



MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Somersworth, NH

May 4, 2020

7:00 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR HILLIARD

As Chair of the Somersworth City Council, I, Dana S. Hilliard, Mayor find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Council have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously watch by way of our local public access Comcast channel 22 or via live streaming available at our City website Somersworth.com.

Please note that **all votes** that are taken during this meeting shall be done by **roll call vote**.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm by His Honor, the Mayor, Dana S. Hilliard, and upon roll call the following Council members were present: Councilors Pepin, Vincent, Dumont, Austin, Michaud, Witham, Gerding, Cameron and Paradis, who were all by themselves.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Paradis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting held on April 6, 2020

B. Letter from Michael Miccucci

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Michaud made a motion to remove item B a letter from Michael Miccucci to be read aloud from the consent calendar.

The Clerk read the letter aloud. The Mayor noted that the title Emeritus, which is a Latin title for honor, is a title is only be awarded by an elected body. No such title has been awarded by this body. The minutes will reflect that the title Emeritus was not awarded by this Council.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Austin made a motion to approve all items on the Consent Calendar absent item B the letter from Michael Miccucci. The motion passed 9-0, by roll call vote.

COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCILORS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

None

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND DISPOSAL THEREOF BY REFERENCE OR OTHERWISE

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayors Report for City Council Meeting May 4, 2020

As a community of united Hilltoppers we are continuing to bring our foundational elements of the Hilltopper spirit to life each day. Throughout this pandemic citizens within our 10 square mile city, have ensured the values we are known for, neighbor helping neighbor, looking out for each other, and treating each other as brethren illuminates within each of us and across our great city.

Since our founding in 1729 we have continued to overcome adversity by remaining united and never surrendering or easing the values which have made us strong and represent our motto of "Proud Past", "Bright Future". As united citizens our entire community should be filled with pride of how we have successfully navigated and protected each other and our community during the pandemic. It has been our willingness to follow and implement each advisory, which has led to Somersworth not bearing witness to the horrors which some other cities, towns and neighboring states have experienced.

Each of us is excited as the signs of spring, slowly ease us towards the returning light and warmth of summer. With equal anticipation, each of us yearns for a return to normalcy. We look forward to family and friends gathering in our backyards, exchanging food, drinks and laughs. We look forward to a return to days on beaches and lakes, virus free shopping at our favorite retail stores and getting haircuts. And we all look forward to reuniting with love ones and cherishing our most precious gifts; time and life.

Despite our cabin fever and our need to return to human contact, now is the time we must continue to follow the guidelines which have kept us safe. It is imperative that until major guidelines have been eased that we continue the practices which have kept us safe with feudality.

- Wash your hands regularly
- Wear a mask when shopping our in grocery stores or other retail places
- Practice extreme social distancing, keep in groups under 10 and keep a 6 foot buffer apart

As Hilltoppers we have met each challenge of this pandemic united, protecting each other and the community we love. Now is the time we continue our path towards victory, by walking slowly hand in hand to the moment when we returning to celebrating all of the things we love. Together we will overcome this virus, why? Because we are Hilltoppers!

Stay safe, stay healthy, practice social distancing, and stay home when you can.

Take care of yourself, your family and neighbors. Together as a united community, we will prevail and keep Somersworth “On the Move!”

The Mayor’s office in partnership with the Cultural Commission is encouraging all citizens to share with us your cultural traditions and practices as we continue to stay connected through social distancing. Do you have a special dish you like cooking which has been handed down, do you do an Irish jig, play the bagpipes, Greek Dance or sing songs in your ethnic language. If the answer is yes, we want to see it and share it. Film yourself on your I-Phone and send it to Councilor Matt Gerding Chair of the Cultural Commission at mgedring@somersworth.com.

As united Hilltoppers let us continue to celebrate our great city and keep the Hilltopper spirit radiating throughout our 10 square mile community by participating in our two city challenges.

