



MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Somersworth, NH
April 15, 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, Austin, Michaud, Witham, Sprague, Cameron, and Levasseur.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

Councilor Cameron led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinance No. 18-19 - To Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 3.4, Motor Vehicle Operation, by Prohibiting Tractor-Trailers from Making a Left Hand Turn onto Station Street from Government Way
No public comments

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

George Poulin of the Somersworth Historical Museum reminded the community about the First Responders' Appreciation open house on May 5, 12:30-3:30. There will be light refreshments and special displays.

Chris Horton, 15 Francoeur Drive, said he is in support of the additional funding the school system. He read an excerpt from the Mayor's State of the City Address:

“A school system is the first indication of the community's commitment to oneself, its wellbeing and its willingness of investment of sacrifice towards a bright future.”

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approve Minutes of the Budget Workshop held on March 30, 2019

Approve Minutes of the City Manager Presentation of the FY19/20 Budget held on April 1, 2019

Approve Minutes of the Public Hearing – FY 19/20 Budget held on April 1, 2019

Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting held on April 1, 2019

Councilor Levasseur, seconded by Councilor Austin, made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Calendar. The motion passed, 9-0.

COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCILORS

Councilor Witham took the opportunity to talk about trash bags and recycling. He stated that he proposed the recent 15cent increase in trash bags, which has been approved and will

go into effect on July 1. He stated that he has never received such a feverish outpouring of disdain from the community as he has over this particular issue. The trash bag thing has left many confused. There seems to be a sense in the community that we are getting rid of the recycling. There have been discussions in these Chambers about the cost overage and if it is going to be sustainable. Part of the increase in the trash bags is to offset some of the recycling costs.

Whether people are confused or want to make up their own stories; whatever it is, we are not getting rid of recycling. We are not going to be selling the recycling bins any longer at City Hall. You can buy them cheaper at Home Depot or Lowes.

Councilor Vincent stated that he spoke with Secretary of State Bill Gardner regarding ward boundaries. Mr. Gardner suggested waiting until after the 2020 census. But we are a small community. Changes to ward boundaries in larger community would be a dramatically different. But not here in 10 square miles.

COMMUNICATIONS

Update on the Maple Wood project – Superintendent Dr. Robert Gadomski

Superintendent Dr. Gadomski reported that on April 9th, at the JBC meeting, Samyn-D’Elia Architects, Milestone Construction, and Control Technologies were in attendance. There were some materials and construction increases, but the architects believe we would continue on time and on budget. There are contingencies built into the plan. Construction documents were sent out to bid, and bids are due April 16th. A ground breaking ceremony will be held on April 19th at 10am. The project is on time, on schedule and on budget.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND DISPOSAL THEREOF BY REFERENCE OR OTHERWISE

MAYOR’S REPORT

Honorable members of the Council, I submit to you the Mayor’s Report for April 15, 2019. While the festivities of the Somersworth 125th Celebration of being a City are now in the History books, as a community we continue to honor Proud Past and Bright Future. This evening I welcome Jenne Holmes, Chair of the 125th Commission for a presentation to our community.

Jenne Holmes said the festivities are now over and she presented a 125th Celebration framed banner to be hung in City Hall. This is one of the banners that were hung along the streets through the city during 2018 and the 125th Festivities.

Tonight I welcome Liam Hanlon, 3rd grader at Maplewood Elementary School. Liam is one of 13 statewide winners of the statewide Fire Marshalls annual calendar poster contest. Each year, 3rd graders from across the state take part in a contest to design a fire safety message for each month of the year. Liam chose electrical fire safety for the month of May and was selected the statewide winner in this category. He received his award from the State Fire Marshal on Thursday, April 4th, 2019 at the state fire academy along with 12 other winners.

Liam gave a short speech and described his drawing.

Mayor Hilliard presented Liam with a proclamation declaring Tuesday, April 16, 2019 as Liam Hanlon day in the City of Somersworth.

As we continue to keep our great City on the move, I will continue during my lease in the Mayor's office to examine ways we can progressively redesign municipal government based on democratic ideals, teamwork, input and participation. Based on that ideology, all applications for future openings for the Somersworth Housing Authority Board of Commissioners for review and vetting. The Commissioners will then forward to the Mayor's office a recommendation for appointment to the Board. This will allow the Commission to examine all applicants and to ensure those who are serving will adhere to the values of keeping our great community on the move.

