

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Somersworth, NH
January 22, 2019
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

City Manager Belmore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. **Ordinance No. 10-19** – To Amend Chapter 4, Personnel Rules & Regulations, Section 7.4.9 Family and Medical Leave Policy
No Public Comments

- B. **Ordinance No. 11-19** - To Amend Chapter 6, City Officials, By Adding New Section, Declaring January as Diversity Month
No Public Comments

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

Richard Brooks, 18 Linden Street stated ‘I would like to offer my sincere apology for comments that I had sent to the Mayor and City Council in response to their discussion during the Dec Council meeting. Those comments included facts that I felt needed to be exposed and discussed, but I also expressed some of my own thoughts and opinions within those comments. Those comments were not endorsed or even necessarily the opinions of the whole HDC and I should not have criticized the overall process, sorry for doing so. Please do not let my poor choice of words negatively influence your opinion of the rest of the HDC or the Historic District in general.

I have lived within 15 miles of this very spot my entire life, and for the last 17 years here in Somersworth. I only want to help move Somersworth forward while preserving the unique small town New England character of our Historic District. I hope to be part of that effort as long as I am a resident of this cool old mill town, but in the future I will focus on facts and positive comments. Thank you for listening and I look forward to working with all of you on the HDC ordinance proposal.’

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting held on January 7, 2019
Councilor McCallion, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. The Motion passed, 9-0.

COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCILORS

Councilor McCallion offered his letter of resignation.

Dear Honorable Mayor Hilliard:

It is with regret that I tender my resignation from the City of Somersworth Ward Four City Councilor.

Effective February 1st, 2019.

I have been honored, grateful, and very proud to serve this city for the past ten years.

I leave knowing Somersworth has improved over the last 10 years.

I also feel confident Somersworth will continue to improve.

I hope down the road I can again in some capacity continue to help this great city prosper.

As for now my professional and personal schedule has become a lot more demanding on my time.

Sincerely,

Jon S. McCallion
Ward Four City Councilor

Mayor Hilliard thanked Councilor McCallion for service, and for all that he has done for the City of Somersworth.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND DISPOSAL THEREOF BY REFERENCE OR OTHERWISE

None

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayors Report for City Council Meeting January 22, 2018

Yesterday, our nation and Hilltop City took pause to honor the late civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, and how far we have advanced in implementing the American creed and ensuring equality for all.

In 1729, the parish of Somersworth was founded, beginning the two hundred and ninety year old journey which continues to establish Somersworth as a modern day city. Throughout our history, we have been defined by the citizens who have built this community and the vastly diverse backgrounds they have brought with them. From the early English settlers to members of the Indonesians community, each group sought refuge in a community where they would be protected, accepted and celebrated.

Today, two hundred and ninety years after our founding, we are guided by the principals outlined in the Declaration of Independence and re-affirmed in the United States Constitution; that all *citizens* are created equal, that each of us have been endowed by the creator with certain unalienable rights, and that despite our comfort level and misunderstandings of each other, we will continue to build upon the progression of the generation of Americans who came before us, to create a society where all will be validated and protected.

The struggle of America to achieve its creed, is a struggle which is worth fighting for. It is our struggle, mirrored in our history which reminds us of the Americans who were denied the rights and liberties we have been promised. Americans who were excluded from the table of liberty because of race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, creed, national origin or handicap. Each of us share a common bond with those who have been denied the promise of America, we belong to one of their groups, and through the evolution of our society have escaped the pain, suffering and horrors of intolerance and discrimination.

For some of us however, in 2019 the injustice and daily encounters with hate continues. For some of us, the fear of harm or death upon our loved ones or ourselves is a reality of the nation and world we live in. I, myself have come to terms with the fact that out of our 50 United States, there may be some I can never visit, simply out of the fear of repression, intolerance and violence. Yet, with the same faith and hope which won this nation its independence, we continue to work towards building a city, state and nation where all will be celebrated, accepted and treated with the dignity each human deserves.

