Despite our challenges, despite our differences, we are all Hilltoppers. Our city continues to model what is the most important element of any community, its citizens and their commitment to each other and their community.

Congratulations Somersworth, for showing the entire seacoast and state of New Hampshire how we are “On the Move!” I am so proud to be your Mayor and so proud to call Somersworth my home.

- Congratulations to all members of Somersworth High School Class of 2017. As stated during my speech remember “You were born this way”, be proud of who you are and where you came from. Take pride in all of your accomplishments, best wishes as you continue to work towards your goals, dreams and aspirations. Know that Somersworth will always be home, and may your blood forever run Hilltopper Blue.
- Our commitment to celebrating our diversity and rich history continued this evening with the raising of the provincial flag of Quebec. In honor of the contributions of the French Canadians to our rich Somersworth history, and strengthening ties with our sister city Thetford Mines and welcoming all future visitors from Quebec. The flag of province of Quebec was raised at Citizens Park and will continue waving through St. Jean the Baptiste Day June 24th in Quebec.

Appointments

Under nominations, appointments and Elections; In accordance with Council Rule 17 Appointments, the following are before Council this evening for a confirmation vote.

- Angela Ficco , Re-Appointment as a member of the Conservation Commission with a term to expire June 2020
- Scott Orzechowski , Re-Appointment as a member of the Conservation Commission with a term to expire June 2020
- Dale Smith Kenyon, Re-Appointment as a member of the Conservation Commission with a term to expire June 2020
- Mark Richardson, Re-Appointment as a member of the Planning Board with a term to expire June 2020
- Jason Barry, Appointment as an Alternate member of the Planning Board with a term to expire June 2020 In accordance

This respectfully concludes my June 19th, 2017 Mayors Report

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Government Operations – Councilor Soldati said the committee received an update on personnel from the City Manager. The City is currently interviewing or has given tentative offers for the positions of Economic Development Manager, Highway Foreman, part time Clerk in the Tax/City Clerk office. The City has filled 2 part time maintenance positions; one for the parks and one for the downtown area. There are 2 vacancies in the Police Department.

The Assistant Finance Director, Pam Constance, will be retiring and there will be an open house Thursday 1-3, open house.

The Committee entered into nonpublic session at 5:20pm.

10. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

Special Committees

Sustainability Committee – Councilor Soldati reported that the committee created the tree replacement policy, as part of the work to become a tree City. This policy went on to the Conservation Commission to take up those duties.

The Cooperative Extension Program had a birds and bunnies day. The New England Cottontail is endangered in New Hampshire. The State has been preparing property to become a sanctuary for the New England Cottontail. Somersworth has been asked if we could designate part of Malley Farm for the New England Cottontail.

Vision 2020 – Councilor Paradis said the next meeting Thursday August 17th.

School Board – Councilor Pepin said they saw a presentation of the students about the school. He was happy to see the enthusiasm of the students. Somersworth Youth Connection had a 5 year grant, which is no longer being supplied by the State. They only have one more year to function. This is a program that is needed in Somersworth. A lot of these students have nobody to go home to. He hopes we can still continue this after next year.

Being the end of the school year, they have had to use some funds from the non-capital reserve fund and utilize it for some of the funds that are over. Federal Medicaid is supposed to fund over \$105,000; some of the money will not be there. There is concern that they will need more funds. He is concerned that the non-capital fund was created for people with disabilities; the school department was taking funds from regular education. They used 100K out of the capital reserve fund. If they deplete it this year, they will be short next year. He understands why it was done, but doesn't understand that it should have to be done that way. Some things have been cut out of the budget and they shouldn't have been. The fund will end up being depleted. He is frustrated that the Resolution 4609 would be used that way.

Currently, Regular education is \$183,000 in the red. He said he is not talking bad about the school department. They did what they had to do to be under the tax cap.



CITY OF SOMERSWORTH
Office of the City Manager

TO: Mayor Dana Hilliard and City Council Members

FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager

DATE: Thursday, June 15, 2017

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, June 19, 2017
City Council Agenda

6:30 p.m. Non-meeting
Re: - Labor Union Negotiations.

6:45 p.m. Public Hearing
Re: Ordinance No. 22-17 Supplemental Appropriation for Water Main Improvements
Associated
with the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Road Improvement Projects.

Unfinished Business (under section 13 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. Ordinance No. 20-17 To Adopt New Section in Chapter 6 City Officials, Titled – Section 6.11 Joint Commission: City Council & School Board.** Again, this Amendment will codify this recently established Commission.
- B. Ordinance No. 21-17 Transfer Between Departments.** Again, the Finance Committee voted to support the Transfers. General Fund projections indicate a need to transfer funds to the Public Works Department primarily to cover winter storm maintenance costs. The other transfer is to cover a possible need in legal expenses. Finally, this is basically an annual housekeeping action item: that is, the City Charter allows the City Manager to transfer funds within a Department, however, it takes Council action to transfer funds between Departments. Please note – the General Fund will end the year in black at approximately \$400,000.