Join Fire Chief Kramlinger and I by reaching the “Hilltopper Strong Fly the Flag Challenge.” Honor and show your pride for our first responders, medical workers, educators and all essential workers keeping our community safe during the COVID–19 pandemic by:

- Displaying the American flag on your property or flagpole. Take a picture of your flag and send in an email or text to bfisher@sau56.org
- Look for your pictures on the video that will then be compiled as another way of saying thank you to all of those on the front line on Channel 22 and 95
- Another great way of celebrating our Hilltopper pride is by partaking in the SYC Youth Connection. Create, design, and display unique rainbow art for all to see. Take a picture and send in an email or text to SYC bfisher@sau56.org
- Look for your pictures/video on Channel 22 and 95

Together as a united community we will continue to celebrate all that makes our community great and strong, its citizens.

We are Somersworth, we are on the move and we will prevail or this virus. Why? Because we are Hilltoppers!

Continue to keep yourself safe throughout this pandemic and

This respectfully concludes my April 6th, 2020 Mayors Report

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – Councilor Witham stated that the Finance Committee met on April 28, 2020 and all members were present, there were a number of City Staff present at City Hall. The first item was local emergency operations plan update. This is a grant with the State to update the City's emergency operations plan. This came to light as a result of a grant that we got for the new generator up at Hilltop School. By way of background the generator at Hilltop School even though it is a privately owned building now the City's emergency radio is located on that building, of which the City has an easement for it. The generator will provide power to that in the event of a power outage. Part of that grant agreement is that we update our emergency operations plan which is done about every 5 years or so. The grant is provided with a City match of \$4500, that City match will be paid for by in-kind services. The Finance Committee was in full support of this and drafted a Resolution to the full Council in accordance with HSEM guidelines which passed by roll call vote 4-0. Next item on the agenda was the grant funding City matches and review of the Jules Bisson Park enhancements largely the playground and also an associated pavilion. City staff is recommending UltiPlay to install the playground structure in the amount of \$45,816 dollars for a river themed playground close to the City's river walk. There was a discussion on funding of the project and where the additional funds will come from. City Staff is recommending that we utilize \$30,000 from the Parks and Recreation facilities reconstruction/rehabilitation capital reserve fund. City Staff is recommending that the additional money come from a number of recreation escrow accounts that we plan to close out from discontinued activities and contingency funding for a total of another \$15,000 dollars. There was a discussion regarding the type of wood chips that will be put in the playground area. The gazebo which is 16'x16', the Committee is recommending TCD construction in the amount of \$27,449. There were a number of motions regarding this first one sponsored by Councilors Austin and Dumont awarding the purchase to Ultiplay. The second was sponsored by Councilors Pepin and Dumont awarding the construction of the gazebo to TCD Construction. The third was sponsored by Councilors Austin/Pepin sponsor a Resolution to remove funds from the Recreation Reserve Fund. The fourth was sponsored by Councilors Pepin/Austin that the Finance Committee support removing \$8787.00 from the contingency line of the current fiscal year budget and an additional \$6213.00 from Recreational Escrow Funds. The last item on the agenda was the review of Fiscal impacts of COVID 19. He thanked the Mayor for removing the letter from Mr. Miccucci from the consent calendar as he thought the discussion will satisfy at least the City side of his request. The current estimates from City staff are that about \$270,000 from City side will be turned back to General Fund at the end of the current Fiscal year. We also suggest that we will