The Somersworth City Council, School Board and all Boards and Commissions welcome your input and continue to encourage you to participate in our City Government. Your ideas, opinions, and energy are always welcome. As we continue our team approach to keep our great city on the move. All meetings are open to the public, and have a segment devoted to receive public input. Remember, as Granite-Staters, governing is a full participatory contact sport. So let's get off the sidelines and get involved.

This evening, we will continue with civility, statesmanship and a full team approach to finalizing the budget, which progressively keeps our hilltop community moving forward, while balancing it against the need of Somersworth affordability for all citizens. As members of this Council continue to work we will encourage our state delegation to do the same and to keep on the path of advocating not only for Somersworth, but all New Hampshire residents. While Somersworth lost the earmark last week of \$180,000 for a Veterans Park, I am encouraged by the increase allocation of over \$2million to our local school system and another \$194,000 set aside for our community through State Revenue Sharing. While this body and the Mayor's office will continue to advocate for all of the funding, we are mindful and grateful of the proposed increases in the budget which will aid in the advancement of our community. The Members of the Somersworth locally elected government will continue to work hard to look out for the best interest for our city. Tonight I am calling again upon all of those who represent us in Concord to continue to do the same. Just like at the local level, we work together as a team. Therefore, we need to, as municipal and state elected officials, do the same so we can not only continue to ensure that Somersworth will remain on the move. And the state of New Hampshire will as well.

While the City's interpretation aided in bringing clarity to when a necessary 2/3 vote is needed only on the final approval of the budget, if it exceeds the tax cap, it is helpful in keeping the momentum moving forward. It is also concerning that not reaching that required 2/3 vote in the end will result in this body having to redo hours of worth of work and hours of negotiations. The City's Charter is silent as to how this body will conduct is governing in regard to the tax cap override debate. It therefore, behooves us to establish Council Rules in regard to how future tax cap overrides will be debated. I am therefore calling upon the Government Operations Committee to review and establish proposed

amendments to the City Charter and Council Rules in regards to how this body will continue to govern under a tax cap. I look forward to the future proposal constructed and based not only upon efficiency, but honoring the spirit of the work and collaboration that this body is based upon and represents.

The next Mayors Community forum will take place Saturday May 11th from 9:00 – 10:30 at City Hall. Including in this forum will be an invite to all State Legislative Delegation. The purpose of these forums are to foster dialog and ideas, in a non-formal setting to continue to move our community “On the Move”. All members of the community are welcome to attend any forums.

Please join SYC and the Hilltop City for the 11th Annual Spirit-up Somersworth cleanup community day, for family fun festivities on Saturday, May 4th, from 7:30-12pm. Registration and kickoff begins at 7:00am at Somersworth Middle School. The goal is to involved entire community. Bike safety will be presented by Fire Department.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance Committee – Councilor Witham reported that the committee met on April 12, 2019. The committee discussed:

- Review of City Revenues with City Manager Belmore and Finance Director Smith. They looked at all revenue sources. The revenue side of the budget is relatively conservative. They looked back over several years’ projections to actuals. Finance Committee is comfortable with the revenue projections of the FY19-20 budget proposal.
- Reviewed the six capital and non-capital reserve funds. A fair portion of these funds are spoken for or allocated.
- RFPs received for analysis of road pavement conditions. Last done about 5 years ago and roads continue to deteriorate. The City received 4 proposals and City Staff interviewed 3 of the companies. Consensus of the committee endorsed moving forward with Beta Group.
- MISC:
 - Change orders for Brox paving. Still several streets to be done this spring. Blackwater South Street to Franklins Street. Also additional structures, manholes and catch basin covers to be replaced.
 - Failing culvert on Rocky Hill Rd; initial estimates are \$80,000.

Public Works & Environment – Councilor Sprague reported that the Committee met on April 15 at 5:30. The committee discussed:

- Paving on High Street to start April 22; there is a Resolution this evening, he would like to waive rules and get that going.
- Brox, high street portion, may need to do some night work, on the agenda this evening is a vote to waive rules to allow night work.