Two hundred and ninety years after its founding as a parish and one hundred and twenty six years after its establishment as a city, Somersworth has once more awakened to the roots of its **“Proud Past, Bright Future”** through the acknowledgement that we are all linked together by a common thread; the thread of our humanity. While this thread will differ in the languages we speak, the customs we practice and the faith we hold or chose not to, in the Hilltop City, we are all united by the common bond of our sister and brother hood. While each of us is different, we are all Hilltoppers, Americans and humans. It is through this understanding of our differences that Somersworth had emerged as **NH’s Welcoming City**. A city which has, and will continue to, open its arms for all and protect all who are dedicated to the values of equality and human dignity.

In the Hilltop City, **NH’s Welcoming City** we rise above the level of just tolerating each other. Here we strive to create a community where differences are welcomed. We have long abandoned the practices of drawing invisible lines, or creating a society where individuals are deemed with value as long as they remain within their corners, their neighborhood or ghetto's, silent or in the “closet”.

In our 10 square mile community, we instead embrace that our home is and always has been comprised of; English, Irish, Greek, French and Indonesian. We are home to those of faith; Catholics, Protestants, Jews and Muslims and those whose faith does not encompass a god, but the faith in the progression of humanity. Each believer and non-believer sharing in the bond of their commitment to continue keeping Somersworth **“On the Move”**.

We are a city of straight's, gays and transgender, a city of police, fire and first responders, a city of lawyers, doctors and service workers, a city of tradespeople and military. All with the hopes and dreams for ourselves and family, united by the common vision of creating a community, state and nation with "liberty and justice for all".

The recent series of articles by the Fosters Daily Democrat helped highlight how in 2019, Somersworth continues to progress not as NH's Rainbow City, but as the NH's Hilltop Welcoming City. It helped to awaken how in 2019, the "Dream" of equality that the Rev. Martin Luther King spoke and fought for, is still a journey in progress. The articles helped to foster attention, conversation and for some tested our comfort levels and understanding of these words; equality, freedom and justice. For some, it brought celebration and validation that they too are Hilltoppers and Americans. For others, it tested the doctrines, preaching of their faiths and their individual comfort levels. The articles helped guide some to a level of understanding, while with others it exposed the hate they possess and their willingness to exclude, discriminate or use age old rhetoric to justify practices which divide, hinder and destroy the promise of American.

In the 10 square mile community known as Somersworth, we will continue "On the Move" as NH's Hilltop Welcoming City. We will continue to learn from each other, to acknowledge and celebrate our differences and to build a community where all who are committed to the values of democracy will be embraced as neighbors, brothers and sisters. We will continue to work towards seeking and finding common ground, by uniting on the issues which will progress our community while practicing respect, dignity and civility to each other on the issues where we are divided. In our democratic society, we will continue to openly engage in discourse upon the issues facing our nation; crime, healthcare, education, immigration, security. However, we must never yield to the temptation of debating if the principals of this nation only apply to a few.

"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools" **Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.**

The greatest asset of New Hampshire's smallest city, Somersworth has been reaffirmed, its citizens. The citizens of NH's Hilltop Welcoming City helped guide the immigrant groups of our "Proud Past" to a 10 square mile community were they could work to overcome barriers and obstacles to achieve the American dream. Their efforts crafted the lineage "Bright Future" for many of our citizens and families who call Somersworth home today. With the same determination, we continue to illuminate the torch of liberty and guide all who are committed to continuing the journey of reaching our Hilltopper and American destiny of freedom, equality, liberty and justice for all.

- A heartfelt thank you to members of the Somersworth Fire Department for once again demonstrating their professionalism and heroism during the recent Mill Fire. While the loss of the historic property is certainly a setback for Ward 5 and our greater community, in the true Hilltopper spirit we will overcome this obstacle and continue to keep our community "On the Move!"
- The next **Mayors Community** forum will take place on Saturday **February 16th from 9:00 – 10:30** at City Hall. Including in this forum will be **members of the**

Historic District Commission, speaking about the current layout and purpose of the HDC and proposed changes. 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.

- Join me and members of St. Ignatius parish on Saturday February 9th at 1:00pm at Citizens Place for a celebration of the statehood of the Vatican. The Vatican flag will be raised by members of the parish. We are expecting a very large crowd and ask participants to please gather at the front entrance of city hall on the post office side. The streets will be shut down starting at 12:30 to accommodate all who wish to partake.

