

## MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Somersworth, NH  
May 16, 2016  
7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by His Honor, the Mayor, Dana Hilliard, and upon roll call the following Council members were present: Pepin, Soldati, Dumont, McCallion, Messier, Witham, Sprague, and Paradis. Councilor Cameron was excused.

### MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 1, 2016

*Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor McCallion, made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion passed, 7-0, Councilor Pepin abstained.*

### COMMENTS BY VISITORS

Brenda Dauer (sp?), of Plaza Terrace, Ward 1, said she is unhappy with the monthly fee to park in the Plaza parking lot. It has increased from \$10 annually to \$20 a month. She cannot afford this. She found that anyone with a disability can park for free in any municipal parking lot. Found it on the DOT site. She has shared that with her Councilor. She would like to see that it gets adopted. She cannot afford \$20 a month.

### COMMUNICATIONS

Letter from Christopher J. Allwarden of Eversource, regarding Pole Licenses

Read by the Clerk and added to the record with one objection by Councilor Sprague.

### PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND DISPOSAL THEREOF BY REFERENCE OR OTHERWISE

A. PRIMEX – Prime Award Presentation, Mr. Philip St. Cyr

Mr. St. Cyr said the City of Somersworth is in elite company. All counties and many school districts are in this pool and fewer than 50 have obtained this award. It takes a number of action steps to make this happen. HR Manager, Linda Corriveau was the spearhead of this project. Mr. St. Cyr presented the award to Mayor Hilliard and City Manager Belmore.

B. Request for Somersworth City Council and City Staff to reconstruct and repave Wiggins Court

The Petition was read by the Clerk and added to the record without objection. The Mayor assigned this to the Public Works and Environment Committee.

## MAYOR'S REPORT

### Mayors Report for City Council Meeting May 16, 2016

- Special thanks goes to the Greater Somersworth Chamber of Commerce for hosting another success annual awards dinner. The dinner highlighted and celebrated those dedicated to the Hilltopper spirit and exemplified the meaning of the community. Congratulations to the 2016 award recipients;

Chamber of Commerce Board member of the year; Ann French  
Educator of the year; Sharon Lampros  
Citizen of the Year: Jessica Paradis  
Business of the Year: American Ambulance Services  
Nonprofit of the Year: Somersworth Festival Association

- Each day lives are saved throughout our nation because of the highly trained and dedicated Emergency Medical Services professional. In 1973, President Gerald Ford authorized EMS Week to celebrate EMS, its practitioners and the important work they do in responding to medical emergencies. This evening the Hilltop city thanks our EMS responders, for continued to protect the lives of citizens in Somersworth with compassion and professionalism.
- This week marks the 56th Anniversary of National Public Works Week. Sponsored by The American Public Works Association (APWA) the week highlights public works professionals and the important role infrastructure, facilities, and services play in the quality of life for all. Our Hilltop City knows the value and importance of continuing to invest in all aspects of Public Works, from snow removal to supporting and continuing to attracting highly trained Public Works personal. Tonight as a Council we re-dedicate ourselves to the value of Public Works and thank the Somersworth Public Works personnel for their tireless dedication to the Hilltop City.
- The spirit of Somersworth was reaffirmed at the annual Spirit Up Day held on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to the SYC staff, Somersworth Police Department and all who volunteered to ensure Somersworth continues to shine! Together as a team, we will keep Somersworth "On the Move"!
- A reminder, in an effort to continue to move forward in combating the heroin epidemic The Mayor's drug task force is sponsoring a forum entitled "Putting the Pieces Together." The forum is a community event bringing awareness to

resources in our area and what is being done to help those experiencing substance use disorder.

“Included in the forum will be a Family’s story of recovery and the journey of a young mother from active addiction to active recovery.

The event will take place on May 25<sup>th</sup> at Somersworth Middle School at 6:00pm.

- The next Mayor’s Community forum will take place on Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 – 10:30 at City Hall. T Including in this forum will be Ward 5 Councilor Denis Messier, Ward 5 School Board Member Ken Bolduc. The purpose of the forums are to foster dialog and ideas, in a non-formal setting to continue to move our community forward. All members of the community are welcome to attend any forums.

**Nominations, Appointments and Elections:**

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

**Arthur Hendrickson** re-appointment as a member of the Historic District Commission

**Beth Poulin** re-appointment as a member of the Historic District Commission

**Richard Brooks** as a member of the Historic District Commission

**Jenna Higgins** as an Alternate member to the Historic District Commission

**This respectfully concludes my May 16th, 2016 Mayors Report**

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Economic Development** – Councilor McCallion said the committee met today (May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016) at 5:00. The committee had requested someone from the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development come to speak on available services. Mark Laliberte, Business Resource Specialist, was in attendance. They discussed ERZ zones. No new developments at this time.