- Brox Change order, 23k for paving on Blackwater from South Street to Franklin Street and for replacement of manhole covers.
- Horne St; Cumberland Farms is replace 3 wells as required by NHDES. There was discussion about right-of-way.
- Rocky Hill Rd Culvert repair. Staff is monitoring this area. There is a sewer line above and water line below the culvert.
- Pavement PCI proposal, \$18,840 for Beta group. They use a different approach, more of a hands-on than the previous infrared pavement condition index. This takes the politics out of choosing which roads need repair.
- Updates on the Contractor Bid List process.
- Updates on the Trench Permits process.

Recreation – Councilor Cameron reported that the Committee met on April 10, 2019. The Committee discussed:

- Times in the parks. Ordinance currently states: (a) Unless otherwise noted, the City parks and trails are open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. from April 1 to Sept. 30 and from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. from October 1 to March 31. Park closing hours may be extended until 11 p.m. in the case of private rentals at Millennium Park upon obtaining written consent from the City Manager or his/her designee. Consensus was to make no changes to the park times. Staff to review more lighting and cameras in the Pines
- Recreation Supervisor Davenport gave report on Upcoming Recreation events.
- Recreation department is in need of more summer camp workers and Camera operators are also needed.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

Special Committees

JBC – Councilor Pepin reported that there are a lot of moving parts at this point. When blending new and old buildings, figures are always changing. They are receiving bids. The next meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2019.

School Board – Councilor Pepin reported that the last day of school will be June 14, 2019 and graduation will be held on June 6, 2019. Revenues are looking good.

Ward Boundary Committee – Councilor Pepin said they reviewed the Census map of 2010. They are in the process of getting a GIS overlay of wards.

Joint City Council and School Board – Councilor Dumont said they reviewed the challenges that they will be facing in the future. They started designing the new agenda for the upcoming year.

Veterans Park Commission – Councilor Dumont said the Commission is scheduled to meet on May 5, 2019 at 4pm. They no longer have a commitment from the state for funding for the park. They will be getting an update from the architectural landscape company for the design.

Cultural Commission – Councilor Dumont said they met last week. They worked on finalizing the plan for Franco-American day for Fischer Cats in Manchester. The bus can hold 49 people. The cost is \$40, and includes a game ticket, bus ride, hat, hot dog, chips, and drink. They will be gathering at Summersworth Historical Museum to enjoy some French croissants. There are limited tickets. Please contact Councilor Cameron or Councilor Dumont for tickets.

City Manager's Report

Lay on the Table (Under Section 13 of Agenda)

A. Ordinance No. 4-19: To Amend Chapter 19, Zoning Ordinance, Section 14, Historic District.

B. Ordinance No. 17-19: FY 2019 / 2020 Budget. Please note this Ordinance was amended. At the last Council meeting on April 1st it was voted to approve \$500.00 in the Community Support Budget to the Somersworth Farm to School Program, increasing Elected Leadership line item from \$142,736 to \$143,236. Attached are copies of a memo that provide further information on questions raised by Councilors during the Budget Workshop on March 30th. I have also provided you a copy of the legal opinion regarding City Council Budget amendment votes.

Unfinished Business (Under Section 14 of Agenda)

Ordinance

A. Ordinance No. 18-19: To Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 3.4, Motor Vehicle Operation, by Prohibiting Tractor-Trailers from Making a Left Hand Turn onto Station Street from Government Way. Again, Traffic Safety Committee and the Public Works & Environment Committee voted to support this Ordinance amendment.

New Business (Under Section 15 of Agenda)

Resolutions

A. Resolution No. 35-19: To Authorize the City Manager to Prepare Bid Specifications for Road Resurfacing and Associated Repairs of Selected Streets. The Public Works & Environment Committee voted to recommend

these road repairs at their March 29th meeting. Attached is a Memorandum from our City Engineer Gary Lemay regarding the Road repair recommendations approved by the Public Works & Environment Committee for your consideration.

Other

- A. Vote to Waive the Noise Ordinance Chapter 13-D (Noise/Nuisance Control) to allow Brox Industries, Inc., of Dracut, MA to Complete Road Resurfacing Work on a Section of High Street during the Night Time Hours to Minimize Disruption of Traffic Flow.** This was discussed at the Finance Committee on Friday, April 12th and the Committee agreed to support this waiver request.