Item 12 Nominations, Appointments and Elections:

In accordance with Council Rule 17 Appointments, the nomination shall remain open until the next scheduled Council meeting

- Under nominations appointments and Elections; **In accordance with Council Rule 17 Appointments,** the following are being brought forward and placed in nomination.
- **Donna Donovan** reappointment as a member of the **Board of Library Trustees** with a **term to expire on February 2024,**

This respectfully concludes the Mayors report for January 22, 2019

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance Committee – Councilor Witham reported that the committee met on January 11th, 2019 at 8:30am. The committee discussed:

- Veterans' property tax credit, City Assessor Walker provided an examination of tax credits throughout Strafford County. The Committee agreed on increasing Disabled Veterans credit from \$1400 to \$2000. An Ordinance is on the agenda for first read this evening. This would increase the total amount by about \$18,600 in credits. Motion passed in the Committee, 3-0.
- Fire Station test site borings at a cost of \$4,000. It would be helpful to have an approximate building size before moving forward with the site borings. A conceptual design is needed. The City received a compensation credit in the amount of \$89,000, which would fund the design of the fire station at a cost of approximately \$60,000. A supplemental appropriation will be necessary, both approved by the Finance Committee.
- Pre order of police cruiser. Ford is redesigning the interceptor and it cannot be pre ordered at this time.
- Update on the Rocky Hill Road well evaluation by Wright Pierce.
- Reporting – Director Smith stated things are looking good; 2 areas that are being watched closely. Solid waste and recycling are currently about \$70,000 over

budget at this time. Staff is meeting with Waste Management and will be an ongoing conversation. Welfare, (Human Services) up about 20% because of homelessness and lack of shelters. Other communities are experiencing the same issues.

- The City's blue trash bags are stored on West High Street, and DPW staff delivers them to the various stores as required. They are looking at a cost to have the vendor ship directly to stores. PW staff is lean and difficult to deliver bags.
- The stairs on the hill from the SAU to Noble Pines are in a state of disrepair and not ADA compliant. Consensus was to remove the stairs.

Economic Development – Councilor Dumont reported that the Committee met on January 15th, 2019. The Committee discussed:

- Working on form based codes, and Discussion on Zoning Ordinance for downtown parking regulation; Director Saunders is working on draft amendment for an ordinance change.
- Council workshop on the marketing plan developed by Open the Door on Feb 19th at 6pm.
- EDM Comstock gave report to the Committee regarding the internship opportunity proposal for students from the Career Technical Center. They reached out to 14 local businesses; the businesses stated that the students need to work on their social skills. This sparked an excited discussion about the internship program. This was a successful program in the late 1990's through 2000's. Great Bay Community College has offered support to help develop the social skills for these students who could qualify for the program
- The Economic Revitalization Zones. EDM Comstock visited 20 local businesses, handing out flyers and speaking to the owners about the potential for tapping into this program
- Announcement of the new Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, Amanda Gazlay.

Public Safety – Councilor Pepin reported that the Committee met on January 9th. The Committee discussed:

- Test boring for the Fire Station.
- The purchase of a new Police Cruiser
- Update on Bravo; he is going through certification and is doing an excellent job.
- Fire Department reported that they have submitted a recommendation for the vacant Lieutenant position, to the City Manager.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

Special Committees

Sustainability Committee – Councilor Levasseur reported that the Committee met on January 17th. There was a presentation from Wendy Berkley Farm to School Initiative. The Committee discussed an idling reduction policy; they are drafting a policy that will

be reviewed at the next meeting. There was discussion about adding Sustainability to the RFP for sustainable practices in everyday purchases. They discussed recycling. A workshop date has been scheduled.

Traffic Safety – Councilor Vincent reported that the Committee met on January 16th, at 2pm. The Committee reviewed a request from Jack Middleton, to add 2 additional parking spots. Request was denied.

The Committee also discussed the Washington Street Parking. The Committee moved to make it 5 hour parking. There was also discussion about Parking on Main Street and in the Plaza parking lot and vehicles being ticketed for parking in the fire lane. More signs will be hung by the DPW.

School Board – Councilor Pepin reported that the School Board discussed the SAU Withdrawal Committee. Don Austin and Mark Richardson have been appointed as members of the Committee.

