



MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Somersworth, NH
October 28, 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 Dumont led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinance No. 10-20 - To Amend Chapter 29 Administrative Code, to Reassign the Responsibility of Maintaining Parks and Recreational Facilities and Grounds to the Department of Public Works

No Comments

Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive Program Application, City Ordinance Chapter 31 Somedowntown LLC., 8 Government Way

No comments

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approve Minutes of the Workshop – NH DOT Presenting the Road Safety Audit of Old Rochester Road and Blackwater Road held on October 7, 2019

Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting held on October 7, 2019

Austin/Cameron, 9-0.

COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCILORS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

None

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND DISPOSAL THEREOF BY REFERENCE OR OTHERWISE

None

MAYOR'S REPORT

Before the Council this evening for first reading is Resolution 18-20, "City Council Commitment to Support the Veterans Memorial At Stein Park By Pledging To Provide The Balance Of Funding Required At The Conclusion Of The Veterans Park Commission's Fund-Raising Campaign". The idea, vetting, creation, and design of the Veterans Park comes after a year and a half of discussion and work. The Veterans Park Commission formulated through the Mayors office and led under the leadership of Councilor Dumont, represented a cross-section of Citizens and Stakeholders. Through their effort and input, a finalized design was agreed upon, and a fundraising campaign became necessary to secure the capital and to bring to fruition the construction of the park. The campaign to secure funding for the funding for the park has been a true representation of the Hilltopper Spirit. And has been structured around the concept that this would be a community wide effort. The park itself has even been acknowledged by Governor Sununu, who fully funded the construction of the park in an earlier version of the State budget. While that line item was later eliminated in the finalized version of the budget by the House, over \$236,000 of revenue was added, giving Somersworth the necessary capital to still complete the construction of the park if the Council wishes to allocate funding from that line item. While Resolution 18-20 does not seek the full estimated \$144,000 to complete the parks upgrade, it does officially recognize that the City of Somersworth will be the major funding source in the project something that both I, as Mayor, and the Commission recognize where we began this venture. To date, our efforts to raise capital have begun. And like any campaign, donations and pledges are steadily coming in. Councilor Dumont and I have sent out official letters from the Mayor's office to every business in the City requesting their partnership in honoring our Veterans through contributing to this living tribute. While the plan is still to continue with the campaign, including personal followup conversations with Somersworth based businesses our efforts have increasingly become difficult with a lack of an official commitment from the City Government. With the passage of Resolution 18-20, the Veterans Park Commission, along with Councilor Dumont and I, would be able to continue to seek contributions while stressing that the City has already committed to ensure the project would break ground on Memorial Day 2020 with a dedication of the completed park on Veterans Day 2020. I can think of no greater tribute to our Hilltop Veterans as we approach Veterans Day in less than 2 weeks, than to officially make a commitment this evening to construct the park in our greatest honor to all of our Veterans sacrifices which they have already made. The input and debate around this park has already been fully vetted. Regardless of the future upgrades and projects that I will continue to support on a section of Main Street that desperately needs it, it makes no sense for any further delays for this project. One is either in support of the project renovations, or not. Therefore I am respectfully requesting to Council this evening that we give full honor to all the men and women who ever wore the uniform of the United States of America, by doing the following: Suspend Council rules this evening and give Resolution 18-20 a second reading, then with the full support of Council, pass the greatest tribute we could give to our Veterans before Veterans Day by officially committing to the construction of a new living tribute to be dedicated on Veterans Day 2020. With the passage of Resolution 18-20, Councilor Dumont and I will continue our steadfast effort to continue to raise capital through donations and the sales of individualized bricks and benches along with pledges from businesses. This evening, I am asking Council to aid us in our

efforts and send a clear message to Veterans throughout the Hilltop City that you will never be forgotten and that we will always stand by you and honor you for your service and sacrifices.

Under nominates, the following are being brought forward for a confirmation vote: Jason Barry, from Alternate Member to Full Member of the Planning Board, with a term to expire, October 2022, and Lindsey Gagnon, from Alternate Member to Full Member of the Historic District Commission, with term to expire, October 2022. I respectfully request that Council approve both nominations.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance Committee – Councilor Witham reported that the Committee met on October 16, 2019. The committee discussed:

- Maple Wood School Building Project, State grant monies for emergency preparedness has become available. They have already added a new roof, improved the entry way and main office, and enhanced building security. They are now looking into upgrades to heating, ventilation and lighting, and other enhancements, the state did pass their budget, and state building aid is available. Money can be allocated to projects. They are reviewing finance supports moving forward with additional work. They are hoping for the same contractors and builders.
- Athletic director from high school was in attendance. Scoreboard at the Football field has failed. It is old technology and parts are hard to come by. There was discussion about using the funding that is available from the previous school balance. They are looking at fundraising efforts. Finance was in support on updating the technology at a cost of approximately \$20,000 to replace, and encouraged the School Board to look at sponsorship. Councilor Witham suggested also looking at the score boards at the basketball court and other fields.
- Director Smith reviewed the investment policy, no real changes.
- Disposal of surplus city property, vehicles. The City will be using mechanisms that were used in the past.
- Fire department brush truck bids. The bids came in well in excess of what was budgeted. This will go back out to bid.
- Road paving. Projection to be overspent due to the amount of shimming on Franklin Street and Indigo Hill Rd. However, they have achieved some savings on Stackpole Rd. The overage amount is expected to be around \$30,000 over at this point, which is much more favorable.
- Reviewed building permit fees, an Ordinance is on this agenda.

Economic Development – Councilor Dumont reported that the Committee met on October 15, 2019. They discussed:

- Wentworth Douglas plaza lease. They are asking the City for permission to install a temporary generator.
- Somersworth Plaza Façade sign standards, something a little more compliant. The façade belongs to the City. Staff is working on standards for that.
- EDC office updates from Robin Comstock.

- Update of all of the exciting things that are occurring in the downtown. The Somersworth Chamber will house an upscale Chocolatier.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

Special Committees

Traffic Safety – Councilor Vincent reported that they review the parking ordinance in downtown area. They discussed several different areas. Staff will be creating a map. We currently have timed parking, but the Committee will be looking at the whole picture. They will continue to review.

School Board – Councilor Pepin reported that the Board met on October 8th and October 22nd. They discussed building aid, started looking at the 2020-2021 budget. They are asking for no increase.

Coast – Councilor Pepin reported that the Committee met on October 22, 2019. They received a detailed update on Healthtrust increases which are a lot higher than budgeted, because they are now over 50 employees. The increase is an additional \$117,000. Auto and umbrella insurance policy has also increased \$50,000. They discussed the problem with finding and hiring CDL drivers. There was discussion of offering increased benefits, and additional time off. They discussed the changes to routes and ADA compliance; several regular passengers will be outside the jurisdiction. They plan to give 6 months' notice to these individuals.

Sustainability Committee - Councilor LeVasseur reported that the Committee met on October 17th, 2019. They discussed the film screening, Paris to Pittsburg in the Black Box Theatre. They discussed the Farm to School grant, and future options for forums and discussions.

Lampry Regional Coalition - Councilor LeVasseur reported that the Committee discussed the upcoming budget. They are changing the billing management for the operating budget. Waste Management will handle the billing. An amount of \$1377 will be billed to the City of Somersworth.

Historic District Commission – Councilor LeVasseur stated that the Commission met on October 23rd, 2019. Several items were discussed. The Property at s6 Linden Street had previous approval for new construction. Those plans were revised to remove a garage. The Committee also reviewed a request to replace windows at 29 Maple Street, a request to replace 4 windows on Page Street, and a request to repair a corner deck post on 63 Prospect Street. These applications were all approved. The committee went on to discuss The Chocolatier at Chamber building and signage options.

Planning Board – Councilor Witham reported that the Board met on October 16, 2019. They discussed the old GAR building on corner Highland Street and High Street which has already received approval for residential on upper floors and commercial on lower floors. They were approved for residential on lower floors also.

The Hall at Great Falls at 49 Market Street is looking to expand their scope of options to include some shows. There is concerns about pedestrians; the committee discussed the request for flashing crossing lights.

Joint Council School Board – Councilor Dumont reported that the committee discussed the program, Somersworth Ready Together. This program is for pre-k children. They are seeing that there are some children that are not familiar with books; they are not ready for kindergarten. He applauded the coalition. Senator Watters also attended the meeting.

City Manager's Report

Office of the City Manager

TO: Mayor Dana S. Hilliard and City Council Members
FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager
DATE: Friday, October 25, 2019
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, October 28, 2019
City Council Agenda

Unfinished Business (Under Section 14 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. Ordinance No. 10-20: To Amend Chapter 29 Administrative Code, to Reassign the Responsibility of Maintaining Parks and Recreational Facilities and Grounds to the Department of Public Works.** Again, the Government Operations Committee voted to move forward with this Ordinance change.