- B. Vote to Authorize the City Manager to Sign an Agreement for the Placement of Monitoring Wells along Horne Street by Cumberland Farms.** The NH DES is requiring the installation of new wells on Horne Street by the Cumberland Farms Convenient Store / Gas Station (High Street). City Attorney has drafted the attached Agreement which the applicant paid to have completed. We are working within a time constraint in order to complete this effort prior to the completion of the Horne Street paving project. Attached is a memorandum from City Engineer Gary Lemay that provides more detail regarding this request.

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

A. Informational Items.

- 1. Veterans Memorial Grant Funding Letter.** Attached is a letter that was mailed out to Governor Sununu as well as to our NH State Senators, NH House of Representatives and NH Finance Division 1 regarding HB-2-FN-A.

- 2. Fire Station Construction Project.** We had fifteen (15) Architect Firms attend the non-mandatory site visit on April 5th. The Bids are due next Thursday, April 18th.

Attachments.

- a. City Attorney Certification One (1)**
- b. Department Head Reports**

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

For Council Vote

Lindsey Gagnon, as an Alternate Member of the Historic District Commission, with a term to expire April 2022

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to approve the nomination. Motion passed, 9-0.

Nominations requiring Council Vote

Laurene Anderson-Ashe, re-appointment as a Member of the Board of Library Trustees, with a term to expire March 2024

Becky Patten, appointment as a Member of the Board of Library Trustees, with a term to expire April 2024

Nominations will remain open until the May 6, 2019 Council Meeting.

LAY ON THE TABLE

Ordinance No. 4-19 – To Amend Chapter 19, Zoning Ordinance, Section 14, Historic District

Remained on the Table.

Ordinance No. 17-19 – FY 2019-2020 Budget

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to remove Ordinance 17-19 from the table. Motion passed, 9-0.

Finance Director Smith to give update: Budget is at \$46,947,330, tax rate of \$34.21, an 80cent increase, \$6,954 below tax cap.

C-8, Lydia's House of Hope, to increase \$7500, motion made by Councilor Dumont. There was no second to the motion, so the motion **Failed**.

C-17, 40220, Election Workers, Motion made by Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Levasseur to increase by \$4,000 for a total of \$8,000. **The motion passed, 9-0.**

C-17, 43600, Election Meals, Motion made by Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Levasseur to increase by \$1000 for a total of \$2,000.

Councilor Sprague said he gets the theory of doubling for the elections, but is it necessary.

Councilor Witham withdrew his motion to increase 43600, Election Meals.

Councilor Vincent stated he was not going to vote for anything that goes over the tax cap. Only if it is an emergency and that is where he stands.

C-29, 45700, Contract Services, Motion made by Councilor Levasseur, seconded by Councilor Sprague to increase by \$1500 for a total of \$6500.

Councilor Levasseur said he would like to see this more in line with the actual from 17-18. We have used several contractors in the past and it should be kept in line with previous years.

The motion to increase was defeated by voice vote.

C-8, Lydia's House of Hope, Motion made by Councilor Cameron, seconded by Councilor Dumont, to increase by \$5000.

Councilor Witham stated that this property is tax exempt.

Councilor Cameron asked how long that tax exempt status lasts.

City Manager Belmore explained that it is reviewed on an annual basis as a charitable organization.

The motion Failed, 5-4, by roll call vote.

C-8, 45472, Coast, Motion was made by Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Levasseur, to increase by \$5000, for a total of \$80,280.

Councilor Pepin stated that Coast has lost revenue because of the Bay Bridge project. The future of Coast is uncertain. Any increase in local funding helps them get matching funds through the state. He would like to see Coast keep it going for the people who actually need it.

Councilor Vincent said he is frustrated that he has his hands tied with the tax cap. He asked if City Manager Belmore if there are any unexpected revenue.

City Manager Belmore said the only thing he is aware of is the state revenue sharing.

Councilor Witham applauded Councilor Pepin for doing what he can with Coast bus.

Councilor Levasseur said the services that Coast bus provides is not just a service for the needy, it can be an economic engine to attract more people to this community. We should be showing support in the time of need that they are in. They have been steadfast in their timing and hope this request will ease this burden a bit.

Councilor Dumont said not supporting it to full capacity is a mistake we are making, but we don't know where to find the extra money. Without it, he suggests this community will bear an increase in welfare that it will not be able to support. The future of our city relies on our ED policy. We take a counter productive approach. Public transportation is a key element. If we don't support it, we own some of that loss. Without the services of Goodwin Health, others will need to travel to another community.