Veterans Park Commission – Councilor Dumont reported that the Commission met on January 14th. They met with representatives from Ironwood Design Group to let them know what the Commission is looking for. They hope to have more meetings with Ironwood Design. He thanked the City Manager and staff for their guidance and stated that the Committee will have a picture of a plan by Memorial Day.

Joint Commission of City Council and School Board – Councilor Dumont reported that the Commission met on January 16th. The Commission discussed the budgetary process. There was a good article in the paper about school funding continuing to go down. There are communities in NH that really struggle. The School Budget is negative this year by about \$483,000. They had a discussion about resolving that.

There are always things that are not in the plan. There is a grant situation, and Somersworth is in the middle of 5 school districts to receive grant funding.

There is a problem at the middle school. The elevator is a concern. It will cost between \$300,000-500,000 to replace the elevator. Dr. Gadomski will be drafting letters to send to state and federal. Without the elevator, the school will not be ADA compliant.

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, January 18, 2019

**SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Tuesday, January 22, 2019
City Council Agenda**

*6:45 p.m. Non-meeting
Tentative Agreement with Public Works/Highway Department Union
AFSCME Council 93, Local 863*

Lay on the Table (Under Section 13 of Agenda)

- A. Ordinance No. 4-19: To Amend Chapter 19, Zoning Ordinance, Section 14, Historic District.** A Copy of this “Draft” Ordinance is *not* in the City Manager packet. Copies will be available at the Council meeting for Councilors who want one, or you can still go back to the last Council meeting packet of January 7th in the Google drive.
- B. Ordinance No. 7-19: To Amend Chapter 13 Police Offenses, Section F.1, Time Limited Parking – Washington Street Parking.** Council voted to send this back to the Traffic Safety Committee. The Traffic Safety Committee met on January 16th to reconsider this issue and voted to recommend amending the Ordinance parking from 3 hours to 5 hours in lieu of the previous recommendation for a change to making it all day parking. Attached is a copy of a red-lined version of the Ordinance should Councilors want to accept this new recommendation.
- C. Resolution No. 22-19: To Authorize the City Manager to Take the Necessary Actions to Discontinue Fair Court as a Class V Highway.** City Staff and I met with Attorney Barrington and the property abutter to discuss a resolution. Attorney Barrington has recently sent me a proposal that I will be discussing with our City Attorney and perhaps with Council Committee/s.

Unfinished Business (Under Section 14 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. Ordinance No. 10-19: To Amend Chapter 4, Personnel Rules & Regulations, Section 7.4.9 Family and Medical Leave Policy.** Again, the Government Operations Committee met on November 14, 2018 and accepted the City Manager's recommendation to remove this section from the Chapter 4 of the City's Ordinances; Personnel Rules & Regulations, in order to allow

for any policy to be easily changed in order to stay current with federal law. This action directs the City Manager to be charged with issuing an administrative policy for the City that complies with prevailing law.

- B. Ordinance No. 11-19: To Add New Section to Chapter – 6 City Officials, Declaring January Diversity Month.** Again, this action codifies the City's intent to take action to recognize January as Diversity Month in the City, each and every year.

Resolutions

- A. Resolution No. 28-19: To Authorize the City Manager to Contract with Resilience Planning and Design, LLC of Plymouth, New Hampshire to Develop a Form Based Code Section of the Zoning Ordinance.** Again, both the Finance Committee & Economic Development Committee met in December and voted to support this Resolution to contract with Resilience Planning and Design, LLC of Plymouth NH, to develop a Form Based Code section for the City's Zoning Ordinance.