New Business (Under Section 15 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. Ordinance No. 11-20: Supplemental Appropriation for Additional Improvements to Maple Wood School Funded by State Building Aid.** The Finance Committee met on October 16th and voted to recommend this Supplemental Appropriation. Attached are memorandums from Superintendent Robert Gadomski explaining the rest of the project work that would be accomplished with this Appropriation. This Ordinance will require a 2/3^{rds} majority vote and also a Public Hearing at the next regular Council Meeting on November 18th. *The Public Hearing was scheduled without objection.*
- B. Ordinance No. 12-20: To Amend Chapter 20, Building Codes, Section 20.L, Fees, Fines, and Penalties, and Appendix A, Fee Schedule.** The Finance

Committee had reviewed these fee increases and voted to support them. I recommend a Public Hearing be scheduled for the next Council meeting on Monday, November 18th. Attached is a copy of the “*red-line*” fee changes. ***The Public Hearing was scheduled without objection.***

Resolutions

- A. Resolution No. 18-20: City Council Commitment to Support the Veterans Memorial At Stein Park By Pledging to Provide the Balance of Funding Required at the Conclusion Of The Veterans Park Commission’s Fund-Raising Campaign.** The City has received \$2,450.00 in private donations to date. Attached is our current list. I would add that there are also some pledged donations that have not yet arrived.

Other

- A. Vote on Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive Program Application, City Ordinance Chapter 31 – Somedowntown LLC., 8 Government Way.** Again, the Economic Development Committee met on September 16th and voted to recommend acceptance of this application for Somedowntown, LLC, Mr. David Baker, for 8 Government Way. A copy of the application as well as Director Shanna Saunders memorandum determining the application is complete was provided to you in the last Council meeting’s packet.
- B. Vote for Re-Adoption of the City of Somersworth Investment Policy.** This is an annual housekeeping action item for the City Council. City Staff supports re-adoption without any amendments. The Finance Committee met on October 16th and recommends re-adoption. Attached is a copy of the City Investment Policy.
- C. Vote on Sale of City Surplus Property – Vehicles.** Attached is the list of City surplus vehicles. If approved, I will move forward with the process to dispose of these vehicles. We will be using GovDeals to attempt to sell these vehicles. I have also attached a copy of our City Ordinance Ch. 29, regarding the disposal of surplus property in excess of \$1,000 in value. I would also add that the Finance Committee voted to support this action.

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

A. Informational Items.

- a. Wentworth Douglas Hospital – Somersworth Plaza Lease.** Wentworth Douglas Hospital representatives are requesting approval to install a generator at their location at 85 Main Street in the Somersworth Plaza. This land is leased from the City. The Economic Development Committee met on October 15th and supported its approval without a Lease Amendment. The generator installation was approved with the condition

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that they use current onsite gas for their gas supply. The plan also includes landscaping to shield the generator. Attached is a copy of their request. Staff is moving forward with its approval through a minor field modification.

b. Brownfields Grant, 1 Winter Street, Former Breton's Cleaners.

Attached is a memorandum from Finance Director Scott Smith that provides some detail on the project's funding to date. As you will read, the project is close to being closed out. The Council will eventually need to address its redevelopment.

Tax rate. The tax rate for 2019 has gone down approximately \$6, from \$33.41 to \$27.28. Due to the revaluation, we have increased our value citywide by some \$212mil. So good news that the tax rate is going down over \$6.00.

Councilor Sprague asked if we have any idea what Dover, Rochester and other surrounding communities tax rates are.

City Manager Belmore stated that he has not seen information on Dover and Rochester, but the communities of Lee and Durham are higher.

Councilors Sprague and Witham both asked for an official press release.

Attachments

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

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Jason Barry, from Alternate Member to Full Member of the Planning Board, with a term to expire, October 2022

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

Lindsey Gagnon, from Alternate Member to Full Member of the Historic District Commission, with term to expire, October 2022

Councilor LeVasseur, seconded by Councilor Austin, made a motion to approve the nomination. The motion passed, 9-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES



City of Somersworth – Ordinance

Ordinance No: 10-20

TO AMEND CHAPTER 29 ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TO REASSIGN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MAINTAINING PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND GROUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

October 7, 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 Section 29.3.6.12A and Section 29.3.6.16 as follows:

Section 29.3.6.12A Division of Recreation

The Division of Recreation shall:

- a) Provide recreational programs for the residents of the City and others, as authorized.
- b) Perform such other related duties as may be assigned.