Councilor Dumont said the tax override formula is flawed economically. We are non partisan, but it is the partisans within the state don't honor their commitment. We are talking about \$5000 for a transportation system. To grow into the future, there are two parts to society, millennials and the elderly. If we pass this, there are some areas where we can regain and stay under the cap.

Councilor Pepin said he has had mixed feelings on this. He doesn't like even asking, but he can't sit there in good faith and not ask for this. We talk about the cost of road resurfacing and pollution, when some can't even afford vehicles. Millennials want public transportation.

Motion to increase 45472, Coast, by \$5000 passed, 6-3, by roll call.

C-96, 2000, Educational Expenses, Councilor Sprague, seconded by Councilor Witham, made a motion to increase by \$400,000.

Councilor Vincent asked if the council can use funds from the general fund.

City Manager Belmore stated that they could if council votes on it.

Councilor Witham stated that the Superintendent provided to council the list of additional considerations. With the \$400,000 increase, they are still shy of \$52,000. Many programs have been lost over the years.

Councilor Sprague said his intention is to do the things we need to do, like to increase the school budget, road resurfacing and the patch budget, and then look at fund balance to try and offset the difference. There are certain circumstances that are beyond our control. They don't want to raise taxes, but better roads and better schools attract people to our community.

Councilor Vincent asked if the intent was to make these increases then reduce it by using the general fund to be under the tax cap.

Councilor Sprague said he is looking at doing what needs to be done. Our revenues are pretty conservative.

Councilor Vincent said his approach has been incorrect. He has been thinking that he would vote against anything that increases the budget above the tax cap. He wasn't thinking that they could reduce the budget.

Councilor Witham said using fund balance is not a sustainable approach. It is not attainable year after year, but this is a need.

Councilor Dumont thanked Councilor Sprague for stepping up. These are needs. He disagrees that the fund balance shouldn't be used. Maybe he is naïve to think that the state will follow through with funding.

Councilor Witham removed the second to the motion.

Seconded by Councilor Austin.

Councilor Cameron suggested that they consider giving half or \$250,000, then next year, give a bit more to get us where we need to be.

Mayor Hilliard said no motion to use the reserve fund has been discussed. At this point we are only looking at an increase of \$400,000.

Councilor Pepin said he sat through the many School Board and Budget meetings. These are basic needs. There is another list of things that were cut. They are operating at a lot less than they were 4 years ago. We cannot count on the state for the education of our Kids. He hopes the tax payers recognize that we are trying to do what is best for the kids in our community.

Councilor Sprague said we need to focus on this motion. This is a need. Maybe we use some fund balance and some override.

Councilor Sprague, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to move the question. The motion to move the question passed, 6-3, by roll call vote.

Motion passed, 7-2, by roll call vote.

C-69, 49104, Road Resurfacing, reduce by \$400,000, motion made by Councilor Witham. There was no second to the motion, so the motion ***Failed.***

C-69, 44175, Hot Top/Patch, to increase by \$30,000, motion made by Councilor Sprague. There was no second to the motion, so the motion ***Failed.***

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to adopt Ordinance 17-19, Budget.

Councilor Sprague asked where we are with the tax cap override.

Finance Director Smith gave an update: Currently the budget is over the tax cap by \$402,046, tax rate of \$34.69, an increase of 1.28. Unreserved Fund Balance is at \$3.7million, just over 8%.

Councilor Vincent, seconded by Councilor Dumont, made a motion to table Ordinance 17-19. Passed 6-3, by roll call.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 18-19 - To Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 3.4, Motor Vehicle Operation, by Prohibiting Tractor-Trailers from Making a Left Hand Turn onto Station Street from Government Way

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Dumont, made a motion to amend Ordinance 18-19, to not allow any tractor trailers onto Government Way from High Street.

Councilor Witham said by not allowing tractor trailers to make a left hand turn onto Station Street from Government Way, it will force them into the Plaza or onto John Parsons Drive which is not any better. When the downtown was reconfigured, engineers suggested that large vehicles make a left onto Constitution and onto Washington to access Aclara and such. He is just making the ordinance in line with the original plan.