**Government Operations** – councilor Soldati said they met on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The committee approved a change to the administrative code to place the maintenance of parks on the Public Works Department. This would help the director of recreation to focus on programs. Seasonal employees will also help.

## REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

### Special Committees

JBC – Councilor Messier said they selected companies for automotive equipment. Things are going well. Money is going well. Not over budget.

School Board – Councilor Pepin said they ratified the teachers’ contract to send to city council.

Sustainability Committee – Councilor Soldati said will meet May 19<sup>th</sup>. If anyone has any environmental interest, they should attend this meeting. The Maine Department of environmental services will be presenting regarding an invasive plant that is growing in a pond in Berwick. ME DES wants to add herbicide to their water. It will go into our water supply. The toxicity is questionable. The meeting will be at 6:00pm.

Vision 2020 – Councilor Paradis said they met May 9<sup>th</sup>. They have almost a full house, just missing a person from Zoning board. The committee made a motion to amend the letter that is going to different associations. The palm cards were distributed. Director Bobinsky sat in for City Manager Belmore, talked about advertising and information on channel 22. Also someone from the school board and channel 95. The Mayor asked that 2 people from the committee carry the banner in the Christmas parade. A member brought up his concern about the hydro dam. They also talked about the need for 55+ housing.

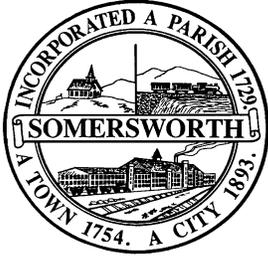
Hilltop Commission - Councilor Dumont said they met on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Councilor Paradis attended the meeting and they are on schedule to present in October. During the meeting in June, they will talk about some specific uses of the school.

Parade Committee – Councilor Dumont said the date for the parade is scheduled for Dec 4<sup>th</sup>. Parade will start in Berwick. The gala will be held between the Bank of America building and the Library. The committee is excited about the participation and commitment of floats and excited about corporate sponsorship.

Cultural Commission – Councilor Dumont said they met on May 11<sup>th</sup> with a spirited attitude. Mayor Hilliard brought them up to date on Sister Cities, student exchange, a book was found, “A Clue to Somersworth” written in French and English. It was located in the NH library. The plan is to include it in a package to Thedford Mines. American Legion post 69, indebted with gratitude towards them. Through the Mayor’s efforts, they increased their contribution to \$3500. They bought all of the American Flags that are necessary for all the poles on High Street to the Dover line. All flags will be installed before Memorial Day and will remain Veterans Day in November. The commission expanded to include the ethnicity of the Greeks; 2 new members, Diane Crawford (sp?) and Sharon Hodgdon. Another new member,

Rachel Wattimena, a high school student. He said he is amazed to see this young person as a member, and to volunteer in some of the ad hoc committees. The attendance to these meetings is growing and people are contacting the committee with their ties to Thedford mines. A lady, who has worked at Roger's Pizza in Dover, came from Thedford mines. She had a large family and had the opportunity to come to the states, to Dover. She still has family in Thedford Mines.

City Manager's Report



**CITY OF SOMERSWORTH**  
*Office of the City Manager*

**TO: Mayor Dana Hilliard and City Council Members**

**FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager**

**DATE: Friday, May 13, 2016**

**SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, May 16, 2016  
City Council Agenda**

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*6:00pm: Non-Meeting for Labor Union Negotiations & Strategy*

*6:30pm: Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 17-16, Supplemental Appropriation*

*6:45pm: Public Hearing on Resolution No. 29-16, Amending Pole Licenses*

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*Presentation of Petitions and Disposal Thereof by Reference or Otherwise (under Section 7 of Agenda)*

- A. PRIMEX – Prime3 Award: Presentation by Mr. Philip St. Cyr, Risk Management Consultant.** This presentation recognizes the City's successful attainment of the Prime3 Designation. This achievement denotes a commitment to improved and sustained Risk Management performance. The City will receive a 2.5% premium discount per line of coverage by way of this achievement.

