

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Somersworth, NH
February 20, 2018
7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by His Honor, the Mayor, Dana S. Hilliard, and upon roll call the following Council members were present: Pepin, Vincent, Dumont, McCallion, Messier, Witham, Sprague, and Cameron. Councilor Levasseur entered at 7:03pm.

Councilor Pepin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

MINUTES FOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON February 5, 2018

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

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

John Doyle of 28 Hawthorne Circle, introduced himself. He is a writer for Fosters and will be covering the City Council and City of Somersworth. He has lived in Somersworth for 9 years and was a sports reporter in starting 2004. Many may have seen him all around the seacoast on fields and courts. He looks forward to covering this council and this fine city. As Joseph Foster said at the founding of the Fosters Daily Democrat, in 1843, "Nothing serves the community better than a vibrant newspaper."

COMMENTS BY COUNCILORS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

None

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND DISPOSAL THEREOF BY REFERENCE OR OTHERWISE

None

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayors Report for City Council Meeting February 20th, 2018

- My heart and soul aches with the loss of young lives we have again experienced as a nation. In 51 calendar days this nation has experienced 19 acts of school shootings, averaging to 3 per week. The hope of any society rest in the dreams of their next generation. To continue to allow the safety of our most precious resource,

to fall victim to political discourse and discontent is nothing short of criminal. While both sides of the aisles wrestle in Washington and State Capitals throughout this nation, and refuse to work together as a united nation to address the issues of mental health and gun control, parents continue to bury the fabric of their existence, their sons and daughters.

It is the fault of both parties and their inability to move beyond person egos and partisan politics which has and will continue to result in the deaths, deaths of young Americans. We live in a nation where the President can instruct the Pentagon to plan and find financial resources to plan a North Korean style military parade, yet continue to shelve the need of applying resources to the cities and towns that are in desperate need of addressing the social emotion and physical safety needs of their youth. A nation where fortification of schools are the norm rather than address the deterioration of the society which has led to it.

We lower the flags again, run news cycles of young men and women being carried to their graves and hope it does not happen again, rather than demanding this insanity stop, by those who we have entrusted and pay, craft and adopt and fund the policies which will protect our child. No parent should have to wonder while they are stuffing their child's lunch box in the morning if that will be the last time they see them. No teacher while developing their classroom lesson should ever have to ponder if it will be there last. Yet, this is the current state of our great nation, we have become a society of the fearless, to living in a society of the fearful. We have become a nation of hope, to a nation which extinguishes hope, by allowing the butchering of its young men and women in the hallways and classroom built to direct them towards their defined futures.

The enagement which all of us should have towards those who are in positions to address this crisis should be immeasurable. Shame. Shame on each and every one of you who have sat in the halls of Congress through every school shooting since Columbine in 1999 and have allowed more students to die.

Shame on each of you, who drive to a state capital each day and are more concerned with party ideology on taxation, then suppling the cities and towns with the needed resources to address this problem. Shame on all of you, for allowing our teachers and students to become targets and the lifelong mental distressed you have inflicted upon the families who have lost love ones, and the first responders who witnessed battle ground casualties at a school.

The root of this nation was built upon hope. Hope for equality, hope for liberty, hope for pursuing ones dreams. When we allow those who are wrapped in the cloak of self- interest, to continue to use weak centered arguments as to why we cannot move forward with solutions, then we have begun the journey of extinguishing liberties light.

America, I will not give up on you. America, I still believe in you and the promise that you offer to each person who believes in you. I will continue to stand, I will continue to work and fight towards the vision of the dreams you offer to everyone. The time has well expired, that all of us must now stand together. Those who have fooled us for years in state capitals and Washington must be replaced. Those who are more concerned with party politics then the lives of each young adult and each

of us, must be replaced with those who are committed to the longevity of this nation.

I will pray to the God of my hope that we will find our strength to resolve the violence inflicted upon our schools. I will pray to the God of my hope that the flag will not be lowered again for the loss of school children. I will pray to the God of my hope, that these United States, will once again become the United States.