Councilor Vincent pointed out that deliveries to the post office would be difficult if tractor trailers are not allowed onto Government Way.

Councilor Witham withdrew his motion.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Levasseur, made a motion to re-refer Ordinance 18-19 to Traffic Safety for analysis. Motion passed 8-1 by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS



City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: 35-19

TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO PREPARE BID SPECIFICATIONS FOR ROAD RESURFACING AND ASSOCIATED REPAIRS OF SELECTED STREETS

April 15, 2019

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

WHEREAS the City has prioritized street repair using the pavement condition index assessment tool, and

WHEREAS the Public Works and Environment Committee reviewed the following staff recommended list of streets to be included in a mill and pave work plan for this construction season and supports this recommendation:

ASH ST	RIVER ST
BRICK ST	SCHOOL ST
CENTRAL ST	SECOND ST
CHESLEY AVE	SPRING ST
CLEMENT RD	SPRUCE ST
CREST DR	STACKPOLE RD
DOWN ST	SUMMER ST
FIRST ST	THIRD ST
FRANKLIN ST	UNION ST
INDIGO HILL RD	WATER ST
KINGS LN	BUFFUMSVILLE RD (as a Bid Alternate)
RITA ST	LILY POND RD (as a Bid Alternate); and

WHEREAS the Public Works and Environment Committee reviewed the following staff recommended list of streets to be included in a crack-sealing work plan for this construction season and supports this recommendation:

ASPEN DR	LENOX DR
CHADWICK LN	LONGLEAF LN
COMMERCIAL DRIVE	MAIZE DR
CORNFIELD DR	MILO LN
COTE ST	MORRISON ST
DAVIS ST	VICTORIA DR
DEER CREEK RUN	WILLAND DR
GREENFIELD DR	WILLIAM ST
GUY ST	WINSLOW DR
HICKORY LN	HIGH STREET (BLACKWATER TO SINCLAIR)
	HIGH STREET (SINCLAIR TO THE CITY LINE); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to prepare bid specifications and solicit bids from qualified contractors for road resurfacing and associated repairs of the aforementioned streets and take any other actions relative to this project determined to be in the best interest of the City.

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

City of Somersworth – Resolution 35-19

History

First Read Date:	04/15/2019	Tabled:	NA
Public Hearing:	NA	Removed From Table:	NA
Second Read:	04/15/2019		

Discussion

Councilor Sprague, seconded by Councilor Michaud, made a motion to waive Council rules to allow for a second read. Motion passed, 9-0.

Councilor Sprague, seconded by Councilor Vincent, made a motion to approve Resolution 35-19. The Motion passed, 8-1.

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	X	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent	X	
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont	X	
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin	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:		8	1
On 04/15/2019 Resolution 35-19		PASSED	

OTHER

Vote to Waive the Noise Ordinance Chapter 13-D (Noise/Nuisance Control) to allow Brox Industries, Inc. of Dracut, MA to Complete Road Resurfacing Work on a Section of High Street during the Night Time Hours to Minimize Disruption of Traffic Flow
Vote passed, 9-0.

Vote to Authorize the City Manager to Sign an Agreement for the Placement of Monitoring Wells along Horne Street by Cumberland Farms
Vote Passed, 9-0.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY VISITORS

Superintendent Gadowski said he knows the Council has been discussing the budget for quite a while now and they have had some difficult discussions along the way, but as part of the school district, he wanted to thank the Councilors for their ongoing consideration of the school budget.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Pepin said it is not right that Councilor Witham is taking the heat about the increase on the garbage bags. One way or the other tax payers are going to pay for it, either through an increase in taxes to cover the recycling or paying extra for the bags themselves. Not everyone pays taxes. We have residents who rent, and produce garbage.

He also stated that he is disappointed that we couldn't pass the budget this evening. We all need to calm down a bit and regroup. We are all trying to do the right thing for the citizens and for the kids in our community.

Councilor Vincent said he doesn't feel this is a race. We need time to look at the budget. He doesn't feel we need to get this thing out of the way right away.

Regarding the tax cap, several years ago a gentleman in the community got together with some people and signed a form that created a tax cap. In this last election, several new, younger people came out, which is inspiring and rewarding. If you want to change things and get rid of the tax cap, you can do that. As a councilor, he doesn't want his hands tied. He heard the other day that the rate that the city continues to move at, we could be broke in 20 years. The money from the state would be nice, but we are not sure if we are ever going to get that. It is discouraging.