collect an additional \$500,000 in revenues to the General Fund. The fact of the matter is that about \$770,000 will enhance our General Fund by the end of the current year. Looking at the FY 20-21 budget, if we do not see Rooms and Meal Tax or Highway Block Grant revenue come through, we estimate that we could have a shortfall in the revenue side of the FY 20-21 budget. We had a lengthy discussion about what to do we feel comfortable now with the General Fund budget. The Finance Committee felt that it is our best interest to just take a wait and see attitude to see where these revenue projections actually do fall in and then to take any action as to using General Fund money to better balance the budget. We probably look to do that September or October about the time the tax rate is set. The other two things that we did talk about were the proposed bonding of a new fire station and the proposed bonding for Cemetery Road. The Finance Director brought to our attention that the Cemetery Road project would not impact any budgets until calendar year 2022 and the Fire Station bond would not impact any budgets until fiscal year 2023. The consensus of the Finance Committee was to continue moving forward with these projects, we did note that the timing for these projects absent COVID-19 is very good right now because we have bonds retiring for roadwork and the Police Station so we can replace the retiring bonds with these bonds. The last topic of discussion was in regards to the City Manager who was contacted by the NHDES because they were taking a survey with regards to shovel ready projects should we be avail to any stimulus money from the Federal Government for infrastructure projects. City Staff through the City Manager's office did provide information to the NHDES with regard to our WWTP upgrades, Cemetery Road and a few other projects. The meeting concluded at 4:27pm.

Councilor Vincent asked if he understood correctly that \$270,000 will go back into General Fund. Councilor Witham answered yes that is correct and that is from the City side of the budget, we do not have a number from the school side of the budget. Councilor Vincent asked for an example as to what that money is from. City Manager answered that the money we don't end up spending in regards to overtime or for coming in a little under budget. Revenue we have been healthy in regards to motor vehicle registrations and interest on investments. As we move forward interest on investments have tanked so we are looking to not collect much money in that regard. Motor vehicle registrations is sort of a wait and see as people are not utilizing their cars as much and plus the State has extended any temporary plate for a new car has been extended until May 31, 2020. There are a lot of moving pieces to this as we move forward. We will be diligent in the future looking at our revenues; we will be prompt at reporting back to Council on any needed conversations and Council action for adjustments as we move forward. In September we have the opportunity every year we have to fill out a form to have an opportunity to revise our estimates for revenue at that time and we do that every year, to the department of revenue administration. That is when we will look to engage Council in regards to what might be needed as far as adjustments on our revenue from the State. When the chair of the Finance Committee was talking about State revenue that was a total number he was given about one million dollars which are Rooms and Meals Tax and Highway Block Grant. Some special funding that we were promised that we used this year for Veteran's Memorial Park and that we are promised in the vicinity of \$270,000 - \$275,000 dollars. We were just informed today that we are looking at some reimbursement from Federal money so we will be looking at that moving forward both through FEMA and Federal legislation so there is an opportunity to perhaps recuperating any revenue that we might have lost or at least adding to our General Fund as we move forward.

Recreation – Councilor Cameron stated that there is a Zoom meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 4:00pm.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

Special Committees

COAST Bus – Councilor Pepin stated that they had a meeting on April 22, 2020 through Zoom. They are not operating right now and are looking over things on how to safely reopen. The biggest concern is the public safety of the passengers and employees. We just got word today that we will reopen May 11, 2020 but there will be a limited bus service. There will be some guidelines that are listed on their website for anyone traveling on the busses. The drivers will have to wear masks and gloves, which has been an issue trying to find the masks and gloves to be able to protect our drivers. Punch tickets will not be allowed to be used because it is contact with the drivers. The busses will be deeply sanitized every night which brings an added cost. There may be some problems with routes as some drivers do not want to return, and that is why some of the routes are being limited.

JBC – Councilor Pepin stated that they met on April 27, 2020 via Zoom regarding the Maplewood School addition. Progress is already being made and they have already gotten into the foundation and lining up all the contractors. Teachers and Students not utilizing the school has allowed them to start earlier. The other topic discussion was the elevator at the Middle School regarding the shaft being added and how to stabilize it due to the ground being soft. When they are putting in the elevator and new shaft they are going to have to do some work into the stair case going up to the second story and a classroom that has a kitchen counter. It does have asbestos involved so there will have to be some asbestos removal done and how to fund it.