- Today, I joined over 200 mayors from across the United States to express their support for the Clean Power Plan (CPP) – an essential public health protection and climate change solution that sets the first ever federal limits on carbon pollution from power plants and helps cities transition to a clean energy economy. The Trump Administration is trying to repeal the CPP in spite of support from mayors, state leaders and state businesses.

In a letter, 233 mayors from 46 states and territories strongly opposed efforts by the Trump administration and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt to dismantle the Clean Power Plan, as it would have devastating health and economic impacts on their communities, including exposing Americans to increased air pollution, worsening climate change, and stronger and more destructive extreme weather events.

States, cities, and businesses across the country are moving forward with clean energy solutions that reduce air and carbon pollution and grow the clean energy economy, creating good-paying American jobs. We understand the economic, environmental and health benefits of clean energy solutions and acutely understand the risks associated with dirty energy sources.

That is why I joined mayors from across America to urge the federal government to provide certainty and support for local government and business by keeping the Clean Power Plan intact, as well as to protect the health and welfare of our communities.

- A packed and insightful Mayor's Community Forum took place last Saturday, with engaging conversation from all who attended. Thank you to all participants. Together as a team, we will keep our great community "On the Move".
- Tonight before Council under other is a discussion for the approval of a joint letter to be sent to members of our legislative delegation opposed the passage of SB193. SB193 the school voucher bill will place an undue burden upon our school system, forcing our public schools to allocated money from their existing budgets to support private schools.

The bill is presented as a school choice bill, but in reality is nothing short of a coupon for those who can afford to send their children to a private school, while leaving struggling families to continue to send their children to underfunded public schools. The improvement of our educational system should continue to be a top

priority for all policy holders. However, the focus needs to central on how we can continue to support public schools, rather than inhibit them. SB193 will be devastating for all communities and will place an unjust burden upon our School Board and City Council. I urge Council to unanimously adopt the letter opposing SB193 this evening.

- 125 years ago the first Mayor of Somersworth Franklin Chase delivered this inaugural address to the city. The words of Franklin Chase hold similar merit today as they did in 1893. As history notes, these words where never recorded in the Cities Annual report and are not part of our official city documents. Tonight 125 years later, I will read the inaugural address of Mayor Franklin Chase, the 1st Mayor of Somersworth, and have it officially recorded into our cities historical documents.

Gentlemen of the City Government:

- **Mayor Franklin Chase 1893**

Called by the suffrage's and partiality of our citizens to the responsible duties of our present positions, it is fitting that we should consider, for a moment, some of the matters that are of concern to us, and briefly lay down certain broad lines of public policy that would seem to be the part of wisdom for us to pursue during the coming municipal year.

There comes an hour in every man's life when he must decide whether he will climb the ladder of advancement to the extent of his full strength, or whether he will be content with "whatever comes his way without any special effort. What that hour is to a person, today is to the city of Somersworth. The example we set, the course we map out for our future advancement of our young, young city will, in all probability, be followed by our successors in office. This being the case, we should move slowly, with due deliberation, and fully mindful of the responsibilities resting upon us.

One of the first duties that will devolve upon the City Councils will be the adoption of rules and ordinances governing the conduct of our official duties, and the several departments of the city government. These should be prepared in a prudent, conservative spirit, and we should be governed in this work by the wisdom, and experience of our sister cities who have similar codes of regulations.

I do not doubt that their experience will be of benefit to us, and see no reason why we should not avail ourselves of it. This matter will encourage your early attention and I bespeak for out the faithful consideration that its importance demands.

City Debt

Our city debt, according to the reports furnished by our City Treasurer and the School Board in District No. 3, is \$77,900.00, the evidences of this indebtedness are placed with our local institutions and the city must pay five per cent interest. Whether the city can fund this debt at a lower rate of interest would seem to be a matter for your careful consideration.

While it is good policy to give our local institutions the legitimate emoluments of the city's business these institutions should not be favored to the detriment of the municipality.

Taxation and Valuation

Complaint is made by our sister cities in the courts that our property is undervalued, and the State Board of Equalization has also called this matter to our attention in a most forcible manner by "dooming" the old town government in the sum of \$10,000.00. Inquiry reveals the fact that the property of which complaint is made, as being undervalued is that of our manufacturing interests.