Councilor Dumont said he doesn't envy a councilor that has to take calls but he has the utmost respect for Councilor Witham. About the recycling and the increase in the cost of bags, as a state we go all the broadbase tax issue. With the vehicle registration, there is a \$5 transportation fee which will probably be going up to \$10. The end result is the consumers, and residents expenses are going up based on our decisions as a Council. Recycling may not be gone, but they put it in the same place as the garbage.

He stated that when he was notified about the veterans commission not receiving the funding from the State, that email made him feel rebellious. The reality is, he thanked Governor Sununu for thinking about Somersworth. Whatever the state legislature ends up with, we will have a damn park in Somersworth that we will be proud of. It is sad that we are not getting the funding. The ones they hurt are the ones who gave their lives. The veterans deserve better from our leadership. In their mind, it's no big thing. In his mind it's a terrible thing.

Councilor Austin shared that he feels the loss for the Notre Dame Cathedral that burned down today. It is a great loss to the world.

There is some urgency to get this budget passed. There are teacher contracts to sign, so we need to move on this rather quickly. He is disappointed to delay the school process. He

thanked the other council members for approving the \$400,000 toward the school, but the budget is not passed yet.

Councilor Michaud said he is in support of the increase to the school budget. The children are our future and we need to do what we can to ensure a good education.

Councilor Witham stated things are not good. If things were good this budget process would not be so damn difficult. He has other responsibilities. The first Monday in May, he has cleared on his scheduled so he can umpire baseball. If it is raining he will be at the City Council Meeting, if not, he will be at a game.

The budget is not difficult. It is not pleasant, but not difficult. Things are not good when a tax rate is that high.

Councilor Sprague said he wished he could have passed the budget tonight. The road resurfacing budget is not where it needs to be. That needs to be increased as well.

When you come into a goal setting session and have goals, we know it will probably cost money. Road resurfacing needs to increase. We bought a new planer and did not increase the hot top budget.

Councilor Cameron stated thanked Councilor Austin for pointing the needs of the school district and how the budget process affects them. They should have passed the budget tonight.

Councilor Levasseur, when considering the conversation to increase the bottom line for school, he wanted to clarify his 'no' vote. He said he doesn't think they are thinking about long term funding. Where are we going to be next year if the state doesn't step up and fund their portion. We need to look at the long term sustainability of funding this fully. He understands that these additional considerations for the school are vital to the operations of the school district. Councilor Cameron made the suggestion of increasing the bottom line of the School Budget by \$250,000. That would allow for the school to fund a few of the needs. Thinking of the sustainability piece of it, if we fully fund this, where are we going to be next year. If we consider utilizing the General Fund to offset a portion of the tax rate, he would be in favor of doing that. We need to think of the additional investments that need to be done. He is happy to see the road resurfacing and paving that is being done. At the same time, we need to think of the additional investments that will help maintain that. Developers are not going to come in just because the roads are done. Recently with the plaza project, we received no bids on that project. There has been conversation about the riverwalk expansion for almost 10 years. If we are not willing to invest the funds, then we will not be able to seek opportunities.

Mayor Hilliard stated, as we continue to move forward with this budget process, he encouraged all Councilors to discuss among members, the certain increases and decreases they would like to pursue. Often times he takes Council Rules and gives a very liberal view, for instance, how many times people may be recognized. He would also like the courtesy as the Chair to impose breaks as he has done in the past for recesses during the budgetary

process. He agrees with Councilor Sprague, knowing the feeling that something is turning contentious, means it is time for us to take a breath, regroup and get back to that team spirit and collaboration that we have always had among this body. As Councilor Witham pointed out, budgets are tough, but they don't need to be. We are all elected here and we are all known for our team approach and he encouraged the Council to continue to exhibit the statesman ship and civility, but the team approach that we have become known for. He truly believes that the budget could have been passed at this meeting, however, let's encourage discussion amongst Councilors over the next two weeks and so we can come up with a unified approach and reach our goal. Collaboration and Discussion equals success.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

NONPUBLIC SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Austin, seconded by Councilor Dumont, made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm. Witham opposed.

Trish Harris, City Clerk

Dana Hilliard, Mayor