Councilor Pepin noted that he has tried multiple times to get onto the School Board meetings but has been unsuccessful as of yet.

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, May 1, 2020
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, May 4, 2020

6:30 p.m. City Council Workshop – CMAQ Grant

City Council Meeting

May 4, 2020

The intent of this Workshop is to collect input from the public relative to the existing conditions, concerns, and project goals. Sebago Technics our Engineering Firm will review the existing site conditions, contemplated improvements, and proposed construction schedule.

Attached is a synopsis of the Grant provided by Director Shanna Saunders. A copy of our Consultant, Sebago Technics presentation is also attached.

New Business (Under Section 5 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. Ordinance No. 19-20: To Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 13.3.1-D, No Parking Anytime.** This Ordinance change was brought forward by Councilor David A. Witham. I recommend a Public Hearing at the next regular Council meeting to be scheduled by Mayor Hilliard. Attached is a copy of the location as provided by Councilor Witham along with his email. As noted, The City will need to better mark a “no parking” zone as State Law prohibits parking within 30 feet of a stop sign.

City Manager stated that a Public Hearing needs to be scheduled for Ordinance No. 19-20 at the next City Council meeting. Mayor Hilliard stated there is no objection will schedule a Public Hearing at the call of the Chair.

Resolutions

- A. Resolution No. 46-20: To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Grant Agreement with the State of New Hampshire Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) to Update the City’s Local Emergency Operations Plan.** The Finance Committee met on April 28th and voted to recommend approval of this Grant Agreement to full City Council. I have attached copies of the Grant Agreement as well as a Memorandum from Chief Kramlinger. The Fire Chief outlines the entire Grant process moving from Emergency Generator Grant to this Grant. Attached is a copy of the State approved Consultant’s proposal that we intend to use for this Project, if approved.
- B. Resolution No. 47-20: To Authorize the City to Use Funding from the City Parks and Parks Facilities Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund as a Portion of the City’s Match to a Land and Water Conservation Grant for Improvements to Jules Bisson Park.** The Finance Committee met on April 28th and voted to recommend this authorization to withdraw funds. Attached are copies of the information provided to the Finance Committee.

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

A. Informational Items.

- 1. City Budgets.** I have attached copies of information that I provided to the Finance Committee to assist in their discussion regarding potential COVID-19 Budget impacts. As you will read in the recent meeting minutes, presently our FY2020 Budget is in excellent shape. The greater concern lies with any action the State might take in State Revenues earmarked for our Community. The Finance Committee's consensus was to recommend we address any needed Revenue adjustments to the approved FY2021 Budget when we have more information from the State, which could be a few months away.
- 2. Capital Projects & Staffing.** It was the consensus of the Finance Committee for Staff to continue to move forward with Capital Projects as well as all planned hiring. As such, I will be introducing Bond Resolutions for Cemetery Road and a new Fire Station in the coming months, pending Mayoral approval.
- 3. Brush & Bagged Leave Pick-up.**
 - a. Brush will be picked up the third week in May (May 18).** You must call 692-4266 by Friday, May 15 to be added to the pickup list.
 - b. Bagged leaves will be picked up the fourth week in May (May 25).** You do not have to call ahead for bagged leaves pickup.

Attachments

- 1. City Attorney Certifications Three (3)**
- 2. Somersworth 2020 Water Quality Report**

Nominations, Appointments and Elections

Nominations Requiring Council Confirmation Vote:

- A. Jeremy Degler, Appointment as an Alternate Member of the Conservation Commission, with a term to expire, May 2023.
- B. Scott Orzechowski, Re-Appointment as a Member of the Conservation Commission, with a term to expire, May 2023.
- C. Dale A. Smith-Kenyon, Re-Appointment as a Member of the Conservation Commission, with a term to expire, June 2023.

