

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Somersworth, NH
June 18, 2018
7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

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, Michaud, Witham, Sprague, Cameron, and Levasseur.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

Councilor Pepin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing on the Proposed City Charter Amendment to the Section Entitled, Changes to Ward Boundaries (Article 1.4)
No public comments

Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 10-18 To Amending Chapter 4, Personnel Rules and Regulations - Compensation Schedule
No public comments

Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 11-18 Amend Chapter 29 Administrative Code to Assign Office of Assessing to the Department of Finance and Administration
No public comments

Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 12-18 Supplemental Appropriation for Additional Special Education Funding in the Somersworth School Department Budget
No public comments

Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 13-18 Amend Chapter 30, Conduct in Public Parks, Section 2.2 Definitions, and Section 12 City Trails, and Section 13 Dog Waste in Parks
No public comments

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting held on June 4, 2018

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor McCallion, made a motion to approve all items on the Consent Calendar. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCILORS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

None

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND DISPOSAL THEREOF BY REFERENCE OR OTHERWISE

None

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayors Report for City Council Meeting June 18, 2018

- Congratulations to all members of Somersworth High School class of 2018. It was an honor to address all of you Friday night on behalf of our great Hilltop City. The entire community is proud of you and all of your accomplishments. Best wishes as you continue with your daily choices throughout life. Continue to choose wisely as you work towards your dreams and aspirations. Know that Somersworth will always be home, and may your blood forever run Hilltopper Blue.
- This past Saturday was a full packed day, celebrating Somersworth with friends and family. The City Manager and I started with the annual Hilltop Hustle 5k run and walk then proceed to the International Children's Festival where Somersworth's rich cultural diversity was on display. Congratulations to all volunteers and organizers. Your efforts continue to reflect that our 10 square mile community is truly "On the Move!"
- Fantastic Father's Day Sunday at the Second Annual Food Truck Festival. The Festival filled the downtown area highlighting strong sense of community Somersworth installs. Special thanks to all who participated in making this event a huge success.
- As we officially move into the summer months, the next Mayors Community forum will take place Saturday September 8th from 9:00 – 10:30 at City Hall. Including in this forum will be At – Large City Councilors David Witham and Dale Sprague and At- Large School Board member Don Austin and Kelly Brennan. The purpose of the forums is 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.

Item 12 Nominations, Appointments and Elections:

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

- Amy Howard appointment as the Ward 4 Supervisor of the Checklist with a term to expire on June 2023
- Michael Bobinsky appointment as a Member of the Strafford Regional Planning Commission with a term to expire on May 2020

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

- Pius Murray appointment as the Member of the Board of Library Trustees with a term to expire on June 2023
- Amy Labelle appointment as the Ward 3 Supervisor of the Checklist with a term to expire on June 2023

Finally under nominations and appointments, in accordance with The City Charter I am naming the following Mayoral appointment:

Bill Weiners, Commander of the Catholic War Veterans, as a member of the Veterans Park Commission

Cathy Burns, Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Commander, as a member of the Veterans Park Commission

This respectfully concludes the Mayors report for Monday June 18th, 2018

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Government Operations – Councilor Dumont reported that the Committee met on June 13, 2018. Topics discussed were:

- Reviewed the proposed amendment of the use of the City Seal. Committee agreed to a change
- Wage classifications
- In the process of hiring a City Engineer and Library Director

Public Works & Environment – Councilor Sprague reported that the Committee met on June 8, 2018. Topics discussed were:

- Pike, manhole covers and watergates on Blackwater Road to be replaced as well as the manhole covers on West High Street.
- Road resurfacing specifications, Horne Street to a reclaimed
- CMAQ grant is to upgrade the traffic lights along the High Street Corridor in order to improve traffic flow. This is a matching grant; the City's match will be

\$139,750. It was suggested that the funds be used from the Municipal Transportation Fund.