Section 29.3.6.16 Division of Public Works

The Division of Public Works shall be responsible for all the physical structures and facilities of the City not assigned to another organizational body. The Division of Public Works will coordinate operations in Forest Glade Cemetery with the board of Cemetery Trustees. In addition, the Division of Public Works shall:

- a) Repair, maintain, construct and operate the public streets, bridges, sidewalks and rights-of-way of the City.
- b) Repair, maintain, construct and operate the storm and sanitary sewer systems of the City.
- c) Maintain City buildings and land except as may be assigned to another department, and to maintain all City parks and recreational facilities and grounds not otherwise assigned. (Amended 06/06/2016.)
- d) Provide specific maintenance assistance in the Forest Glade Cemetery as mutually agreed upon with the Cemetery Trustees.
- e) Maintain and repair all City mechanical equipment except items for which other maintenance arrangements have been made.
- f) Direct and maintain the equipment maintenance records for all motor vehicles and equipment.
- g) Provide lubricants, fuel and other vehicle consumables for authorized vehicles on a reimbursement basis.

h) Perform such other related duties as may be assigned.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

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

City of Somersworth – Ordinance 10-20

History			
First Read Date:	10/07/2019	Tabled:	NA
Public Hearing:	10/28/2019	Removed From Table:	NA
Second Read:	10/28/2019		


Discussion

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Austin, made a motion to approve Ordinance 10-20.

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:		9	0
On 10/28/2019 Ordinance 10-20		PASSED	

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

	City of Somersworth – Ordinance
	Ordinance No: 11-20 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS TO MAPLE WOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FUNDED BY STATE BUILDING AID

October 28, 2019

THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH ORDAINS THAT pursuant to Section 7.7(A) of the City Charter:

The annual budget for the City of Somersworth for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 is amended as follows:

Appropriate \$669,865 from unanticipated School Department Revenue, State Building Aid, as follows:

Original Budget	Amendment	Revised Budget
\$26,103,113	\$669,865	\$26,772,978

Approved as to Funding:

Recorded by:

Scott A. Smith
Director of Finance and Administration

Trish Harris
City Clerk

Background:

This Ordinance appropriates funding for improvements to Maple Wood Elementary School, with funding provided by the State of New Hampshire through School Building Aid. The total amount of Building Aid to complete the improvements is \$1,835,649. The School will receive a distribution of \$669,865 this fiscal year, and a distribution of \$1,165,784 next fiscal year.

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

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

City of Somersworth – Ordinance 11-20
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History			
First Read Date:	10/28/2019	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

Discussion

Ordinance 11-20 will remain in first read until the November 18, 2019 City Council Meeting.
A public hearing has been scheduled for November 18, 2019.

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont		
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Sprague		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Levasseur		
TOTAL VOTES:			
On / / . Ordinance 11-20		PASSED	FAILED



City of Somersworth – Ordinance

Ordinance No: **12-20**

TO AMEND CHAPTER 20, BUILDING CODES, SECTION 20.L, FEES, FINES, AND PENALTIES, AND ADD APPENDIX A, FEE SCHEDULE

October 28, 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:

Delete Sections 20.L.1, 20.L.2, 20.L.3, 20.L.4, 20.L.6, 20.L.7, in their entirety,

and Add the following:

20.L.1.1 BUILDING PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE

See Appendix A

20.L.1.2 COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL–THIRD PARTY INSPECTIONS

Third party inspections may be required as determined by the City Engineer, Code Enforcement Officer, City Planner or, Fire Chief or their appointees. These inspections are, but not limited to: compaction, slump, torque, welding, structural, loading, lighting, drainage, subsurface waste, water treatment, pollution, and fire safety. The expense of such third party inspections is the responsibility of the applicant.

Add Appendix A

Chapter 20 Appendix A

SERVICES:	FY 20 FEES
BUILDING PERMIT FEES:	
Residential 1 & 2 Family Dwellings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Single < 4,000 sqft• 2 Family <8,000 sqft	Application fee of \$25.00
Residential Construction or Alteration with labor cost	\$9.00 per thousand dollars
Residential Construction or Alteration without labor cost	\$12.00 per thousand dollars
Estimate cost first floor (w/an unfinished	\$50.00/sqft