D. Angela Ficco, Re-Appointment as a Member of the Conservation Commission, with a term to expire, June 2023.

These nominations will remain open until the next meeting


LAY ON TABLE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE

	City of Somersworth – Ordinance
	Ordinance No: 19-20 TO AMEND CHAPTER 13, POLICE OFFENSES, SECTION 13.3.1-D, NO PARKING ANYTIME

May 4, 2020

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 Police Offenses, Section 13. 3.1-D, No Parking Anytime, by adding:

Franklin Street, approximately 100 feet westerly from Green Street, on the south side of the street (to the opposite side of the road from the intersection with Silver Street)

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

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

City Council Meeting
May 4, 2020

City of Somersworth – Ordinance 19-20

History

First Read Date:	05/04/2020	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			


Discussion

A Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 19-20 will be scheduled at the call of the chair

Councilor Witham stated that he understands that it is practice to hold a public Hearing for an Ordinance change, but he explained that this is the intersection that we removed the red blinking light at the four way stop. It has been his observation that the intersection has been compromised with the addition of a multi-unit apartment building on the corner of Green Street and Franklin Street. It has created the need for a tremendous amount of on street parking. Until we can take action on this he just wondered if City Staff could impose a temporary parking restriction in this area that is called out in the Ordinance. City Manager stated that he will discuss this with the Police Chief in regards to a temporary police Ordinance.

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	Gerding		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Paradis		
TOTAL VOTES:			
On / / . Ordinance 19-20		PASSED	FAILED

RESOLUTION

	City of Somersworth – Resolution
	Resolution No: 46-20 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY, DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (HSEM) TO UPDATE THE CITY’S LOCAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

May 4, 2020

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 38-20 to authorize the City Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Safety to acquire a generator for emergency power for the public safety radio transmitter located at 17 Grand Street; and

WHEREAS, as a condition of that grant the City is required to update the Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP); and

WHEREAS, the City has been notified of the availability of a NH HSEM grant available to complete the update of the City’s LEOP; and

WHEREAS, the grant requires a 50% match that can be provided by the City utilizing in-kind services,

EXPLANATION OF TOTAL PROJECT GRANT BREAKDOWN

HSEM GRANT	=	\$ 4,500
CITY MATCH	=	\$ 4,500 (In-kind)
TOTAL PROJECT AWARD	=	\$ 9,000

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

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

City Council Meeting

May 4, 2020

City of Somersworth – Resolution 46-20

History

First Read Date:	05/04/2020	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:	N/A	Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	05/04/2020		

Discussion

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Pepin made a motion to suspend Council rules to allow for a second read. Motion passed 9-0, by roll call vote.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Cameron made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 46-20. Motion passed b 9-0, by roll call vote.

Councilor Pepin stated that this was brought up in Public Safety Committee meeting months ago and thinks this is very important if we do have some type of power outage on top of the hill it does affect the radio communications between Fire, Police and Ambulance. He stated the sooner we get this done the better for the City.

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	Gerding	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Paradis	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On 05/04/2020	Resolution 46-20	PASSED	FAILED



City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: **47-20**

TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY TO USE FUNDING FROM THE CITY PARKS AND PARKS FACILITIES REHABILITATION /RECONSTRUCTION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND AS A PORTION OF THE CITY'S MATCH TO A LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION GRANT FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO JULES BISSON PARK

May 4, 2020

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 28-18 to change the purpose of the Hilltop Rehabilitation Capital Reserve Fund and establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of Improvements, Reconstruction, or Rehabilitation of City Parks and City Park Facilities, and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 8-20 to authorize the City Manager to enter into a Grant Agreement with the State of New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant to make improvements to Jules Bisson Park, and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of these improvements is \$90,000 (Ninety Thousand dollars) requiring the City to provide a 50% match in the amount of \$45,000 (Forty Five Thousand dollars), and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that the City utilize the Parks and Parks Facilities Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund to provide a portion of the City's match in the amount of \$30,000 (Thirty Thousand dollars), and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has reviewed this recommendation and is in support of it, and

WHEREAS, the City Council is designated as agents to expend these funds,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City may utilize \$30,000 (Thirty Thousand dollars) from the City Parks and Parks Facilities Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund to be used for improvements to Jules Bisson Park.