*Lay on Table (under Section 12 of Agenda)*

**Resolutions**

- A. Resolution No. 29-16 To Amend Existing Pole Licenses and to Adopt a Pole License Form for all Future Pole Licenses.** The City's Legal Counsel (Attorney Jae Whitelaw from the Mitchell firm) recommended the City change its Pole License Form due to recent Court rulings. Written notices were sent to each licensee that the Council will be holding a Public Hearing tonight at 6:45 p.m.

*Unfinished Business (under Section 13 of Agenda)*

**Ordinances**

- A. Ordinance No. 17-16 Supplemental Appropriation To Increase Funds Available in the City's Municipal and Transportation Improvement Fund.** This action item also requires a two-thirds majority vote of City Council to adopt. The City's Transportation Fund presently has approximately \$155,000 in it and we collect approximately \$5,000 per month in fees.

*New Business (under Section 14 of Agenda)*

**Ordinances**

- A. Ordinance No. 18 –16 Amending Chapter 29, Administrative Code, By Amending Section 3.6.16, Division of Public Works.** The Government Operations Committee met with City Staff on Monday, May 9 to discuss this change and supports its adoption. Presently the Public Works Staff has assisted with various Park projects on a requested basis. We also hire a seasonal maintenance employee to assist our Recreation Supervisor for approximately five (5) months of the year, however there is no regular assistance for the other seven (7) months. This change would provide a more timely and effective presence in keeping our parks looking good. Both the Public Works Department and Director of Planning & Community Development support this collaborative assignment to better assist in maintaining our quality Parks' image.

**Resolutions**

- A. Resolution No. 36-16 To Authorize The City Manager To Enter Into A Contract with Resource Management Inc. Of Holderness, NH for Water Treatment Facility Lagoon Cleaning.** Both the Finance Committee and the Public Works & Environment Committee recommend approval. Attached is a copy of Staff's recommendation to move forward with this project. City Council did appropriate \$35,000 in this year's Water Fund Budget for this project. The Resource Management Inc. bid was \$28,512 however we need to replenish the top layer of sand at a cost of \$14,000. The total project cost then comes in at \$42,512. We are confident

we can cover the needed additional \$7,512 from other Water Fund Budget lines. Attached is a memorandum from Public Works Director Mike Bobinsky with the recommendation to move forward with the Resource Management Inc. bid.

- B. Resolution No. 37-16 To Authorize the City Manager to Solicit Request for Proposals to Develop a Solar Project Pursuant to RSA 362-A at the Former Somersworth Sanitary Landfill on Blackwater Road.** Again, both the Finance Committee and Public Works Committee discussed the proposal received from the American Capital Energy Team. The Committees recommend that we re-issue the RFP. One of the primary challenges continues to be our partners' ability to ensure the project provides a financial benefit to the City. Presently, the City is paying 7.8 cents/kwh. Attached are the minutes from the Finance Committee meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup> and the Indicative Price Proposals received from the American Capital Energy development group.

**Other**

- A. Vote to Ratify the Tentative Agreement between the Somersworth Association of Educators and the Somersworth School Board.** Superintendent Jeni Mosca will be presenting a summary of the Tentative Agreement at our 6:00 p.m. session. Attached is a memorandum from Superintendent Mosca summarizing the Tentative Agreement.
- B. Vote to Authorize City Manager to Sign Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) Brownfields Property Access Consent Form – Former Police Department.** The SRPC has selected this site for a clean-up assessment study to determine if any hazardous materials removal is needed. Attached is a copy of the Consent Form.

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

**A. Informational Items:**

- 1. Waste Management Services.** Recently I arranged a meeting with Waste Management Inc. (WMI) representatives to discuss their present charges for WMI dumpsters (roll off containers) located at City and School locations. Superintendent Jeni Mosca, Finance Director Scott Smith and I successfully negotiated new WMI Service Agreements in a collaborative effort for both City and School. The result was a reduction in the combined monthly charges by approximately 31%.
- 2. Chief of Police.**  
The next two (2) weeks:

**A. Open House.** There will be an Open House to recognize Chief Crombie’s service to the Community this Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**B. Swearing in Ceremony.** David Kretschmar will take the Oath of Office as our new Chief of Police on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**B. Attachments:**

1. City Attorney Certifications (1).
2. Department Head Reports.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Mayoral Nominations – Requires Council Confirmation Vote

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Re-appointments of:

Arthur Hendrickson

*Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Paradis, made a motion to confirm, Motion passed unanimously.*

Beth Poulin

*Councilor Dumont, seconded by Councilor Paradis, made a motion to confirm, Motion passed unanimously.*

New Appointment

Richard Brooks

*Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Soldati, made a motion to confirm, Motion passed unanimously.*

Jenna Higgins – Alternate Member

*Councilor Dumont, seconded by Councilor Soldati, made a motion to confirm, Motion passed unanimously.*

LAY ON TABLE

Resolution No. 29-16 To Amend Existing Pole Licenses and to Adopt a Pole License Form for All Future Pole Licenses.

*Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Messier, made a motion to remove Resolution 29-16 from the table, motion passed unanimously.*

***Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Soldati, made a motion to adopt Resolution 29-16.***

Councilor Dumont questioned the letter from Eversource, and their objection to notify us of those who have access to the poles.

City Manager Belmore said we are following the playbook that the City Attorney gave us, so we sent notifications through the Sheriffs' office for anyone who has been using our utility poles. This just protects our authority to assess appropriately under state law.

Councilor Messier said he understands that we are bringing this in line with the RSA. Why is it their (Eversource) responsibility to say who is saying who can use their poles. He will support this, but he believes it will end up in court.

Councilor Sprague said he doesn't think we have many Eversource poles. If they really cared they would be here.

***Resolution 29-16 was adopted by Roll Call vote, 8-0.***

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinances:

Ordinance No. 17-16 Supplemental Appropriation To Increase Funds Available In The City's Municipal And Transportation Improvement Fund

***Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Paradis, made a motion to adopt Ordinance 17-16.***

Councilor Witham said they talked about the need to increase funding for our road projects. This dedicates money into the fund for road projects.

***Ordinance 17-16 was adopted by Roll Call vote, 8-0.***

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 18-16 AMENDING CHAPTER 29, ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, BY AMENDING SECTION 3.6.16, DIVISION OF PUBLIC WORKS

Somersworth, NH  
May 16, 2016

THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH ORDAINS THAT the ordinances of the City of Somersworth, as amended, be further amended as follows:

AMEND Chapter 29, Section 3.6.16.c, Division of Public Works, by removing “that” and adding “as may be” and “and to provide general maintenance to all City parks not otherwise assigned”.

The Section will read as follows:

- c) Maintain City buildings and land except as may be assigned to another department, and to provide general maintenance to all City parks not otherwise assigned.

This ordinance will take effect upon its passage.

Sponsored by Councilors:

Jennifer G. Soldati  
Martin P. Dumont, Sr.  
Nancie Cameron  
Jessica Paradis

Approved:

City Attorney

***Ordinance 18-16 will remain in first read until the June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 City Council Meeting.***

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION NO. 36-16 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INC. OF HOLDERNESS, NH FOR WATER TREATMENT FACILITY LAGOON CLEANING.

Somersworth, NH  
May 16, 2016

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Water Fund adopted budget contains an appropriation for lagoon cleaning at the Water Treatment Facility; and

WHEREAS, this project involves the removal, hauling and disposing of the sludge in the lagoons as well as the replenishment of sand filtration material; and

WHEREAS, City staff solicited bids from qualified companies to complete this project at the Somersworth Water Treatment Facility and recommends contracting with Resource Management Inc. of Holderness, NH; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee and Public Works & Environment Committee for the City of Somersworth both reviewed the proposal and supports staff's recommendation to award the project contract to Resource Management Inc.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to enter into a contract with Resource Management Inc., of Holderness, NH for the Water Treatment Facility lagoon cleaning maintenance at a cost not to exceed \$42,512 and to take any and all such actions relative to this project determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Sponsored by  
Councilors:

David A. Witham  
Dale R. Sprague  
Martin Pepin  
Jennifer G. Soldati  
Denis Messier

Approved:

City Attorney

***Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Pepin made a motion to suspend Council Rules for a second read of Resolution 36-16, with all in favor.***

***Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to adopt Resolution 36-16. The Resolution was adopted by Roll Call vote, 8-0.***

RESOLUTION NO. 37-16 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO REQUEST PROPOSALS TO DEVELOP A SOLAR PROJECT PURSUANT TO RSA 362-A AT THE FORMER SOMERSWORTH SANITARY LANDFILL ON BLACKWATER ROAD

Somersworth, NH  
May 16, 2016

WHEREAS the City of Somersworth solicited proposals from qualified companies to design, engineer, install, monitor, evaluate, maintain, finance and decommission community solar projects pursuant to the New Hampshire Group Net Metering statute, RSA 362-A and locate them on the closed sanitary landfill site on Blackwater Road; and

WHEREAS the request for proposal required qualified companies to build the most economical, cost beneficial system that will maximize the power generating capacity of the site and provide the highest and best economic benefit to the City of Somersworth, and