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basement or crawl space)	
Estimate cost other finished areas	\$40.00/sqft
Estimate cost other unfished areas	\$30.00/sqft
Estimate cost first floor on a slab or over finished basement	\$40.00/sqft
Commercial/Industrial Construction/Renovation	\$9.00 per thousand plus \$25.00 application fee
DEMOLITION PERMIT FEES:	
Demolition Application Fee	\$35.00 Structure
PLUMBING PERMIT FEES:	
Residential Application Fee	\$25.00
Residential Install, Add or Change Water Distribution Fee	\$10.00
Residential Install, Add or Change Water Piping Fee	\$10.00
Residential Boiler & Associated Plumbing for Hot Water Heating Fee	\$10.00 per thousand dollars
Residential Fixtures Fee * See list below	\$5.00/fixture
Commercial Application Fee	\$9.00 per thousand dollars plus \$25.00 application fee
MECHANICAL PERMIT FEES:	
Mechanical Permit Application Fee	\$9.00 per thousand dollars plus \$25.00 application fee
SUBSURFACE SEWER DISPOSAL, INSTALLATION OR REPAIR PERMIT FEES:	
Subsurface sewer disposal, installation or repair permit fee	\$35.00
ELECTRICAL PERMIT FEES:	
Residential Service Installations or Upgrades:	
• <100 amp service	\$7.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• >100 – 400 amp	\$10.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• >400 – 800 amp	\$12.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• >800 – 1000 amp	\$15.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• >1000 amp	\$18.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
Residential Meter Installation:	
• Domestic	\$5.00 plus \$25.00 application fee

SERVICES:	FY 20 FEES
• Quick Recovery	\$5.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• Off Peak	\$5.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• Primary	\$5.00 plus \$25.00 application fee

• Power	\$5.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• Temporary Service	\$15.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
Residential Switches:	
• Standard	\$1.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• With Light	\$1.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• Generator transfer	\$5.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
Fixtures:	
• Standard incandescent	\$1.00 each plus \$25.00 application fee
• Standard fluorescent	\$1.00 each plus \$25.00 application fee
• 4 light tube fluorescent	\$3.00 each plus \$25.00 application fee
• Sign	\$10.00 each plus \$25.00 application fee
• Suspended ceiling fixture	\$3.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• Smoke and/or CO detector	\$3.00 each (\$25.00 max) plus \$25.00 application fee
• Neon, LED sign, strip rope lighting	\$3.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
Outlets:	
• Duplex, Quadruple or GFCI	\$1.00 each plus \$25.00 application fee
• Hi-Intensity Lighting	\$10.00 each plus \$25.00 application fee
• Power (special i.e. generator) less than 10 KW	\$10.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• Power (special i.e. generator) 10 – 25 KW	\$16.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• Power (special i.e. generator) more than 25 KW	\$24.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
Baseboard Heat:	
• < 10 KW	\$3.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• 10 – 25 KW	\$5.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• > 25K W	\$.50 per KW plus \$25.00 application fee
Equipment:	
• Solar Photovoltaic Array	\$2.00 per panel plus \$25.00 application fee
• Microwave, Disposal, Dishwasher, Exhaust Fan, Oven, Range/Oven Combo, Warmer Table, Surface Range, Washing Machine, Clothes Dryer, Hot Water Heater, Air Conditioner, Oil Burner, Electrical Furnace, Motors less than ½ hp	\$5.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
Transformers:	
• Up to 25 KVA	\$10.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• 25 KVA and Over	\$25.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• Commercial work and installations	\$9.00 per thousand dollars plus \$25.00 application fee

*** Fixtures are, but not limited to the following:**

Stacks
Sinks
Bath Tubs
Water Closet
Lavatory
Water Heaters
Water Storage Tanks
Laundry Tray
Floor Drains
Sewage Ejector
Drinking Fountain
Pump

Sill Cocks
Showers
Urinal
Catch Basin
Dishwasher
Humidifier
Kitchen Disposal
Clothes Washer
Special Wastes
Rainwater Leaders
Main backflow preventer
Miscellaneous Fixtures

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

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


City of Somersworth – Ordinance 12-20

History			
First Read Date:	10/28/2019	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

Discussion

Ordinance 12-20 will remain in first read until the November 18, 2019 City Council Meeting. A public hearing has been scheduled for November 18, 2019.

RESOLUTIONS

	City of Somersworth – Resolution
	Resolution No: 18-20 CITY COUNCIL COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE VETERANS MEMORIAL AT STEIN PARK BY PLEDGING TO PROVIDE THE BALANCE OF FUNDING REQUIRED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VETERANS PARK COMMISSION'S FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN

October 28, 2019

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2018, Mayor Dana S. Hilliard announced the formation of the Veterans Park Commission to re-design Stein Park so that it may become a living tribute to all the brave men and women who answered the call of defending this great nation, and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution 2-20 to authorize the City Manager to contract with Ironwood Design Group to provide final design services for a Veteran's Memorial at Stein Park, and

WHEREAS, the City, through the Veterans Park Commission, has embarked on a fund-raising campaign to partner with local businesses and citizens in an effort to construct this living tribute and make it a reality, and