- Fair Court is the road next to the Stein Park. It has deteriorated. The committee is sponsoring a resolution that Public Works remove the debris, loam and seed, and make that area part of the park.
- Highland Street, at the base of the hill, there was a water break during the winter. There has been a patch there that the City has not taken care of. We ask contractors to do their job, and we should expect the same from City Staff. Councilor Sprague stated that he received memo dated June 5th, stating that repairs will be completed within the next week. This has not been completed. Not sure where the disconnect is with that department. He asked the Mayor to remove him from the Public Works and Environment Committee, because he is not sure what else he can do as a representative. This is June and as a contractor, he would have to have the patch job done in April. There are other things that he has asked for and it is not getting done. Councilor Sprague requested to have every committee meeting recorded and have them archived. Mayor Hilliard referred the topic to the Government Operations.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

Special Committees

School Board Councilor Pepin stated that the Board met on June 12, 2018. They discussed:

- Contract on the buses, doing away with one bus
- Supplemental appropriations, no final figures yet
- Presentation of youth risk

Cultural Commission Councilor Dumont reported that the Commission met on June 6, 2018. The Commission discussed:

- Exchange student program with Thetford Mines.
- New Member, Thomas Poulin, a freshman at Somersworth High School.
- Filming of students of different cultures and backgrounds, "I am a Hilltopper."
- Flag raisings, on June 22, 2018 the Quebec flag will be raised in honor of St. Jean Baptist Day.
- Discussed the flag raising for businesses. Service Credit Union's flag has been raised.
- Flag raising policy is complete and being reviewed by the City Attorney.
- The Gala will be held on November 10, 2018, 7-11pm. The dress code is "Smart Casual."
- The Commission is looking into a Wine, Chocolate, and Cheese tasting in 2019.

Joint Commission of City Council and School Board Councilor Dumont reported that the Commission discussed:

- They have worked well together in trying times. This committee exemplifies the team approach.

- Advised that there is a little change at Stackpole Road, the sidewalk area near the school.

Veteran's Park Commission Councilor Dumont stated that the Commission met on June 18, 2018. The Committee discussed general information about the new Commission, the mission, and ideas for Veteran's Park. The Commission will report back to City Council by March 2019, and hope for a ground breaking on Memorial Day, 2019.

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: Thursday, June 14, 2018

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday June 18, 2018
City Council Agenda

6:45 p.m.: Non-meeting
IAFF Local #2320 Tentative Agreement

Public Hearings (Under Section 3 of Agenda)

- A. Ordinance No. 10-18, Ordinance No. 11-18, Ordinance No. 12-18, Ordinance No. 13-18**
- B. Proposed City Charter Amendment to the Section entitled, Changes to Ward Boundaries (Article 1.4).**

Unfinished Business (Under Section 14 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. **Ordinance No. 10-18: Amending Chapter 4, Personnel Rules and Regulations - Compensation Schedule.** Again, the Government Operation Committee voted to support a 3% Cost of Living Increase (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 Collective Bargaining Unit the same COLA increase to their pay scale.
- B. **Ordinance No. 11-18: Amend Chapter 29 Administrative Code to Assign Office of Assessing to the Department of Finance and Administration.** Again, the Government Operation Committee and Finance Committee voted to recommend this Ordinance change to move the Assessing Office from Development Services to the Finance Department.
- C. **Ordinance No. 12-18: Supplemental Appropriation for Additional Special Education Funding in the Somersworth School Department Budget.** Attached are the suggested *blue-lined* amendments to this Ordinance based on the new revenue number along with an updated copy of a Memorandum provided by Superintendent Lori Lane.
- D. **Ordinance No. 13-18: Amend Chapter 30, Conduct in Public Parks, Section 2.2, Definitions and Section 12 City Trails and Section 13 Dog Waste in Parks.** Again, the Recreation Committee voted at their May 29th meeting to recommend these Ordinance changes.

New Business (Under Section 15 of Agenda)

Resolutions

- A. **Resolution No. 39-18: To Authorize the City Manager to Contract with Pike Industries of Belmont, NH to Pave a Portion of West High Street from Maple Street to Cemetery Road and Replace Manhole Covers on West High Street and Blackwater Road.** The Public Works & Environment Committee met on Friday, June 8th and voted to recommend this action item to the full City Council. The Finance Committee also voted previously to support waiving our bid requirements to sole source the repaving on West High Street with Pike Industries, Inc. Attached is a copy of the contract quote from Pike and a Memorandum from Public Works Director Mike Bobinsky. The cost to purchase the manhole covers is not to exceed \$16,500 and this money will be funded from the Sewer Fund.
- B. **Resolution No. 40-18: To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Project Agreement with the US Environmental Protection Agency for a Brownfields Clean-Up Grant Award.** Attached is a copy of the Award notification letter to the City. The City Council appropriated \$20,000 in this year's Fiscal Budget towards our match, which we will encumber. There is a possibility that we may not need all of the \$200,000 therefore we can monitor any further match needed as the Project unfolds.