Authorization

Sponsored by Councilors:

David A. Witham
Donald Austin
Martin Pepin
Martin P. Dumont, Sr.

Approved:

City Attorney

City Council Meeting

May 4, 2020

City of Somersworth – Resolution 47-20

History

First Read Date:	05/04/2020	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

Discussion

Resolution No. 47-20 will remain in first read until the call of the Chair.

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	Gerding		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Paradis		
TOTAL VOTES:			
On / / . Resolution 47-20		PASSED	FAILED

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

None

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Pepin stated that he misses getting together with everybody, he doesn't like the Zoom meetings anymore. As an example no one was all together saying the Pledge of Allegiance. He does understand that things have to be done this way. Everything is weird, when going to the grocery store you have to go down certain aisles and then up certain aisles. People are walking away to keep the 6ft distance he wants to go back to normal and be able to be together. We have to keep it this way to keep everyone healthy.

Councilor Vincent stated that last week he worked very hard as a State Representative to get businesses back up and running. He understands that there is an issue here where people have lost their lives and are sick. When it comes down to essential businesses and the definition of essential businesses can differ from person to person. We have food places open because we need food but we might not have a salon. The State has determined to make the essential businesses stay open. What we have done is take precautions using masks and gloves, but what about the non-essential businesses that contribute tons to the Cities and Towns in the State. Just to be in existence people have taken their life savings and opened businesses and now lost everything. So he is really for the drive of opening businesses in a safe way with precautions. He spoke with the Governor and the Speaker of the House as well as Nancy Kelly who is the CEO of the retail business association, he is happy to see that we are going to open these businesses because people are suffering. Whether you are an essential business or a non-essential business it is all connected some way somehow, you makes money from a non-essential business to buy from an essential business. He is hoping that it won't be back to normal but we will get it back in motion. Switching gears a little bit, he is concerned with the roads he has been driving on in the City, particularly Cemetery Road. It is a mess an absolute mess in certain and he understands that we have plans to redo this spots. Either we take all the pavement up go to dirt it's terrible. Nobody wants to put money into a road that is scheduled to be redone. Something needs to be done for the people who live there and travel that road. Everybody please be safe!

Councilor Dumont updated the Veteran's Park on Main Street located next to the old City Hall. You're going to see a picture of the beginnings of the new park there has been a lot of progress made within the last week. The pavement markers that cost fifty dollars you can order online through the City's website the first order has been sent in. He looks forward to filling every one of those bricks and again we thank everybody who has contributed. Unfortunately, the virus has had its effect on scheduling a group picture to present a check, so we are trying to weigh out how long that is going to take. He went to the grocery store for the first time since February the other day and it is hard to find a real good story because they have arrows pointing you in the right direction. All he can say is the people in the stores that are being courteous it is duly noted because some to people are not used to aisles having certain directions yet. The real tragedy of this is the effect it has on people who have loved ones who need medical care and who are on their death beds who may die without having any contact from family members. There has been a corona virus death in his family and it is sad you can't hold their hands when they are in need of it. He is happy to see that the

hospitals are going to be doing same day surgery again especially for people that need biopsies due to cancer etc. Meat items are being restricted at how many packages you are allowed to get in grocery stores due to the meat packing industry being hit by this pandemic. He hopes this is a short situation. Keep safe! Send out Congratulation to Brenda Heon, for being in a group and making masks.