Every effort must be made to promote the prosperity of the industries in our midst, but we must not stultify by returning false evaluations and having the same brought onto the courts on complaint of other cities in the county. The law is very plain on this matter, and every dollar's worth of property in the city should be taxed on an equal basis. Should there be any exception in this matter, our assessors should lean in favor of the poor man who has only a humble shelter for himself and his family, rather than towards the rich corporations and the mansions of our wealthy residents. A careful investigation of the assessor's book convinces me that this is not the condition today, and I trust that in appointing assessors we will select only square practical business men as, who know the true value of our property today and not be guided by the books of the old boards, or by any design to favor the wealthy at the expense of those less fortunate.

It is just for complaint that today the poor man's property is assessed too high and the rich do not pay their equitable burdens of taxation. This is not the case in Somersworth, but in nearly all the cities and towns throughout the state.

Let Somersworth declare herself in favor of justice to all, but, if partiality is shown, let it be in favor of the poor working man, than the rich capitalist.

Free and Fair Elections

I cannot close without calling your attention to complaints that have reached me regarding the interference of the manufacturing interests to our recent election.

It is claimed that wage workers were intimidated and that several citizens were frightened from the proper exercise of their rights of citizenship.

It is your duty to thoroughly investigate these rumors in the interest of humanity, good government and justice.

If they are found to be true, it is your duty to most respectfully protest against such an outrage to the directors of the guilty corporation and if the protest is unheeded, the remedy is through the strong arm of the law which should be upheld.

No corporation pursues a policy, so vicious, so ignoble, and disgusting, unless it has a definite object in view. If we have such a corporation with us, the taxpayers of the city have a right to know what scheme there is behind the policy and look at us to inform them and to protect their rights by preventing the consummation of any selfish or unworthy purpose. I hold it to be a paramount duty to guarantee to our citizens the full and untrammelled control of their city government without cooperation influence and intimidation, and unless we do this we shall fail in our full duty to the people whose interest we are sworn to protect and serve.

Conclusion

Your labors during the coming year will be arduous and trying. Without experience in the conduct of city affairs it will not be surprising if we all make mistakes.

Having been elected to the head of a form of government to which I was unalterably opposed from expediency, and in common with a large portion of our people, I can show my appreciation of the high honor conferred upon one of my townsmen in no better way than by earnestly endeavoring to the best of my ability to assist in making our new city the shining gem among the constellations of cities of our beloved state. I pledge myself to such endeavor and know that I shall have your earnest support and cooperation.

- I was honored to be joined by Deputy Mayor David Witham, City Manager Bob Belmore as the Cultural Commission showed there support of Team USA by raising the Team USA Olympic flag at citizens place. The flag will continue to wave through Saturday the date of the closing Olympic ceremonies.
- Join me this Thursday February 22nd for great coffee and conversation with Coffee with a Cop. The coffee with a Cop will take place at Aroma Joes located on High Street from 7-9am. Come have a great cup of coffee and conversation with the dedicated members of the Somersworth Police Department.
- The next Mayors Community forum will take place Saturday, March 17th from 9:00 – 10:30 at City Hall. Including in this forum will be Ward 2 City Councilor Ken Vincent and Ward 2 School Board member Matthew Hanlon. 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

Nominations, Appointments and Elections:

- Under nominations, appointments and Elections; In accordance with Council Rule 17 Appointments, the following are being brought for this evening for a Confirmation Vote.
 - Woodard Openo reappointment as a member of the Board of Cemetery Trustees with a term to expire on April 2021
 - Coty Donohue as an Alternate member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment with a term to expire February 2021
 - Shawn Kinneavy as an Alternate member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment with a term to expire February 2021
 - Jameson Small change from an Alternate member of the Planning Board to a full member with a term to expire February 2021

This respectfully concludes my February 5, 2018 Mayors Report

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance Committee – Councilor Witham reported that the committee met on Monday, February 12, 2018.