New Business (Under Section 15 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. Ordinance No. 12-19: To Amend Chapter 6, City Officials, Section 6.9, Veteran's Property Tax Exemption.** The Finance Committee met on January 11th and voted to support this action to increase from \$1,400 to \$2,000, for totally disabled Veterans and for the surviving spouse. Attached are copies of City Assessor memorandums the Committee reviewed.
Public Hearing on Ord 12-19, Feb 4th. Scheduled without objection

Resolutions

- A. Resolution No. 29-19: To Authorize the City Manager to Solicit Proposals from Qualified Consultants to Prepare a Conceptual Design for a New Somersworth Fire Station.** The Finance Committee met on January 11th and supports moving forward with an RFP for a conceptual design for a new Fire Station. The Public Safety Committee also discussed this approach and supports it. Both Committees did want to ensure that funding would be included to conduct test borings the site as part of this step in the process. FUNDING: the City received unanticipated revenue in the form of a Workers' Compensation Program premium return in the amount of \$89,655 from Primex. The Finance Committee will be sponsoring a Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance in the near future should this Resolution pass, which would include a portion of this revenue source to fund this action. I initially suggested a budgeted cost of \$60,000; however, I recommend we complete the RFP process to confirm a more accurate project cost.

- B. Resolution No. 30-19: To Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Intermunicipal Agreement with the City of Dover, NH for the Development of a Water System Emergency Interconnection Between Dover and Somersworth.** Attached is a copy of the “*Draft*” Agreement that has been hammered out. Our City Attorney has reviewed this document and we did include his recommended changes. The Finance Committee and Public Works & Environment Committee has been providing staff with guidance during our negotiation process with the City of Dover.

Other

- A. Vote to Ratify a Tentative Agreement between the City of Somersworth and the Public Works/Highway Department with AFSCME Council 93, Local 863.** I have attached a “*confidential*” memorandum that outlines the changes as well as the projected cost for this Tentative Agreement.

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

A. Informational Items.

- 1. TAP Grant Action Meeting.** On Tuesday, January 22nd at 5:30 p.m. there will be a NHDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant Proposed Action Meeting. The CMA Engineer presentation is provided in a separate file in the Google Drive. I have attached a copy of a Project Status Report from CMA.
- 2. Stairs-West High Street to Noble Pines Park.** The Recreation Committee met in January and discussed the stairway on the side of the hill from Noble Pines to the maintenance building on West High St. adjacent to the SAU offices. These stairs are not ADA compliant and not Code compliant. The consensus of the Committee is to support the City Manager’s suggestion to remove the stairs in lieu of continuing the practice of minor repairs over the years that do not address the needed code compliance requirements. The Finance Committee also expressed no objection at their recent meeting. School Department Officials also have been informed and offered no formal objections.
- 3. City Wide Property Revaluation.** In accordance with NH State Law, RSA 75:8-a, all Cities and Towns in New Hampshire are required to perform a revaluation every five years. For the City of Somersworth, this revaluation will occur in 2019. The City Council has approved and appropriated funds for this Revaluation project. Attached is a notice that provides a little more explanation on this City-wide Revaluation process as well as a memorandum from our Assessor.

- 4. FY 2019 Budget Update.** Attached is a copy of the latest spending projections provided for review to the Finance Committee at their recent meeting. Two areas of concern were noted and discussed in some detail. The Solid Waste Collection (Recycling) line is projected to be overspent by some \$65,000 +/-; and the Human Services (Welfare) budget line. Although the welfare budget presently is not projected to be overspent, staff did note an increase in emergency shelter support.

I have also attached a copy of the Estimated Tax Cap Impact for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 City Budget, which has been provided to the School Department.

- 5. Marketing Plan/Branding Identity.** Staff has been working with our consultant team from Open the Door to complete a final draft of the Marketing and Brand Identity for the City. I am requesting a Council Workshop prior to the regular council meeting on Tuesday, February 19th starting at 6:00 p.m.; so that Christine Pappas of Open the Door might present/unveil this strategic plan.

Workshop – Marketing Plan/Branding Identity, Feb 19th, 6pm. Scheduled without objection

B. Attachments.

- a. City Attorney Certifications – Three (3)**
- b. Department Head Monthly Reports**
- c. Recycling Information from Waste Management**

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

A. Nominations requiring Council approval:

- a. Donna Donovan, reappointment as a member of the Board of Library Trustees, with a term to expire, February 2024

Remain open.

LAY ON THE TABLE

- A. **Ordinance No. 4-19** – To Amend Chapter 19, Zoning Ordinance, Section 14, Historic District
- B. **Resolution No. 22-19** - To Authorize the City Manager to Take the Necessary Actions to Discontinue Fair Court as a Class V Highway
- C. **Ordinance No. 7-19** - To Amend Chapter 13 Police Offenses, Section F.1, Time Limited Parking – Washington Street

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to remove Ordinance No. 7-19 from the table. The motion passed, 9-0.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor McCallion, made a motion to amend Ordinance 7-19, in accordance with redline report.