Councilor Austin thanked Derek Caldwell for the CMAQ presentation; he has had conversations with Councilor Witham about how long this has taken to go from infancy to toddler ship is what he would call it now. This project can't get done soon enough for him. He took a minute and addressed a couple issues that Mr. Miccucci addressed in his letter. First, he talked about renegotiating contracts if they didn't include verbiage about a pandemic. He would challenge anyone out there anyone that has reviewed a contract over the last several years to tell him about any that stated anything about a pandemic shutting down the world in their contracts. He doesn't think that anyone could possibly foresee this being a scenario so to have any expectation that any existing contracts have language that refers to that. It is concerning that anyone would raise that issue. Secondly, he talked a lot about the bussing contracts for the school district. The bus company is working very closely with the school district in delivering food every day for the students delivering and doing a lot of different things. It is not like we are continuing to pay the bussing contracts and they are sitting idle. Yes, we are still paying the bussing companies as far as he knows with the conversations he has had with the school department. They are providing some very critical services at this time in order to help sustain our student population. Kudos to the bus company for continuing make these things happen. As far as the other costs associated with electricity heating and things like that who knows what the final numbers will be. He expects janitorial service to be more by the time we have done all the necessary cleaning and sterilization, not only now but assuming the schools will open in the fall what is that going to look like. It is a bit premature to start criticizing the school department for money that they may not spend without knowing what that is and questioning whether they return any money to the general fund or not. As past chairman of the School Board for over a decade the school department on the appropriations side always was very close to what the budget amount was. He applauded the school department for the way they are managing their whole process.

Councilor Michaud noted that the Veterans Park progress is impressive and what he is accomplishing every day. He personally walks by it every nigh just to go by and check to see what they are doing for progress. He mentioned what Councilor Vincent said regarding Cemetery Road, it is a mess and a band aid fix may be needed especially for the residents. He hoped everyone stays well and we can soon meet together.

Councilor Witham stated that he had communications regarding Cemetery Road several weeks ago with the City Manager and the Public Works Director temporary repairs of City streets to include Cemetery Road, Rocky Hill Road, Laurier Street there are a number of roads and he is assured by the DPW Foreman Gerry Vachon that temporary repairs are supposed to be made. Another road is West High Street due to some delamination in fact you can see some prep work where they have marked out these areas for milling. In the report earlier from City Manager there might be some monies coming our way with regards to COVID-19. He reminded Council that when we apply for FEMA reimbursement, typically that is a 75% reimbursement it is not a 100% reimbursement. He thinks the money that the

City Manager was talking about is to cover those other 25% of costs, which quite frankly he suspects is going to be rather negligible from a City prospective to staff time and things of that nature. He stated what we really need to be lobbying and encouraged connecting with our Senate and Congressional Delegation if for is for Federal stimulus money to help both State and Municipal Government. To fill the shortcomings and downfall of room and meal taxes because no one is going to hotels, the downfall in revenue from Highway Block Grant aid and things of that nature. These have direct impacts on us here at the local level as well as the school side that he is not as knowledgeable of. Federal stimulus money needs to bail out business, airlines, health care, but guess what critical to all of that is local and state Government and if one of these Federal stimulus packages doesn't include us at the local level then shame on our Congressional Delegates and Senators for not fighting the fight for us because these are important for us as well. When the State is not getting their money from the Feds, guess what we are not getting our money at the local level. He thanked Councilor Vincent for his work last week that is helping local businesses, but it is not helping us. His last comment related to COVID-19 and those of you that have visited the grocery stores have talked about the meat shortages. When he was in college pursuing his health and safety degree one of his assignments was to visit a meat packing industry, he visited one in western Pennsylvania they weren't good then and he suspects they are not good now. He is not shocked about what is going on now; this should not be shock to anybody that is familiar with that industry. He is reminded that organized labor and unions were not created for wages and benefits, they were created for safety. Now is the time for organized labor to stand up for safety and health in the work place now is the time; shame on Federal Government for cutting regulations that protect worker health and safety. He wondered if discussion about reopening the Country and to loosen stay at home regulations is really a discussion on party lines. But may be more a question about risk tolerant, there are some people in the world that are more risk tolerant than others. An example of a social media post he wrote was that some people ride motorcycles, some don't. Some ride with helmets, some don't, some ride in a car with a seatbelt, some that don't. There are some people that go skydiving, some don't and some that haven't yet. So he wonders if it is just a discussion about whether people are more tolerant or not. He for one will never own a motorcycle, but he is going to go skydiving someday it's not that risky if you think about it.