- There was discussion of the Police Department K9 proposal. City Manager is looking to include a line item in the budget. This will be open to a full council discussion in part of the budget. No action was taken.
- The city was awarded the CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation Air Quality) grant from the NH Department of Transportation, a \$698,750 cost of project to update and synchronize the traffic signals on the High Street corridor. The traffic lights don't function well and don't communicate with each other, leading to stop/start traffic. The city match for this project is \$139,750. There was discussion that funds could come from the Municipal and Transportation Fund, as recommended by City Staff. The committee endorsed this, and will sponsor a resolution to receive the grant.
- They then discussed the consultant contractor for the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance grant for chapel at Forest Glade Cemetery. The grant was for Ground Root Preservation Group to do an assessment of the chapel for any recommendations in terms of repairs and upkeep. It is a \$5,800 grant with a 50/50 split, so the city would need to fund \$2,900, which can be supported by the cemetery's operating budget. The committee endorsed 4-0.
- The committee also had a discussion about the COOP (Continuity of Operations Plan) grant, which is a state grant funded by Homeland Security and Emergency Management. There is no city match other than some in-kind services. The Committee agreed to award that grant to Hubbard Consulting Group, who was recommended by City Staff.
- There was a discussion about the so called utility lock box collection proposal. Basically, water and sewer bill payments would be mailed to a PO Box to be processed. The benefit would be to take away that function from city staff, to free up their time for other responsibilities. The city received a number of proposals from banking institutions. The committee agreed to move forward with Century Bank, at a cost of \$1,760 annually.
- They discussed the reserve fund for the Former Hilltop School Reconstruction Fund. This fund was established in 2012. Some of the money was utilized for architect's assessment and some initial plans. The City no longer owns the property, so there is no need for this fund. The committee agrees to do away with that fund, and the remaining money to go into the City's general fund.
- There was a discussion about the rental of City Recreational Facilities. They can be rented out by corporate groups and by citizens, for various functions. The city takes in approximately \$1000 annually for the rental of these facilities. It was recommended that they take that money and put it into a fund to be used for those recreational facilities.
- Reporting, Finance Director, Scott Smith gave report that the budget is in line, but they are watching the sand and salt. The waste collection was a conversation. Dumpsters are being abused by non-residents and construction. They also have some illegal dumping. City staff was advised to look into this in greater detail.

- There was lengthy discussion about the School Board current budget, revenue short fall, and the FY2019 budget.

Government Operations – Councilor Dumont reported that the committee had meeting scheduled for February 14th, but there was no quorum. The next meeting is scheduled for March 14th at 4:30pm.

Economic Development – Councilor Dumont reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27th at 4:30pm.

Public Safety – Councilor Pepin reported that the next meeting is scheduled for the February 23rd, and they will be discussing the Fire Station.

Public Works & Environment – Councilor Sprague reported that the committee has not met.

Recreation – Councilor McCallion reported that the committee has not met.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

Special Committees

School Board – Councilor Pepin reported that he attended a couple School Board meetings. They have been working hard on the budget. There was a budget presentation and public hearing. The Board had to cut one million from the budget. The budget passed at \$25,826,590. He shared that the School Board hopes Council will endorse sending letters to State Officials regarding SB193.

Joint Commission of City Council and School Board – Councilor Dumont reported that the commission met on February 13th. They discussed the budgetary process and talked more about cooperative merger of services between the school board and the city.

Vision 2020 – Councilor Levasseur reported that the committee met on February 12th at 6:00pm. They discussed their recommended approach to Council for the master plan. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March, 12th.

Plaza Commission – Councilor Dumont reported that the commission met on February 8th. He said they have made strides in the matrix; they have analyzed the 6 main categories of use of the plaza. The committee will be meeting again on the February 22nd, to wrap up the matrix, and to develop the recommendation to the council for presentation in April.

Cultural Commission – Councilor Dumont stated that the Chamber of Commerce will be supporting the trip to Thedford mines. Councilor Cameron reported that the Food

Tasting event will be held on Wednesday, April 18th. They are tying the event in with the 125th celebration. Ticket sales will be pre-sale and at the door.