Other

- A. Vote to Ratify a Tentative Multi-Year Agreement between the City of Somersworth and Somersworth Firefighters, Local# 2320, IAFF, from June 18, 2018 to June 30, 2021.** Attached is a “*Confidential*” Memorandum from our Labor Counsel Tom Closson, Esq. regarding the negotiated terms of the Tentative Agreement with the Somersworth Firefighters Union.

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

A. Informational Items.

- 1. NH DOT Road Safety Audit (RSA).** Attached is a copy of a letter from DOT Safety Engineer Michael Dugas regarding the State moving forward with safety improvements to Route 16B and Blackwater Road intersection.
- 2. Presidential Disaster Declarations.** On June 8th President Trump declared two (2) disasters in the State of New Hampshire. The City had responded to the State with preliminary costs incurred to handle the March 13th severe winter storm which was approximately \$58,000. Staff will be attending applicant briefings to fine tune the costs and to submit our request for public assistance reimbursements.

B. Attachments.

- 1. City Attorney Certifications Two (2)**
- 2. Department Head Reports**

Calendar Reminders

Friday, June 15

- 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Somersworth International Children’s Festival
Somersworth High School Pavilion

Saturday, June 16

- 8:30 a.m. Hilltop Hustle 5K Road Race Somersworth High School
- 10:0 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Somersworth International Children’s Festival -
Main Street/Downtown

Sunday, June 17

- 11:00 a.m. Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting (Food Truck
Festival)
Gate 1-Constitutional Way/High Street
- Noon – 5:00 p.m. The 2nd Annual Seacoast Food Truck & Craft Beer
Festival
Downtown Somersworth

Thursday, June 21

- 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Salmon Falls River Chemical Spill Full Scale Exercise
Somersworth Water Treatment Facility & Mast Point Dam Recreation Facility

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Nominations Requiring Council Approval:

Amy Howard, as the Ward 4 Supervisor of the Checklist, with a term to expire June 2023

Michael Bobinsky, as a member of the Strafford Regional Planning Commission, with a term to expire, May 2020

These nominations will remain open until the July 23, 2018 City Council Meeting.

LAY ON THE TABLE

Nominations Requiring Council Approval:

Pius Murray, as a member of the Board of Library Trustees, with a term to expire June 2023

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor McCallion, made a motion to approve the nomination. The motion passed, unanimously, 9-0.

Amy Labelle, as the Ward 3 Supervisor of the Checklist, with a term to expire June 2023

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Vincent, made a motion to approve the nomination. The motion passed, unanimously, 9-0.

Mayoral Appointments:

Bill Weiners, Commander of the Catholic War Veterans, as a member of the Veteran's Park Commission

Cathy Burns, Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Commander, as a member of the Veteran's Park Commission

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinances:

<p align="center">City of Somersworth ORDINANCE 10-18 AMENDING CHAPTER 4, PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS - COMPENSATION SCHEDULE</p>
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History			
First Read Date:	06/04/2018	Tabled:	NA
Public Hearing:	06/18/2018	Removed From Table:	NA
Second Read:	06/18/2018		

<p>Action</p> <p>Councilor Pepin moved for adoption, seconded by Councilor Cameron</p>

<p>Discussion</p> <p>None</p>

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	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham	X	
At Large Councilor	Sprague	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Levasseur	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On 06/18/2018 Ordinance 10-18 PASSED			

<p align="center">City of Somersworth</p> <p align="center">ORDINANCE 11-18 AMENDING CHAPTER 29 ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TO ASSIGN OFFICE OF ASSESSING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION</p>

History			
First Read Date:	06/04/2018	Tabled:	NA
Public Hearing:	06/18/2018	Removed From Table:	NA
Second Read:	06/18/2018		

Action

Councilor Witham moved for adoption, seconded by Councilor McCallion.