Councilor Gerding also wanted to touch on some topics that were discussed by other Councilors tonight particularly the budget and concerns that were expressed in the letter. He thanked Councilor Witham, the Finance Committee and City staff on producing and discussing the document that shows we are in fact fiscally secured going into this next year. Certainly as some of the state level taxes are becoming harder hit due to the crisis we may need to reevaluate. He was happy to hear today that the Governor decided to allocate \$40 million dollars to New Hampshire Cities, Towns and Counties to help with this response. He noted that this can go to help pay for childcare costs for first responders, help to pay for cleaning of buildings and things like that. He wanted to second about what Councilor Witham said in regards to advocating and lobbying for additional money for local Government. We were what seemed almost intentionally left out of the CARES Act because most every City or Municipality was too small to be able to directly apply so it left monies in the hand of our Governor. He believes the Governor has had an appropriate response to this in his eyes. As of right now he feels that Municipalities, particularly the City of Somersworth, we are the firewall in terms of preventing further economic catastrophe

through job loss. So we need to be super cautious moving forward and that any decisions we make do not impact loss of jobs here for our Municipal employees and school employee. He thinks that having those workers contribute to the economy in a safe manner will help buffer against some of these potential losses due to other sectors in our economy that might not be able to function properly right now. Continue to advocate moving forward and that we continue keeping people employed. On that note, as we begin to open up any businesses in the state can go to nheconomy.com/covid and request free PPE for your business. On a separate note, in regards to what the Mayor mentioned earlier please send videos to mgerding@somersworth.com for the Cultural Commission. He has made his and just needs to get it uploaded, he hasn't received any so please send me them.

Councilor Cameron spoke of a few different notes, she ordered a paver in honor of her father, and he was in the Navy. She is looking forward to the update of Jules Bisson Park river themed equipment. On Wednesday we will have a Recreation meeting which will include some plans for the dog park. She thanked everybody for their donations and looking forward to getting that going. She also noticed today when she returned to work that there are arrows in the aisles and she also went down the wrong way at one point and had to turn around. On a final note about COVID 19, she has a very good friend whose mother was in Bellamy Fields in Dover she was one of the patients that did die. It was very heart wrenching to hear her story about how they called the family together and how they couldn't go in but the nurse that was on duty allowed them to talk to her on the phone even though she couldn't talk back. Sending her off to her new home meant a lot to them to be able to do that. She looks forward to being able to see everyone.

Councilor Paradis started by reinforcing what the Mayor said in his report and encourage everyone to stay safe and follow all guidelines and protocols. She has found it personally annoying to have to wear that mask herself but has been using it anyways. She been talking to various family members and her Mom is presumed positive COVID-19 and has thankfully recovered and is doing just fine. She was on one side of the fence before, until she ended up getting what was a pretty bad bought and she pulled through and is now encouraging everyone to wear the masks. It was almost 3 weeks between when she was exposed to someone at her workplace and when she had symptoms. Just know that a lot of people do not show symptoms and could be walking around with it and putting other people at risk and you don't even know. Protect others in your community by wearing that mask. Shout out to Councilor Gerding and other teachers for teacher appreciation week this week. Our educators, including the Mayor, are doing so much extra work right now to teach in a way that they have never had to do before. She also really appreciated Councilor Austin for his shout out to the bus drivers who are putting themselves at risk to make sure our students are fed and taken care of. She echoed what Councilor Gerding said about Municipalities being that firewall and knows that our City staff takes that seriously.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

NONPUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Witham made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:21pm by the call of the chair. Passed 9-0, by roll call vote.

Kelly Gagne, Deputy City Clerk

Dana Hilliard, Mayor