City Manager's Report



CITY OF SOMERSWORTH
Office of the City Manager

TO: Mayor Dana S. Hilliard and City Council Members

FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager

DATE: Friday, February 16, 2018

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Tuesday, February 20, 2018
City Council Agenda

6:45pm – Public Hearing

**Re: Ordinance 3-18 Amending Chapter 4, Personnel Rules & Regulations,
Section 6. Hiring, Promotion, Transfer and Layoff and Appendix 1,
Assignment of Class to Grade.**

**Ordinance 4-18 Supplemental Appropriation for Engineering Services for
Improvements at the Somersworth Wastewater Treatment Facility.**

Old Business (under Section 13 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. Ordinance 3-18 Amending Chapter 4, Personnel Rules & Regulations, Section 6. Hiring, Promotion, Transfer and Layoff and Appendix 1, Assignment of Class to Grade.** Again, the Government Operations Committee recommends this amendment as presented by the City Manager. The Committee reviewed the structure and pay of comparable positions in various NH and surrounding municipalities and voted to support the establishment of this designation and associated pay.
- B. Ordinance 4-18 Supplemental Appropriation for Engineering Services for Improvements at the Somersworth Wastewater Treatment Facility.** Again,

this Supplemental Appropriation as well as the following Wright Pierce Engineering Contract Amendment was discussed at recent meetings held by both the Finance Committee & Public Works Committee; both Committees voting to support both action items. These actions are also a result of a recent Council workshop where consensus was provided to expand the Wastewater Treatment Facility upgrade several millions of dollars from \$3M plus to \$10M plus. City funding for the contract Amendment is available from available funds in the Sewer (Utility) Enterprise Fund. Just a Note: Funding to complete the actual WWTF improvement is being pursued through the NH State Revolving Fund (SRF).

Resolutions

- A. Resolution 22-18 To Authorize the City Manager to Amend the Contract with Wright Pierce Engineers of Portsmouth, NH to Include Additional Engineering Services at the Somersworth Wastewater Treatment Facility.** In the last Council meeting packet, I had included a Draft copy of the Amendment (No. 1) to the Agreement as well as information provided by the Wright Pierce Engineering Project Team that explains the increase and rationale for it being related to the additional scope of the project.

- B. Resolution 23-18 To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into the Contribution Assurance Program with Primex of Concord, NH for Property and Liability Insurance.** Again, the Finance Committee voted to support this 3-year extended Agreement and CAP Program. I want to point out that the City has been very satisfied with the services provided by Primex that not only includes coverage but an extensive series of safety & risk management prevention training. The training crosses all facets of municipal services and we have taken full advantage of it over the years; it has included police, fire, highway training as well as human resources and legal support.

New Business (under section 14 of Agenda)

Other

- A. Vote to send a Letter of Opposition to State Officials on Potential Impact of SB 193-FN, so-called School Voucher Funding Program.** Attached is a copy of the letter drafted by School Board Chairman Don Austin as well as a copy of the Senate Bill.

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

- A. Informational Items.**

1. **FY 2018-2019 GeoSyntec Contract-Landfill Superfund Site.** In keeping with past practice, without objection, I will be signing the attached Draft Contract Amendment for proposed monitoring work to be done by Geosyntec Consultants as required by the EPA, this would cover FY 2018-2019. This Remedial Action Services contract outlines our compliance obligations in accordance with the existing EPA Consent Decree and Record of Decision (ROD) as well as other work that may be required by the EPA from time to time. Attorney Beliveau has reviewed & approved the Contract language as proposed. The Contract costs and other associated budgeted expenses are split between the City at 50.5% and GE at 49.5%.
2. **Budget Update for Present FY 2018.** I have attached a copy of the projected expenditures for this Fiscal Year. This was a topic of discussion at the last Finance Committee meeting on February 12th. Overall, the General Fund Budget is projected to end in the black, perhaps as much as \$200,000. That said, we still have to “weather” a little more winter. As such, we will need to continue to monitor a few lines such as snow removal.
3. **Upcoming City Council Workshops & Meetings.**

Council Workshops

Saturday, March 24

8:30 a.m. Goal Setting Session

Saturday, March 31

8:30 a.m. Budget Workshop

Special Meetings

Monday, March 12

6:00 p.m. State of the City Address

Monday, April 2

5:30 p.m. City Manager Presents his Proposed FY 2018/2019
Budget

6:00 p.m. Public Hearing on FY 2018/2019 Budget

7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting

B. Attachments.

1. Department Head Reports
2. Plan NH Charrette Final Report

Upcoming Events.