WHEREAS, the City Council wants to demonstrate their support to all those who wish to contribute to this Veterans Memorial by pledging to provide the balance of funding required at the conclusion of the fund-raising campaign and move expeditiously toward the completion of this lasting Memorial,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT that the City Council is committed to support the development of the Veterans Memorial at Stein Park and pledges to provide the balance of funding required at the conclusion of the Veterans Park Commission's fund-raising campaign.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by:</i> Mayor Dana S. Hilliard Martin P. Dumont, Sr. Martin Pepin Nancie Cameron Richard R. Michaud Kenneth S. Vincent	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Resolution 18-20

History

First Read Date:	10/28/2019	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

Discussion

Councilors Witham, Austin, Levasseur, and Sprague asked to be added as sponsors to this resolution.

Councilor Dumont, seconded by Councilor Vincent, made a motion to waive Council Rules to allow for a second read of Resolution 18-20. Motion passed 9-0.

Councilor Vincent, seconded by Councilor Cameron made a motion to approve Resolution 18-20.

Councilor Witham said he questioned if this should this go before the Finance Committee, then he realized that they are just committing to funding; they are not saying how yet. With that concern, he reached out to the Mayor and to Councilor Dumont. His other concern is, if the City is pledging to pony up the additional money, would this stop potential donors from donating. In his discussion with Mayor Hilliard and Councilor Dumont, they say it will enhance the fundraising efforts, knowing that this will not sit idle. Councilor Witham stated that he was recently in Berwick, and the Veterans, were handing out red poppies, which stands for sacrifice. The donations for these poppies support veterans.

Councilor Vincent stated that he will support this resolution. When donating money, you want to know where the money is going to go. As donors, it is nice to see a commitment. There are companies in town, that he hopes will step up to the plate. There are million-dollar facilities in our city that don't pay taxes. He called out Goodwin Health Care and others to open up their checkbook and help out.

Councilor Dumont stated that all endeavors are important. Veterans have given a sacrifice, and we need to do the same. During this process of approaching people for donations, it has been different, especially with not knowing the cost of benches and pavers when he has approached these businesses. This Resolution will put us into a position of solidifying our commitment as a City. We have had companies offer to purchase all of the pavers, but that is not what we are looking for. This is a joint effort between the private sector, business sector and the municipality. On Monday the 21st, was the first time in a long time he could attend the legion meeting to ask for a contribution to the project. He was asking for \$1000.

During the meeting, one of the members changed the amount to \$2500, and it was seconded, so the American Legion Post 69 has stepped up to equal the largest amount we have received from a business. Another vendor has also showed interest in donating an additional \$2500. We are in a different time today; those veterans, when they did their service and what they were exposed to, their life expectancy was 9 months. Making it through was a blessing. When they made it home, they weren't received well at all. He hopes that the burden to the city won't even be \$1.

Councilor Sprague applauded Councilor Dumont's efforts, but he questions the timing. We won't be breaking ground until 2020. He is wondering if this will hinder donors from stepping up if the City is going to take care of it anyway. He stated that he had someone asked about the Veterans Park. This person didn't feel too good about the city picking up the cost. Person stated that he will be paying for it twice (donation then taxes).

We could have a totally different composition of Councilors come January.

He asked the Mayor if this binds the Council.

Mayor stated that his gives the City clear direction and efforts, to support the funding and efforts of the Veterans Park. This is a financial commitment. His shows that the city is committed and dedicated to do this. There are funding sources, that are part of unanticipated revenue.

Councilor Sprague asked to be added as a Sponsor to this Resolution.

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:		9	0
On 10/28/2019 Resolution 18-20		PASSED	

OTHER

Vote on Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive Program Application, City Ordinance Chapter 31, Somedowntown LLC., 8 Government Way

Councilor Witham stated he has no information on this and he feels at a bit of a loss.

Mayor Hilliard called for a short recess.

Mayor Hilliard called the meeting to order.

Councilor Witham stated that he supports this application, but would like to suspend Council rules to allow Director Saunders to come forward to answer some questions, seconded by Councilor Pepin. Motion passed, 9-0.

Councilor Witham asked if the requested 7 years of tax relief as requested in the application was the maximum number of years.

Director Saunders said it is not.

Councilor Witham said they have some discretion in regards to how many years. The more repair would dictate the number of years, and this building is not in terrible disrepair.

Director Saunders said that Council does have discretion.

Councilor Witham stated that he cannot support it in its current form, with the request of 7 years of tax relief.

Councilor Levasseur asked for the current assessed value of the property.

Director Saunders stated that the property is currently assessed at \$133,600.