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	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham	X	
At Large Councilor	Sprague	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Levasseur	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On 06/18/2018 Ordinance 11-18 PASSED			

City of Somersworth ORDINANCE 12-18 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR ADDITIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING IN THE SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BUDGET
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History			
First Read Date:	06/04/2018	Tabled:	NA
Public Hearing:	06/18/2018	Removed From Table:	NA
Second Read:	06/18/2018		

Action

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor McCallion, made a motion to amend Ordinance 12-18 as follows:

Appropriate ~~\$116,795~~ \$183,284 from unanticipated School Department Revenue and ~~\$295,205~~ \$228,716 from General Fund fund balance as follows:

Original Budget	Amendment	Revised Budget
\$25,725,172	\$ 412,000	\$ 26,137,17

^^^^

Background:

This ordinance appropriates funding to cover a shortfall in special education funding. The unanticipated revenue for the School Department is ~~\$116,795~~ \$125,998 in Medicaid reimbursement and 57,286 in other school revenue.

The motion to amend passed unanimously, 9-0.

Councilor Witham moved for adoption, as amended, seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Discussion

Councilor Witham said he struggled with this a bit. It comes in line with the overall School Department funding, with the shortcomings of current school year budget. Although this ordinance read to address additional funding for Special Education, it is actually funding for the overall school budget as a whole. This body can't dictate what the school will use it for. With every passing week, the number gets more palatable, due in part to the hard work of the staff at the SAU office.

This Ordinance requires a public hearing and requires a 2/3 majority vote of the City Council after the public hearing subject to Section 7.4.1 and .Section 7.7 (A) of the City Charter.

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	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham *	X	
At Large Councilor	Sprague	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Levasseur	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On 06/18/2018 Ordinance 12-18 PASSED			

City of Somersworth – Ordinance 13-18

History

First Read Date:	06/04/2018	Tabled:	NA
Public Hearing:	06/18/2018	Removed From Table:	NA
Second Read:	06/18/2018		

Action

Councilor Levasseur moved for adoption, seconded by Councilor McCallion.


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	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham	X	
At Large Councilor	Sprague	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Levasseur	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On 06/18/2018	Ordinance 13-18	PASSED	FAILED

NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions:

	City of Somersworth – Resolution
	Resolution No: 39-18 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH PIKE INDUSTRIES OF BELMONT, NH TO PAVE A PORTION OF WEST HIGH STREET FROM MAPLE STREET TO CEMETERY ROAD AND REPLACE MANHOLE COVERS ON WEST HIGH STREET AND BLACKWATER ROAD

June 18, 2018

WHEREAS the City of Somersworth’s Capital Improvement Plan recommends road resurfacing streets in the City, and

WHEREAS the State of New Hampshire has contracted with Pike Industries to pave a portion of West High Street from Route 108 to Maple Street, and

WHEREAS the City would like to pave a portion of West High Street from Maple Street to Cemetery Road and there are certain efficiencies and economies of scale to contract directly with Pike Industries in relationship with the State of New Hampshire project, and

WHEREAS Twenty-five (25) manhole covers need to be replaced on West High Street and Blackwater Road in areas under contract with Pike Industries, and

WHEREAS the Public Works and Environment Committee reviewed the paving plan and manhole repairs and determined it is in the best interest of the City to contract with Pike Industries for the paving and manhole cover replacements at a cost not to exceed \$83,975 (Eighty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Five dollars),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to contract with Pike Industries of Belmont, NH to pave a portion of West High Street from Maple Street to Cemetery Road, and replace twenty-five (25) manhole covers on West High Street and Blackwater Road at a cost not to exceed \$83,975 (Eighty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Five dollars) and take any other action related to this project determined to be in the best interest of the City, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to purchase twenty-five (25) hinged manhole covers and frames to be used in the aforementioned project at a cost not to exceed \$16,250 (Sixteen Thousand Two Hundred Fifty dollars).

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> Dale R. Sprague David A. Witham Kenneth S. Vincent	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Resolution 39-18

History

First Read Date:	06/18/2018	Tabled:	NA
Public Hearing:	NA	Removed From Table:	NA
Second Read:	06/18/2018		

Action


Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Vincent, made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow for a second read of Resolution 39-18.

Councilor Witham moved for adoption, seconded by Councilor Levasseur.