- **Tri-Chamber of Commerce “*Business after Hours*”.** Tuesday, February 20 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Great Bay Community College, 5 Milton Rd, Suite 32, Rochester, NH.
- **Chamber of Commerce “*Business before Hours*”.** Thursday, March 8 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. The City will be hosting Business before Hours in the Council Chambers.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Mayoral Nomination - For Council confirmation vote

- Woodard Openo reappointment as a Member of the Board of Cemetery Trustees, with a term to expire April 2021
Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Levasseur, made a motion to approve the nomination. Motion passed unanimously.
- Coty Donohue as an Alternate member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, with a term to expire February 2021
Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to approve the nomination. Motion passed unanimously.
- Shawn Kinneavy as an Alternate member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, with a term to expire February 2021
Councilor Levasseur, seconded by Councilor Vincent, made a motion to approve the nomination. Motion passed unanimously.
- Jameson Small change from Alternate Member of Planning Board to Member, with a term to expire February 2021
Councilor Cameron, seconded by Councilor Levasseur, made a motion to approve the nomination. Motion passed unanimously.

LAY ON THE TABLE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinances

Ordinance 3-18 Amending Chapter 4, Personnel Rules & Regulations, Section 6. Hiring, Promotion, Transfer and Layoff and Appendix 1, Assignment of Class to Grade

City of Somersworth – Ordinance 3-18

History

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|---------------------|----|
| First Read Date: | 02/05/2018 | Tabled: | NA |
| Public Hearing: | 02/20/2018 | Removed From Table: | NA |
| Second Read: | 02/20/2018 | | |

Action

Councilor Messier moved for adoption, seconded by Councilor Levasseur.

Discussion

None

| Voting Record | | YES | NO |
|----------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| Ward 1 Councilor | Pepin | X | |
| Ward 2 Councilor | Vincent | X | |
| Ward 3 Councilor | Dumont * | X | |
| Ward 4 Councilor | McCallion | X | |
| Ward 5 Councilor | Messier | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Witham | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Sprague | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Cameron | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Levasseur | X | |
| TOTAL VOTES: | | 9 | |
| On 02 / 20 /18 | | Ordinance 3-18 | PASSED |

Ordinance 4-18 Supplemental Appropriation for Engineering Services for Improvements at the Somersworth Wastewater Treatment Facility

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|--------------------------------------|
| City of Somersworth – Ordinance 4-18 |
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| History | | | |
|------------------|------------|---------------------|----|
| First Read Date: | 02/05/2018 | Tabled: | NA |
| Public Hearing: | 02/20/2018 | Removed From Table: | NA |
| Second Read: | 02/20/2018 | | |

| Action |
|--------|
|--------|

Councilor Witham moved for adoption, seconded by Councilor Messier.

| Discussion |
|------------|
|------------|

Surrounding Community Rate Comparison – Current Rates:

| | <u>Water/Unit</u> | <u>Sewer/Unit</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Somersworth | \$4.40 | \$6.05 |
| Dover | \$4.98 | \$8.52 |
| Rochester | \$5.29 | \$6.52 |
| Portsmouth < 10 Units | \$4.15 | \$12.73 |
| Portsmouth > 10 Units | \$5.00 | \$14.00 |

| Voting Record | | YES | NO |
|---------------------|----------------|----------|----|
| Ward 1 Councilor | Pepin | X | |
| Ward 2 Councilor | Vincent | X | |
| Ward 3 Councilor | Dumont | X | |
| Ward 4 Councilor | McCallion | X | |
| Ward 5 Councilor | Messier | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Witham * | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Sprague | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Cameron | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Levasseur | X | |
| TOTAL VOTES: | | 9 | |
| On 02/20/2018 | Ordinance 4-18 | PASSED | |

Resolutions

Resolution 22-18 To Authorize the City Manager to Amend the Contract with Wright Pierce Engineers of Portsmouth, NH to Include Additional Engineering Services at the Somersworth Wastewater Treatment Facility

City of Somersworth – Resolution 22-18

History

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|---------------------|----|
| First Read Date: | 02/05/2018 | Tabled: | NA |
| Public Hearing: | NA | Removed From Table: | NA |
| Second Read: | 02/20/2018 | | |

Action

Councilor Pepin moved for adoption, seconded by Councilor Cameron.