Councilor Levasseur stated that they are planning to build a second floor. He asked about the number of residential and commercial units.

Director Saunders stated that there will be 2 commercial units downstairs and 3 residential units upstairs with green space in the front.

City Manager Belmore stated that they are looking to improve the sidewalk, extending it around the front of the property and around to John Parsons Drive. This will make for 3 additional parking spaces.

Councilor Vincent asked who the owner is.

Director Saunders said the property sold recently, and David Baker is the current owner.

Councilor Witham said he has been in support of all applications. The others have taken an existing space and improved them. The property of other applications were in much more disrepair.

Councilor Levasseur thanked Councilor Witham for this thought process. In regards to 2 years tax relief for new residential, this attract new residents to the downtown area. Maybe this is something for Economic Development to look review between renovation and addition. He stated that he is in support of reducing the amount of years to 5 total.

Councilor Pepin stated that Mr. Baker has been before our board several times and has shown interest in other properties in Somersworth.

Councilor Witham stated that Mr. Baker has demonstrated an ability to do well with other properties. The dilemma is the property is not in total disrepair. His logic, is half of the building needs renovation and the other half will be new.

Councilor Witham, second by Councilor LeVasseur, made a motion to amend the application to allow for 4 years of tax relief (2 years for residential and 2 years for the structure).

The motion to adopt the amendment passed, 8-1, with Councilor Sprague opposed.

Councilor Witham stated that this project is in line with our tax relief efforts, by adding 3 residential units, and it enhances the downtown by creating a much-improved street scape and additional parking.

Councilor LeVasseur said this will add to the vitality to the downtown section. That area is a sea of pavement and the added green space will be a much-welcomed addition. He is happy to see the work that David Baker has done. His logic is sound.

Councilor Sprague said he will support this. If nothing was done with the property, someone would be paying taxes on \$133,000 anyway. Council has to be careful with picking winners and losers. Developers are not lined up at the door. He thinks this is a bit of a mistake. Mr. Baker has done good projects in the city before and this will help us.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Vincent, made a motion for roll call vote. Motion passed, 9-0.

Vote: Passed, 9-0 by roll call vote.

Vote for Re-adoption of the City of Somersworth Investment Policy

Vote: Passed, 9-0.

Vote on sale of City Surplus Property – Vehicles, per Administrative Code, Chapter 29, Section 8.5 Disposal of City Property

Vote: Passed, 9-0

CLOSING COMMENTS BY VISITORS

None

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Witham stated in 8 days will be the Municipal Elections. In the past, the Chamber of Commerce has sponsored a candidate's night, to hear from the public and the business community. That was a helpful compass to deal with matters of the public. So far all they have had was what is being asked of us by the local paper and the hot button issues. Regarding the question about traffic congestion along High Street, he felt good about that one. The City has moved forward with a CMAQ grant, to help with traffic congestion. There was a federal grant, but it takes years; they have been working on this since 2016. They have selected a contractor and an approach. This is no small feat, to improve the traffic signals and timing. The thing that was the hot button is the need to do more with road repairs and infrastructure. He called and asked Finance Director Smith how much money we spent on roads in the past 10 years. The answer was just shy of \$19mil. We are not ignoring our

roads. Raised the bar from \$250,000 to over a million a year. We are about to go out to bid for \$13mil water facility upgrade. We are doing all of this while keeping our water and sewer rates incredibly competitive. Another hot button issue is smart development. The largest example is the Sunnigndale development off of Stackpole road. What is gained by that is a lot of land that has been put into conservation easement. Developer has worked with the planning board to develop some parking spaces for hiking in that area. The homes are selling and very competitively priced. This has been a substantial signature. These are just some examples of what this body has been doing over the last several years.

Councilor Sprague stated regarding the Veterans Memorial project, he has been thinking about how things are different now for veterans, than they were years ago. He is looking forward to the park once it finally gets done. He stated that the tax rate has been reduced to \$27.28. We are now lower than several other communities in the area. With all of the infrastructure that we talk about going on. We have increased your assessed values and decreased the tax rate and have done a lot of infrastructure. Fosters has put out a questioner for the current candidates, but he has not been contacted. He stated that he will admittedly tell you that his energy level is not what it used to be. He is finding that it is more difficult to make some of the council meetings.

Ward 1, Councilor Pepin has his vote. The amount of energy and time that has to be put into this... He could not imagine being on the council without Councilor Witham. He tells the truth. At the ballot box on Tuesday, you may not agree, but you do want us three on the council.

Councilor Cameron said she is very proud of the things that this Council has done over the past few years. Regarding the Veterans Park, she certainly hopes that donations come in from the big box stores. She hopes that more David Bakers come into the city his vision is what we need in Somersworth.