Discussion

Councilor Witham stated that the reason for pushing this Resolution through this evening is less about the paving on West High Street, that will dovetail with the State Project, and more about if Pike was able to complete the work on the manholes on Blackwater Road sooner, he would be all about that. It is a familiar lament across the City.

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	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham	X	
At Large Councilor	Sprague *	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Levasseur	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On 06/18/2018 Resolution 39-18		PASSED	

	City of Somersworth – Resolution	
	Resolution No: 40-18	TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR A BROWNFIELDS CLEAN-UP GRANT AWARD

June 18, 2018

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth has received notification of a US EPA Brownfields Clean-up Grant Award for the City in the amount of \$200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Dollars), and

WHEREAS, the City will be responsible for a match of 20% of the project’s costs, such amount being \$40,000. (Forty Thousand dollars), and

WHEREAS, the Grant funds and City funds will be used to complete project activities to include remediation of environmental contamination and hazardous (cVOC) compounds to include tetrachloroethylene (PCE) impacted soil at the former Breton’s Cleaners at 1 Winter Street, a Brownfields identified eligible site,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to execute any documents and agreements necessary for the grant’s acceptance and execution and take any and all other such actions relative to this grant project’s completion determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Request:</i> Councilor David A. Witham	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Resolution 40-18

History

First Read Date:	06/18/2018	Tabled:	NA
Public Hearing:	NA	Removed From Table:	NA
Second Read:	06/18/2018		

Action

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor McCallion, made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow for a second read of Resolution 40-18.

Councilor Levasseur moved for adoption, seconded by Councilor Witham.

Discussion

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	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham *	X	
At Large Councilor	Sprague	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Levasseur	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On	06/18/2018	Resolution 40-18	PASSED FAILED

OTHER

Vote to Ratify a Tentative multi-year Agreement between the City of Somersworth and Somersworth Firefighters, Local# 2320, IAFF, from June 18, 2018 to June 30, 2021

Councilor Witham said he is thrilled that we got to this point. It's been a struggle for both sides. It is a move in a positive direction and he thinks it is fair to all sides. He stated that he is happy that there were added steps for pay increases for senior firefighters.

Councilor Vincent he is in favor of this agreement, however, he wanted to put out a little point of information. Being a retiree, he has been very involved through the state. There are 25 Group 2 (fire and police) retirees that the City has under their system. One of the costs that is really impacting the retirees is healthcare. The cost of healthcare has tremendously increased. When you retire, you still have to pay healthcare. The cost of health insurance never goes down, it keeps increasing, and retirees never get an increase in their retirement funds.

Councilor Dumont said he is in favor of the agreement. He agrees with Councilor Vincent. It is a sad situation. People have the opportunity to retire early, and don't have to work until they are 65 years old. Health insurance costs went from \$80 a month went to \$800 a month. This state at the legislative level needs to get a handle on the state retirement system and how they treat their retirees, especially the Police and Fire. The state has bailed out and put the responsibility on the communities that have to subsidize the errors of the state.

Councilor Levasseur, seconded by Councilor Sprague, requested a roll call vote. The motion for a roll call vote passed, 9-0.

The vote to ratify a tentative multi-year Agreement between the City of Somersworth and Somersworth Firefighters, Local# 2320, IAFF, from June 18, 2018 to June 30, 2021, passed unanimously, 9-0, by roll call vote.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY VISITORS

Michael Spinney stated that he has been employed with the Somersworth Fire Department for 17 years. He thanked the City Council for their unanimous vote to ratify the agreement. It has been a long 6 years. The negotiating team for the City of Somersworth who has sat across the table from the Firefighters Local, sometimes it got dusty and a little muddy for both sides. He is glad that they have reached this conclusion. It turned out positive for both sides.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Pepin thanked the Firefighters for ratifying the contractor. He recognized all of the volunteers for the Children's Festival and the Food Truck Festival. It took a lot of people to make this happen, and without them, we wouldn't get a chance to do this.

Councilor Vincent thanked the Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments for all of their hard work during the events over the weekend. They were all there and present.