WHEREAS the City Council voted to approve Resolution No. 30-15 to authorize a memorandum of understanding with American Capital Energy of Lowell, MA., for this purpose; and

WHEREAS the Finance Committee and Public Works & Environment Committee of the City Council reviewed American Capital Energy financing proposal for this project and recommends the City not accept the proposal and to re-issue a Request for Proposals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the proposal of American Capital Energy is not accepted and that the City Manager is re-authorized to re-issue a request for proposals to develop solar projects pursuant to RSA 362-A at the former Somersworth Sanitary Landfill on Blackwater Road and take any and all other such actions relative to this project determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Sponsored by  
Councilors:

David A. Witham  
Dale R. Sprague  
Martin Pepin  
Jennifer G. Soldati  
Denis Messier

Approved:

City Attorney

***Resolution 37-16 will remain in first read until the June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 City Council Meeting.***

Other:

- A. Vote to Ratify the Tentative Agreement between the Somersworth Association of Educators and the Somersworth School Board.

***The vote on ratification passed by Roll Call Vote, 8-0.***

- B. Vote to Authorize City Manager to Sign Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) Brownfields Property Access Consent – Former Police Department

Councilor Witham asked for clarification.

City Manager Belmore said this means they will move forward and this will be part of the grant funding. We will get a full assessment.

***The Authorization passed by voice vote, 8-0.***

**CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Councilor Pepin said he is happy to hear that Public Works taking over the maintenance of the parks, he fully supports what they have done; a lot of work at the parks and we are fortunate to have them do the work that they have. It will give staff time to focus on the programs.

He is on the school board and he is encouraged to hear the students present what they are learning. Thanked our teachers and our students for doing what they do. The students recently participated in a Science Olympics, and took top three of ten. Thanked the Council for ratifying the contract.

Somersworth Children Festival on June 17-18; they just received an award for what they do. People don't realize what it takes to set up for these events. The members are elderly and it is getting difficult to set up things. Any group who wants to donate some time to help set up and tear down, contact him or the children's festival.

Councilor Dumont said he got a call saying the signs at the Forest Glade Cemetery are restrictive to not have dogs, people hunting on the cemetery grounds. The person was concerned about this.

He complimented the City about the nice article in the paper about the wire brushing of the fence.

Compliment to staff about the negotiation for a reduction in Waste Management.

Prime Award is no easy accomplishment. A job well done.

Friday night is a marvelous awards event, congrats to Councilor Paradise. It is amazing that we go through life and not often that we find people with those talents.

Congrats also to American Ambulance.

The Festival Association, he gave them about 16 years of service, and the set up is difficult. And about an hour after the festival everything is all cleaned up

Councilor McCallion said he is blown away for 8+ years to work hard to get things done, then to get the this point and start hearing the positives. Friday night was

amazing. The Festival Association, he encourages people to consider volunteering. It is definitely rewarding. People were there for him when he was a kid. A lot of good happenings in this city. Willand pond, he went there 4 times last week. He encouraged people to use the parks. Thank you to SYC for what they have done. Don't get anything done without volunteers.

Councilor Messier mention that youth cleanup day was a success. He took a drive down Wiggins court and it is really bad. They will discuss this at the Public Works and Environment Committee meeting. He thank the Legion for the flags and for all they do. He wants an update on the wood chips on Market and Main Street. They need to be replenished. There was a position in the new budget for a person to maintain this. H thanked Liberty Mutual for their work at Mast Point. He would like an update about a contractor for the boat launch.

Councilor Witham said he has not attended one of these Chamber events, he hears a lot of good things. He attended the spring concert at the Somersworth High School, band and chorus of middle and high school level are at an all time high. Their accomplishments are above anything he was able to do at that age. It was quite a gathering of singers and musicians. He agreed with the transition of park maintenance to public works. We need to get some staff to look at the walkway at the pines. People have tripped. This needs to be addressed.

Councilor Sprague said Wiggins Court is not a road that has been traveled by a lot of people. He wished that they had talked about Station Street and had an area to put stages, for instances like the Children's Festival to bring things closer to downtown to show things off. Congratulations to councilor Paradis on the award.

Councilor Paradis said she would like an update on Mortgage Specialist Building. It is now for sale. She would like to make sure there are no more crazy rants on the sign. She agreed that Wiggins Court is bad, and should be addressed. Thanks to the Chamber for the awards night.

## 19. ADJOURNMENT

***Councilor Dumont, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.***

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Trish Harris, City Clerk

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Dana Hilliard, Mayor