Councilor LeVasseur thanked Councilor Dumont for his efforts for the Veterans Park. In the moment that our country needed it, they were deployed and served. He is happy to have supported this. He will be asking his company to support this too.

Berwick also completed a traffic study and the trip through Somersworth to Berwick will be smoother. The Exit 10 project needs to be completed.

It was a pleasure to serve with Nancie Cameron, he thanked everyone else as well. The people who are on this Council are really giving their all. It takes a lot to attend the different meetings. It is a passion and a love for this community. Kudos to the Mayor for creating this environment. We have our disagreements and can put that aside and focus on what really matters. As this city transforms, he looks forward to adding to the great future.

Councilor Pepin thanked Councilor Sprague for his comments. Read that some call this the "good ol boys club" and that some have been Councilors for too long. Takes a lot of time and effort to be a Councilor. We have some good arguments and still leave as friends. Some great people have sat on this board, and do so now.

He recognized Laura Lane, our assistant superintendent. He served on a committee at Idlehurst with her to look at future programming for the school. She is very organized. She walks around with a notepad and checklist. She stepped up as interim superintendent at a point when the school budget was in deep problems, and she was still looking ahead to the

future of our community and looking at building aid for the Maple Wood school. Many don't realize how many hours of paperwork it took to get that funding.

Councilor Vincent stated that when he came on board, he didn't know what to expect. This is a fine run machine. We have made improvements for the city. Commented on the report about the kids going to pre-k and kinder, in reference to them not knowing how to read. Seven years ago, when he was a firefighter, there were numerous drug overdoses, and the epidemic has spread. Parents are not paying attention to the kids and our workforce is being affected with not enough workers. He apologized to Goodwin, but encouraged then and the box stores to consider donating to the Veterans Park. Whole heartedly supports all here who are running for reelection. Councilor Pepin was like a father to him, in the Fire Department. He is not selfish and wants only the best things for the city.

Councilor Dumont commented about the intersection of Route 108 and Blackwater Road, and the parking of trucks. He appreciates staff involvement in looking into this. The thing with giving, you can tell the businesses that support the community. The 68 hours of Hunger Program is amazing in the number of bags of food that is sent home. Hilltop Chevrolet is a place that is collecting. Bill Connor called to remind him that the Marine Corp flag raising, on Friday, 1700hours. The navy flag was raised on October 9th. It has been a busy month. Stewart ambulance joined the team of contributors. He mentioned the Fire Department, Police Department and Somersworth housing for their picnic. Friday, He attended the ribbon cutting at the new VA clinic. Senators, Congresswoman, and our Mayor were in attendance. We of cultural background, always new Wednesday was spaghetti night. Recently, he started a new thing. They go to Stripe Nine on Wednesday nights.

He found recently that Fosters Daily Democrat is going from their quarterly cost of \$75 to \$156. It is interesting that we don't have a reporter here (at Council Meetings) anymore; they read the minutes. If you do the math, for 13 weeks, \$156 is more than the regular delivery, and they don't really do a good job, it is in the neighbor's yard, in a puddle.

Regarding the traffic congestion, he lived in municipalities where congestion was a way of life. We can take the time to smell the roses. If it takes 20 min to get from the Spaulding to Berwick, enjoy the ride. It is nice scenery.

As for the tax rate, everyone has an opinion on tax caps. The best tax cap that this city has is this Council. And they do their best to maintain, and repair roads while keeping within a budget.

The thing that is prevalent up here, a valuable asset, is passion. We feel passion about what we do. Could we have gotten goats without Councilor Witham? Probably not. And Councilor Pepin was a firefighter at 6 years old!

Councilor Austin said he has not a seen more dedicated or devoted team to making sure that they do the right thing for the City of Somersworth. They have a passion for doing the right things here. We all walk away knowing that we are all here for the same purpose. He stressed the importance of the local election. When we think about all of the things we hear about in the real world. The vote counts more so here at the local level. This is were things are local and effect the things that we experience every day and the things that we pay for everyday. the people sitting here represent your thoughts and goals.

Councilor Michaud stated that he cannot vote for Councilor Pepin, but he would like to endorse Him. All the committees that he has been all and all that he has done, Councilor

Michaud stated that he has learned from Councilor Pepin. He was happy to see on channel 9 news, that the Somersworth k9 unit apprehended a couple suspects. We appreciate everything you do.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

NONPUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Cameron, seconded by Councilor Michaud, made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:22pm.

Trish Harris, City Clerk

Dana Hilliard, Mayor