Councilor Witham stated that there needs to be more systematic parking in the downtown. Some areas have parking limits between 6am to 9pm, and other areas are 6am to 8pm. There is time limited parking except on Saturday and Sunday in another section downtown. It is just not consistent.

Councilor Levasseur stated that he originally supported all day parking. They had a time trial for about a month; there were no reported issues. He will support going forward with this ordinance as amended, with the caveat that they look into parking in the downtown area.

Councilor Vincent stated that the City needs to get it together a little bit. It cost money every time we change this, with the signs, posts.

Councilor Witham stated, in regard to the all-day parking, they need to be mindful in the immediate downtown area. He has seen cars parking for weeks on end, which had to be plowed around.

Councilor Dumont stated that he can go along to get along. Logic doesn't have any merit. We did do a study, but we need to have some data to back up these types of decisions. Looking at Main Street, from Washington to Indigo Hill there aren't many businesses in that area. Museum has more activity on a Sunday, but there is not a parking problem.

Councilor Pepin stated that he was on a committee to relieve parking and timing. They tried to involve businesses that come in. Some of the businesses want 15 min parking in front of their store. Then there are tenants taking the parking places. Businesses want parking in front of their business. They tried 2 hr parking. There will be an ordinance to look at parking throughout the downtown. There are still some areas that need to be tweaked.

Motion to amend Ordinance 7-19 passed, 9-0.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor McCallion made a motion to approve Ordinance 7-19, as amended. The motion passed, 8-1. With Councilor Witham opposed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

- A. **Ordinance No. 10-19** - To Amend Chapter 4, Personnel Rules & Regulations, Section 7.4.9 Family and Medical Leave Policy

Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor McCallion made a motion to approve Ordinance 10-19. The motion passed, 9-0.

- B. **Ordinance No. 11-19** - To Amend Chapter 6, City Officials, By Adding New Section, Declaring January as Diversity Month

Councilors Sprague, McCallion and Vincent requested that their names be added to Ordinance 11-19.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Levasseur made a motion to approve Ordinance 11-19. The motion passed, 9-0.


RESOLUTIONS

- A. **Resolution No. 28-19** - To Authorize the City Manager to Contract with Resilience Planning and Design, LLC of Plymouth, New Hampshire to Develop a Form Based Code Section of the Zoning Ordinance

Councilor Levasseur, seconded by Councilor McCallion made a motion to approve Resolution 28-19. The motion passed, 9-0.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

	<p style="text-align: center;">City of Somersworth – Ordinance</p> <p>Ordinance No: 12-19</p> <p>TO AMEND CHAPTER 6, CITY OFFICIALS, SECTION 6.9, VETERANS' PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION</p>
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January 22, 2019

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the Ordinances of the City of Somersworth, as amended, be further amended as follows:

Amend Chapter 6, City Officials, Section 6.9, by deleting section 6.9.2 and adding the following:

Section 6.9.2 Service Connected Total Disability. The City adopts the provisions of RSA 72:35, for an optional property tax credit on residential property for a service connected total disability. The service connected total disability tax credit shall be \$2,000.

Section 6.9.3 Surviving Spouse. The City adopts the provisions of RSA 72:29A, for an optional property tax credit for surviving spouses. The surviving spouse tax credit shall be \$2,000.