- C. Ordinance No. 22-17 Supplemental Appropriation for Water Main Improvements Associated with the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Road Improvement Projects.** Again, the Finance Committee and Public Works & Environment Committee both voted to support this appropriation and associated work.
- D. Ordinance No. 23-17 Amending Chapter 4, Personnel Rules & Regulations Compensation Schedule.** Again, the Government Operations Committee and Finance Committee both voted to support a 3% COLA across the board wage adjustment for non-union employees covered under the City's Personnel Rules & Regulations. This action, if approved, would carry over to provide members of the Water/Wastewater Union the same COLA increase to their pay scale. This CBA/Union Contract has language that provides for wage adjustments in accordance with the City's Personnel Rules & Regulations as may be approved by the City Council.

Resolutions

- A. Resolution No. 45-17 To Authorize The City Manager to Contract With Corcoran Consulting Associates Inc., of Wolfeboro, NH for Assessing And Data Collection Services.** Again, the Contract was the result of a joint RFP process with the Cities of Dover and Rochester. The initial Contract bid amount has been negotiated down, however, the fees still come in at an amount greater than the FY 2018 budgeted amount (contract = \$86,000; budgeted \$78,500).

New Business (under section 14 of Agenda)

Other

- A. Vote to ratify a Tentative Agreement for a Wage Modification to the Wage and Working Agreement between the City of Somersworth and the New England Police Benevolent Associations (NEPBA) Local #19.** This Agreement is still current through June 30, 2019. The wage modification will adjust the wages for years two and three of this three (3) year contract, the first year now being completed. I have attached a "*confidential*" memorandum regarding this Agreement.
- B. Vote to ratify a Tentative Agreement for a one (1) Year Wage and Working Agreement between the City of Somersworth and the Somersworth Public Administrators Association (SPAA) affiliated with International Union of Public Employees, Inc. (IUPE).** This Agreement, if approved, will be for one (1) year, from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. The present contract expired June 30, 2016. I have attached a "*confidential*" memorandum regarding this recommended Agreement.

- C. Vote to reconsider Resolution No. 48-17 To Authorize the City Manager to Order One 6-Wheel Dump Truck for the Department of Public Works Which Will Be Funded by a Lease Purchase Arrangement. (Requested by Councilor Martin P. Dumont Sr.)**

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

A. Informational Items.

- 1. Stein Park.** The City extended an invitation to several local businesses inviting them to attend an evening meeting on Thursday, June 22nd at 6:00 p.m. to join together in a partnership to complete the City's vision for improvements to Stein Park. It has been posted as a City Council special meeting per Mayor Hilliard.
- 2. CMAQ Grant Application.** The City received notification that CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation Air Quality) Program funding is available. The deadline to submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) is Friday, July 7th. After discussions with Staff, I am authorizing a LOI be submitted on a project to provide signal system optimization along our High Street corridor. This would include the replacement of several of our signal cabinets that are old and prone to failures. I want to also point out this Grant requires a 20% local funding match.

Staff will contact the City of Dover to explore a regional approach to expand the project scope to include Dover's signals through Weeks Crossing and out to the Spaulding Turnpike Interchange. Finally, attached is a copy of the CMAQ notification email and some explanation about eligible Grant projects.

B. Attachments.

- 1. Department Head Reports**

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Mayoral Nomination – For Council confirmation vote (Introduced June 5, 2017).

Angela Ficco – Re-appointment as a member of the Conservation Commission, with a term to expire June 2020.

Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Paradis, made a motion to approve the nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

Scott Orzechowski - Re-appointment as a member of the Conservation Commission, with a term to expire June 2020.

Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to approve the nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

Dale Smith-Kenyon – Re-appointment as a member of the Conservation Commission, with a term to expire June 2020.

Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor McCallion, made a motion to approve the nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Richardson - Re-appointment as a member of the Planning Board, with a term to expire June 2020.

Councilor Cameron, seconded by Councilor Soldati, made a motion to approve the nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

Jason Barry – as an Alternate Member of the Planning Board, with a term to expire June 2020.

Councilor Dumont, seconded by Councilor Messier, made a motion to approve the nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinances

ORDINANCE NO. 20-17 TO ADOPT NEW SECTION IN CHAPTER 6 CITY OFFICIALS, TITLED - SECTION 6.11 JOINT COMMISSION: CITY COUNCIL & SCHOOL BOARD.

Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Dumont, made a motion to approve Ordinance 20-17. The motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-17 TRANSFER BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS.

Councilor Dumont, made a motion, seconded by Councilor Cameron, to amend Resolution 21-17, by transferring an additional \$10,000 from Development Services to Public Works, to cover winter storm maintenance costs. Motion to amend passed unanimously.

Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to approve Ordinance 21-17. The motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 22-17 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

Councilor Paradis, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to approve Ordinance 22-17. The motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-17 AMENDING CHAPTER 4, PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, COMPENSATION SCHEDULE.

Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-17. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION NO. 45-17 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH CORCORAN CONSULTING ASSOCIATES INC., OF WOLFEBORO, NH FOR ASSESSING AND DATA COLLECTION SERVICES.

Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Paradis, made a motion to approve Ordinance 20-17. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Other

Vote to ratify a Tentative Agreement for a Wage Modification to the Wage and Working Agreement between the City of Somersworth and the New England Police Benevolent Associations (NEPBA) Local #19.

The vote passed, unanimously, by voice vote.

Vote to ratify a Tentative Agreement for a one (1) Year Wage and Working Agreement between the City of Somersworth and the Somersworth Public Administrators Association (SPAA) affiliated with International Union of Public Employees, Inc. (IUPE).

The vote passed, unanimously, by voice vote.

Vote to reconsider Resolution No. 48-17 To Authorize the City Manager to Order One 6-Wheel Dump Truck for the Department of Public Works Which Will Be Funded by a Lease Purchase Arrangement. (Requested by Councilor Martin P. Dumont Sr.)

Councilor Pepin seconded the motion to reconsider.

Councilor Dumont explained that when he voted no on this Resolution at the last meeting, it wasn't directed at the truck, but at the process. When this resolution was presented at the last meeting and Council Rules were waived for a second vote, he did not have knowledge of the truck and didn't have time to do any research. When we come to a meeting, we never had the information to evaluate. He felt that it wasn't that he didn't want the truck or to get into the queue early, we were just running things through very quickly. We should vote with the knowledge that it is the right thing for the community.

Councilor Pepin said at the last council meeting we said we had no information, but it was a CIP item. The information was in there and we approved the line item. He met with those on the Public Works Department and in the Committee. He wished it was more in the conversation at the last meeting.

Councilor Cameron said she felt less informed and not knowledgeable at the previous meeting. She has listened to some more feedback since then and feels more educated tonight.

The motion to reconsider passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

Councilor Dumont, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to approve Resolution 48-17. The motion passed unanimously.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Pepin thanked the workers who put the weekend together. Many contributed and they all did an outstanding job.

Councilor Soldati said she forgot to mention the Farm to School Program. It is an extensive report. She will save it for the next meeting.

Councilor Dumont announced the trip to Thetford Mines. The dates of the trip are Aug 18, 19, and 20. Those who are interested, can sign up through email, mdumont57@comcast.net or at City Hall in the City Manager's office. A deposit of \$150 will be required at the time of the registration. Full cost of the trip depends on how many people show up. It is the 125th year celebration, and music festival.

It is a wonderful thing with the bunnies at Malley Farm. When he was young, it was the best hunting area in the state.

There is no 'I' in 'TEAM'. This past weekend is a demonstration of a TEAM. He added his appreciation for being a Hilltopper. The whole City jumped on board with the vision of a few. The end result was, we put together one hell of a weekend. All of services, Ambulance, Police, Fire, Public Works, the School System, volunteers from all over the place. He was very proud and happy for the Chamber of Commerce. He talked to the director of Apple Harvest, Market Square days, and has heard many good comments. It is hard to unwind after a weekend like that.

Councilor McCallion was truly amazed all weekend. Fire, Police, Public Works; there were all doing all they could do to helped out. He was carding people for a while and saw lots of out of state ID's. He has attended other Food and Beer Truck Events and this one was amazing.

Councilor Messier said Vision 2020 has done a great job. It's amazing that some of these recreations spaces are within our community. He was impressed with the adult festival. This is great for Somersworth, its great that we have things like this. It would be nice to get other local business to help out as well.

Councilor Cameron said she has been involved in many activities, graduation, food truck festival, a lot of communication back and forth. Appreciates what all of the volunteers did. She has been involved for 27 years. She gave her condolences Sue Gregoire, whose son passed away this morning.

Councilor Paradis said thanks to the Recreation Department for their quick recovery of the basketball hoop. She congratulated the class of 2017. The Mayor's speech during the graduation was very encouraging. Congratulations to Recreation Supervisor, Kristen Ducharme on her wedding over the weekend.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Dumont, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Trish Harris, City Clerk

Dana Hilliard, Mayor