Discussion

None

| Voting Record | | YES | NO |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Ward 1 Councilor | Pepin | X | |
| Ward 2 Councilor | Vincent | X | |
| Ward 3 Councilor | Dumont | X | |
| Ward 4 Councilor | McCallion | X | |
| Ward 5 Councilor | Messier | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Witham | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Sprague * | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Cameron | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Levasseur | X | |
| TOTAL VOTES: | | 9 | |
| On 02/20/2018 | Resolution 22-18 | PASSED | |

Resolution 23-18 To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into the Contribution Assurance Program with Primex of Concord, NH for Property and Liability Insurance

City of Somersworth – Resolution 23-18

History

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|---------------------|----|
| First Read Date: | 02/05/2018 | Tabled: | NA |
| Public Hearing: | NA | Removed From Table: | NA |
| Second Read: | 02/20/2018 | | |

Action

Councilor Pepin moved for adoption, seconded by Councilor Levasseur.

Discussion

Councilor Witham recused himself from this discussion and vote.

| Voting Record | | YES | NO |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Ward 1 Councilor | Pepin | X | |
| Ward 2 Councilor | Vincent | X | |
| Ward 3 Councilor | Dumont | X | |
| Ward 4 Councilor | McCallion | X | |
| Ward 5 Councilor | Messier | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Witham | | |
| At Large Councilor | Sprague * | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Cameron | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Levasseur | X | |
| TOTAL VOTES: | | 8 | |
| On 02/20/2018 | | Resolution 23-18 PASSED | |

NEW BUSINESS

Other

Vote to send a Letter of Opposition to State Officials on Potential Impact of SB 193-FN, so-called School Voucher Funding Program

Councilor Witham said this is an awful bill and will negatively impact the schools. Only question is, the school board drafted the letter, should the City Council send a separate letter, two is more than one. He recommends sending two separate letters to state officials.

Councilor Sprague asked who the letters are being sent to.

Mayor Hilliard said they will be sent to the governor, state senator, our legislative delegate members.

Councilor Sprague said they should also be sent to the Speakers office, president of the Senate, to the representatives in our delegation.

Councilor Vincent agreed that two separate letters would be more fuel. He opposes this bill. This will make it very hard for the schools to budget.

Witham, in addition to the governor, it is being studied by the finance committee to view the fiscal impact.

Councilor Sprague explained that it is a 2 committee bill, (Finance Committee and Ways and Means) and should be sent to the full finance committee as well.

Councilor Dumont stated that he is against the bill. This is an over-reach of the proposal by this type legislation to pass the burden to the municipalities and towns. The state has passed down a lot of the responsibility to the cities and towns.

With no objection, 2 letters will be sent, one from the School Board, and one from the City Council, to the members of the full legislative delegation, State Senator, the members of the finance committee, the speaker of the house, the senate president, and the governor's office.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

None

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Vincent congratulated Councilor Sprague for running for election for County Commissioner; he did not win the position, so we get to keep him in the State House. He said he was reviewing the minutes from the recent finance committee meeting, he read a quote from Councilor Sprague, "about how big box stores have come into the City and have added lanes of traffic and pedestrian signals. But now the City has to pay the upkeep and put in the budget which is costly. He suggested that the City look closer at this type of development and consider how the developers can better share in the costs associated

with increased traffic and pedestrian signals, not just at the start of their project but include requirements on maintaining the signals.” Councilor Vincent said he agrees 100%, companies come in and we are left holding the bag.

Congratulations to Paul Robidas; American Ambulance won an award for excellence. Three years ago, he stood here in support of American Ambulance. He took a lot of heat for that, but it was worth. Keep up the good work.