Further amend Chapter 6 by renumbering as follows:

Section 6.9.4 Exemption for the Blind


Section 6.9.5 Solar Exemption

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Authorization	
<p><i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i></p> <p>David A. Witham Martin P. Dumont, Sr. Martin Pepin</p>	<p><i>Approved:</i></p> <p>City Attorney</p>

Ordinance 12-19 will remain in first read until the February 4, 2019 City Council Meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

	City of Somersworth – Resolution
	Resolution No: 29-19 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SOLICIT PROPOSALS FROM QUALIFIED CONSULTANTS TO PREPARE A CONCEPTUAL DESIGN FOR A NEW SOMERSWORTH FIRE STATION

January 22, 2019

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 39-14 to authorize a comprehensive study to examine the need for the construction of a new fire station, and


WHEREAS, the conclusion of this comprehensive study determined that there is a need to construct a new fire station to meet the future demands of the City, and

WHEREAS, a conceptual design should be prepared to determine if a Fire Station designed to meet the demands of the community now and in the future can be properly situated at the site of the current Fire Station,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to solicit proposals from qualified consultants to prepare a conceptual design for a new Somersworth Fire Station, and to take any other actions relative to this project determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilor:</i> David A. Witham Martin Pepin Martin P. Dumont, Sr. Edward Levasseur Nancie Cameron	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

Resolution 29-19 will remain in first read until the February 4, 2019 City Council Meeting.

	City of Somersworth – Resolution
	Resolution No: 30-19 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF DOVER, NH FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A WATER SYSTEM EMERGENCY INTERCONNECTION BETWEEN DOVER AND SOMERSWORTH

January 22, 2019

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution 10-18 to authorize the City Manager to continue the City's support in furthering the possibility of an intermunicipal agreement with the City of Dover for the development of a water system emergency interconnection, and

WHEREAS, the City Manager and City staff have worked with staff from the City of Dover to draft an intermunicipal agreement that determines the final design, operational responsibilities, cost sharing responsibilities, and all other necessary details for the development and operation of an interconnection facility that meets the best interest of both communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to execute an intermunicipal agreement with the City of Dover, NH for the development of a water system emergency interconnection between Dover and Somersworth, and to take any other action relative to this project determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilor:</i> Dale R. Sprague David A. Witham Nancie Cameron Martin Pepin	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

Councilor Witham, Seconded by Councilor Sprague, made a motion to waive Council Rules to allow for a second read of Resolution 30-19. Motion passed 9-0.

Councilor Witham stated that City staff has been working on this for many months. One of the bigger issues of discussion has been capital costs. We are in a good place and this is a good project. This funded with State money.

Councilor Cameron, seconded by Councilor Witham, made a motion to approve Resolution 30-19. The motion passed 9-0.

OTHER

- A. Vote to Ratify a Tentative Agreement between the City of Somersworth and the Public Works/Highway Department with AFSCME Council 93, Local 863

The vote to ratify the agreement passed, by voice vote, 9-0.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY VISITORS

Bill Boulanger of 55 Myrtle Street in ward 4, and Employee of Dover, stated that a massive study was completed to interconnect the whole area. Somersworth and Dover are the first to be connected. Now, instead of deploying fire trucks when there is a water emergency, we can flick a switch.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor McCallion stated that his resignation was not an easy decision. He grew up in this City; he was a 3rd grader with a paper route. His single mom worked at GE. He learned how to cook that became a career that he has a passion for.

Through his years he has seen many Council Members and Many Department heads. We all have different ideas, but we always want what is best for Somersworth.

He has been involved in Coaching, Volunteering, raising 3 kids in the Somersworth schools. He has no regrets for building his home in Somersworth.

A lot accolades to the Mayor for getting him into politics while in School, even though they have not always seen eye to eye

Looking at his schedule, he would be missing the next 6 meetings out of the next 10 Council Meetings.

There have been many things that he has pushed for while a Councilor; landlords, taking GE by eminent domain.

Look at some of the leaders and directors. There are people in this city who really care.

Councilor Pepin said that he and Jon started on the Council at the same time. To Jon he said, I'm gonna miss you. We didn't always agree, but we were always friends. You did care about Somersworth and it showed 110% percent.

Councilor Vincent said to Jon, you did it and you continue.

Councilor Vincent went on to say that during the Public Safety Committee meeting, Councilor Pepin mentioned that there is a fund, \$10 million for special education on the state level. He looked into it. He reported to the Dover City Council, that he has contacted Santina Thibiteau, every single day. He had to check with Washington to see if she could disperse the monies. He recommends that the Somersworth School Board contact them and ask what is going on. People should follow up on this.

We get along well with our school board. And other cities are asking how they could get along so well with their School Board.