Councilor Dumont congratulated the graduates to the Somersworth High School. He congratulated the Festival Association and the Food Truck Festival, and he wished them many more years of success. Regarding the trades and Career Technical Centers, the Joint Commission of City Council and School Board will have a discussion in August. It appears that the Career Technical Center is struggling. Employers in our area have help wanted signs all over the area. The trades in the area are being affected the most. Companies have internships available for high school students, however, the students who are applying for these internships, are not physically capable of the work. They aren't able to stand for 8 hours. Councilor Dumont stated that many of these companies which would pay students to come in and see what it was like, usually offer jobs after graduation, or pay for college classes. He would like to see a program to explore the opportunities in the Tri City.

Councilor Dumont stated that he had a black bear in his back yard this past weekend. To the residents, feeding birds has its down side. He hasn't seen a turkey since the bear has been around. He has learned that he is supposed to bring bird feeders in between April and November. The bear was jumping on the roof of his shed to get to the birdseed.

Councilor McCallion said he would hate to see Councilor Sprague off of the Public Works and Environment Committee. There are other options; we can form a commission to follow up with the Public Works.

He stated that he attended the Somersworth High School Graduation on Friday, Kudos to the school department for working with the City through the Joint Commission and Kudos on the School Department for their transparency. He attended the food truck festival, and he is beaming of how great the city of Somersworth did; everyone working together to make the City a better place.

Councilor Michaud congratulated the Chamber of Commerce and the Festival Association. It was a great festival weekend in the City of Somersworth. He thanked the Public Works, Fire, Police Departments and American Ambulance for all of their work during the festivals.

Councilor Witham commented that the High School Baseball team went on to the semifinals and won, but lost the championship game against White Mountains. The connection is that he interim Superintendent, Lori Lane, was previously with the White Mountains. She was at the game supporting the Hilltoppers. Best of luck to all of the graduates.

He stated that he was at the Somersworth High School graduation at the Whittemore Center as well. He had a child graduating. It was a very nice event.

Councilor Witham stated that he appreciates Councilor Sprague looking out for the best interest of the City, citizens and tax payers, particularly around the issues of Public Works. He has a long list of things he wants them to address as well. Therein lies a bit of the struggle that we have. The Public Works is the department that is required to do this, that, and the other thing; the streets are swept 3 times, risers are delivered throughout the City for the Children's Festival then have to be moved for the Food Truck Festival, etc. The amount of things that we require that department to do, with the very

limited staffing that they have, (6-8 guys), it is taxing. He has learned over the years that the people at Public Works hate to say no. When they say yes to a lot of things and only have a small crew, eventually something doesn't get done. From a management level, I'm sure that the new City Engineer will help with a lot of this, with oversight of projects. At the last Public Works and Environment Committee, he grimaced at the fact that we still pick up leaves and Christmas trees. He is not sure if this is a service that we can continue to provide.

Councilor Sprague said, call a company to pave a ditch. It is really that easy. He suggested that every time we have a new Director of Public Works, that they go through an organizational meeting stating their expectations. He thought we were supposed to get the bid lists out every year. We are also supposed to have paving contractors in line. If you do a ditch in the middle of Main Street, do we really want our staff to do that? They are not qualified to do what other companies are qualified to do.

So whether they are doing Festival barricades, and all of this other stuff, it doesn't mean you done to a road paving patch for four months. It is one thing to not get it done, but don't say you are going to do it and then not do it.

Bears get a lot of their calorie intake from picnic baskets.

To the Fire Department, he is glad that we have come to a resolve. He wished we could have done something sooner. Their work is something that we don't recognize until we need it. He thanked them for what they do for our community. It's nice getting all of the departments on the same (pay) rate. For a lot of them on Council, it is hard on them too, especially when the public thinks we don't want to come to an agreement.

Councilor Cameron said she had a very busy weekend volunteering from the Celebration Night, to the Children's Festival, which she has been involved in for 28 years. She congratulated the Class of 2018. It is the first graduation that she has missed in a while. She also volunteered at the Food Truck Event; she thanked Councilor McCallion for manning gate 3 with her. To the Fire Department and all involved, she is very happy with how things turned out. Thank you!

Councilor Levasseur thanked City Staff for the successful application to the EPA for the Brownfields Grant to clean up the old Bretton's Cleaners. He is glad to see that is going forward. He hopes that this will be an example of how this community is on the move.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Trish Harris, City Clerk

Dana Hilliard, Mayor