He had a general question about the agenda. When we talk about new business, is it prearranged?

Councilor Vincent said he has had concerned constituents talk to him regarding the Police Department sign. The sign is at ground level and illumination is on ground level, it is poorly illuminated if blocked with grass or snow

The Mayor replied that New Business is generally set with ordinances and resolutions. Other issues should be brought up at committee meetings.

Councilor Dumont thanked Fosters and welcomed new reporter, John Doyle. This little community has been in the paper a lot lately; it is a vibrant community, a business community. This just validates that the Mayor and Somersworth is on the move.

Accolades for American Ambulance are well deserved. They continue to excel and provide for the community. With a 4 min and 11 seconds average response time.

He thanked Councilor Witham for his presentation regarding the fire station at the last meeting. The inaugural celebration on Saturday night was a good event. The band, Acoustic Radio was outstanding.

The Council needs to look hard at the coast bus funding again. We’ve got to help that public transportation system. Many of our residents depend on that transportation. Public transportation was number one factor for the millennials is choosing a community. It is the same with the elderly. He is very proud of the fact that our community has a strong elderly community. Many migrated from Canada or Greece. Elderly can’t carry out the rest of their life, because of a tax burden. Exeter provides and exemption to their elderly. They pass off the abatement from the elderly to the remainder of the community. Need a discussion on this. He knows this isn’t going to happen this budget year. People retire 40-50 years after working at a shoe shop and there is no retirement.

The gun situation is very bothersome, and how it’s evolving. People are losing the perspective of the history of guns in our lives in Somersworth. He doesn’t want to deprive anyone of owning a gun, but owners should be responsible and respectful. Need proper education of care and control of fire arms. One bullet, or one opioid drug; Which is more dangerous, when given to our children. There are a lot of support groups out there. It is time for our community, to take on the mission. He stated that he was very saddened when they heard the lack of attendance at the shooter training. He is confident in the police department, but the community needs to take a stand.

Councilor Witham welcomed Mr. Doyle of Fosters. He gave his apologies to the Mayor for missing the Inaugural Celebrations. He was at the youth basketball tournament. He would like more information on the Zoning Board allowing an Auto Repair shop at the Profile Garage. Even though it is along the lines of the Zoning Ordinance, it seems out of the vision for the area, would like to challenge that as a council.

Today there was news that broke of a threat of violence at the Somersworth High School, as a parent, he received the call from the Superintendent. In society today, there is a

general lack of curtesy and respect, from holding a door, to holding a conversation, even when there are differences of opinion. This is something that is missing.

Councilor Sprague welcomed John Doyle of Fosters. He thanked Councilor/Rep. Vincent for the kind words. He wished the outcome was different but it is what it is. The inauguration was magnificent, in a beautiful building. The 125th Celebration Kickoff at the Museum, was well attended and the musket firing was very loud. Big thank you to American Ambulance; he witnessed a family member being tended to by American Ambulance and the Fire Department. The professionalism of both departments was definitely something to see. He is proud of our Fire Department and American Ambulance. American Ambulance is going above and beyond with A+ service. We are very lucky in this community to have the Emergency Services and providers that we have.

Councilor Cameron welcomed Mr. Doyle of Fosters. She stated American Ambulance was awarded an Accreditation for the Highest Standards, which is a top level acknowledgement. A lot going on in the city this past weekend. Inaugural Ball, basketball tournament and the 125th kickoff celebrations. She looks forward to the planned events coming up in the City. Even though she doesn't have children in school anymore, Kudos to the Police Department and other departments for catching things so quickly.

Councilor Levasseur gave update of what he has been doing in the past month since he was sworn in. He has sat in on several committee meetings, some of which he serves on and some that he does not. He has toured all of the facilities in the school system, met some staff and some of the students. He toured the fire department and got to see some throwback pictures of some people on this Council. He gave a "shout out" to Maureen Jackman and Sean Peschel for hosting a wonderful Inauguration event. Also a "shout out" to the 125th Commission for a wonderful kick-off event.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

NONPUBLIC SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Messier, made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Trish Harris, City Clerk

Dana Hilliard, Mayor