He stated that he sat in Concord from 1:30 to 5:30, going over a net metering bill, There are plenty of buildings to put solar panels on to move forward with clean energy.

Councilor Dumont said that Councilor McCallion represented the City and Ward 4 well. His heart was in it. He recalled some memories; one of them when he and the Mayor both ran for ward 4, there was a tie, and McCallion won on a coin toss. McCallion was a big thinker. He was not afraid to bring vision.

Councilor complemented Mr. Brooks, stating that it takes a heck of an individual to apologize. Move ahead and continue doing what you are doing.

He has realized that part of his reason for being a Councilor is to support and advocate for the elderly. It is good that we are being a welcoming community and that we are diverse. We have as many elderly as other communities. They came here from Canada, lived their lives here, had families here, their kids went to school here. But not all graduates stay in Somersworth, but the elderly have stayed. They thanked them. They are great people. People are living longer. Longevity and life have gotten longer. They are still here, hanging in there. At Strafford Farms there is a 90+ year old woman who is still hostessing. The big appeal is that the elderly are just as active as the younger people in our community.

Councilor Dumont thanked, a fellow Councilor Sprague for his vision in these form based codes.

As for the Veterans Tax credit; how do you say thank you enough to a veteran? He thanked all of the veterans.

Welfare Department of the City has had a lot of homelessness. He thanked the Tri City Mayors Group. There should be a facility to give them a meal and keep them warm.

It is a team effort, and the Mayor had the vision and created a team. There is no I in team.

He stated that he will be lobbying hard that on Feb 3rd, we might be able to be together to cheer on the Patriots. It was an unbelievable game on Sunday Night. What a night. What an enjoyable game!

Councilor Michaud thanked Councilor McCallion for all he has done in the City. Hopefully he will find his way back.

He thanked the Fire Department, Public Works Department, Police Department, Water Department and all of the surrounding communities who took part in fighting the mill fire. GO Pats!

Councilor Witham thanked Mr. Brooks for his apology, and he apologized as well if his remarks were terse.

The fire department was going through the promotion. Congratulations to Lieutenant Taatjes.

He read in Fosters that John Shay, the Somersworth High School principle is leaving at the end of the year. He is a very forward looking and energetic individual. Councilor Witham said he was excited about his vision. He wished him well.

At the Planning Board meeting, they said goodbye to Tracy Gora, who has been with the City for 12 years. She never missed a meeting, she was a terrific city employee; she showed up and did what she was supposed to do.

To Councilor McCallion, they had not always agreed, but they always got along. Councilor Witham said that half the time he doesn't understand what Jon is saying, but he appreciates it. His service doesn't go unrecognized. Hopefully you can find your way back.

Councilor Sprague thanked Mr. Boulanger. The City of Dover is lucky to have you and you put a lot of time into what we voted on tonight.

He thanked the Police Department for ticketing the vehicles parked in the fire lane at the Plaza.

He stated that that the Cable bill is more than the electric bills. He is befuddled by the services that we have. We are held hostage by the utilities in this state.

As for the Patriots, the Kraft's and everything, we are so lucky in this part of the country to have the sports teams that we have. It provides an economic boom for the region. It's been 3 months since there has been a championship in New England. The president has picked his winning choice. The Patriots will have a parade and the Rams will pay for it.

To Councilor McCallion, he thanked him for the advice to join the Council. They vote alike. They grew up together, and played football together. He will be missed at the meetings. We don't get to see friends like we used to, but makes it easier to see someone every other week, or at meetings. He thanked Jon for all of his service in the community; School Sports and boosters. It is a hard commitment and he knows the decision was very difficult.

Councilor Cameron said that she has only known Councilor McCallion, for a short time. They have the same vision on the Recreation committee. Hopefully, as she continues on the committee, the vision will become a reality. She would like to see that happen. She wished Jon well in his future endeavors. She stated that she appreciates the apology from Mr. Brooks.

Councilor Levasseur thanked Councilor McCallion for his service and for his big vision. We heard in the Mayor's report the many facets in our community. An article was published that highlighted only one particular aspect of our diversity. We are more than that. We find pride and celebrate our diversity.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor McCallion, seconded by Councilor Vincent, made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Trish Harris, City Clerk

Dana Hilliard, Mayor