

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Somersworth, NH
June 20, 2016
7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm by His Honor, the Mayor, Dana Hilliard, and upon roll call the following Council members were present: Pepin, Soldati, Dumont, Messier, Witham, Cameron, and Sprague. Councilors McCallion and Paradis were excused.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

MINUTES OF NON-PUBLIC SESSION HELD ON MAY 2, 2016.

Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to accept the minutes of the non-public session held on May 2, 2016. The motion passed.

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP – PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT PROGRAM HELD ON JUNE 6, 2016.

Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Soldati, made a motion to accept the minutes of the City Council workshop held on June 6, 2016. The motion passed with Councilor Sprague abstaining.

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP – INVASIVE PLANT PROGRAM HELD ON JUNE 6, 2016.

Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to accept the minutes of the City Council workshop held on June 6, 2016. The motion passed with Councilor Sprague abstaining.

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 6, 2016.

Councilor Cameron, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to accept the minutes of the City Council meeting held on June 6, 2016. The motion passed with Councilor Sprague abstaining.

MINUTES OF NON-PUBLIC SESSION HELD ON JUNE 6, 2016.

Councilor Soldati, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to accept the minutes of the non-public session held on June 6, 2016. The motion passed with Councilor Sprague abstaining.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

David Francoeur, 48 Blue Heron Drive, said:

- His third child has just graduated from Somersworth High School; he wanted to thank everyone at the High school and throughout the community who helped his kids. “Great kids, great school”.
- A pedestrian in a wheelchair was hit in front of Wal-Mart. There appeared to be a missing button for the crosswalk. Handicapped individuals cannot reach that button. Please look at that.

- He could not find the chart of fees being used to assess sewer impact for Bonfire Recovery Services. He wants Council to talk about one of three methods to calculate flow; specifically, taking 6 months of daily meter readings.
- He said that there were three conditions given when the project was approved: the variance is only valid for alcohol and opiate treatment, 75% of the residents of the facility shall be from Strafford County, NH. 28 people can go in but if they only have 14 from Strafford County they are not allowed to put another resident in there. They are charging for 28 residents but will only have that many in ideal conditions. He also wants them to take that into consideration when they consider fees.

George Poulin, Grove Street, Ward 1, probably complained about what he pays for his tax bill considering the homes around him that are not being kept up. He has been there 21 years and it still looks the same. It's disgusting, he said. He is sick of it. His neighbor hasn't been able to sell his house. Another neighbor just put his house up for sale, he can't take it anymore. He wonders why he is paying what he is paying, that's it.

Mike Hill owns 472 High Street, MDHF, LLC, which has a change of use from a rooming house and office zoning to a group care facility. The City assessed a change of use charge for water usage. They received a charge of \$87,534. The City suggested they check how other communities would handle this, which they did. Dover came up with \$8,928 and Rochester came up with \$2,482. He thinks that everyone agrees that a clean living facility is something the community could really use. They are there to lower or waive the fee. He said that Somersworth is calling the use a "residential institution other than a hospital" which is the highest use on the chart at 135 gallons per person per day. A similar facility in Dover actually uses 50 gallons per day per person. They are, therefore, asking for a waiver or at least another look at this because the actual usage will be far less than what they are being assessed. Thank you for your time, he said.

Ralph Pope, 64 Winter Street, Ward 1, full disclosure, is a realtor representing Bonfire Recovery Services. He has been a resident of Somersworth for 44 years. The whole process has been daunting and even though there have been very helpful people along the way, it hasn't been totally friendly service/reception, the latest being this \$87,000 fee. As a commercial and residential broker, it can be daunting at times. He believes that Bonfire will be an asset to the community and be good citizens. He very much wants to see them come to terms.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COUNCILORS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND DISPOSAL THEREOF BY REFERENCE OR OTHERWISE

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayors Report for City Council Meeting June 20, 2016

- The French Canadian culture aided in building Somersworth economy and immersed their traditions, food and language into our great Hilltop city. As one of Somersworth founding ethnic groups their contributions is celebrated in Somersworth “Proud Past” and “Bright Future”. This Friday, June 24th, will mark the official Provincial holiday of St. Jean the Baptiste Day in Quebec. In honor of one of Somersworth founding ethnic groups, the French Canadians, the Provincial Flag of Quebec will share the City hall flag pole beginning on June 17th through Friday June 24th.

This evening we will also celebrate Somersworth's French Canadian ties by reading “A Clue to Somersworth”. Written in 1982 by former Somersworth educator and resident Susan Littlefield, “A Clue to Somersworth” follows the adventure of a young boy vacationing in the Hilltop City from Thetford Mines Quebec.

Written in French and English, throughout the story the boy learns not only of Somersworth's “Proud Past” but also its “Bright Future”. I have invited two members of the Cultural Commission, 8th grader Dylan Zinkevich and Ward 3 City Councilor, Marty Dumont to share with us the book “A Clue to Somersworth” in both English and French this evening. By continuing to celebrate Somersworth rich cultural diversity we will truly keep our community “On the Move”. *Dylan and Marty proceeded to read “A Clue to Somersworth,” alternating between French and English, sharing the book with the Council, the audience and the community.*

- The Hilltopper spirit was shining brightly on Saturday morning during the annual Hilltopper Hustle. Thank you for all who were involved in planning the community and Somersworth (event), and (I) enjoyed running what has become one of my favorite courses.
- Friday evening was a time to celebrate family, community and the kick off to the Somersworth International Children's Festival. I enjoyed address(ing) the packed audience, highlighting our how great Hilltop city continues to progress “On the Move”. Thank you to all of the volunteers for your dedication to our community and making the 36th annual event a success.
- Last Monday, members of the City Council, School Board and united residents honored those lost in the Orlando attacks and reaffirmed our commitment to diversity by raising the pride flag at City Hall. The fight against terrorism begins around our kitchen tables. It fosters itself within our schools, neighborhood's, coffee shops and churches. It begins with each one of us standing up against acts of intolerance and discrimination before they germinate

themselves into acts of violence. It begins with eradicating the rhetoric, actions or legislation that is mirrored in the intent to divide and slow our progress towards reaching our goals as outlined in the Declaration of Independence.

To identity as an American and embrace our true values of who we are as a nation is more than displaying a flag or singing the national anthem. It is practicing and bringing to life the words which have built our nation as the defender of liberty. The fight against terrorism begins with each and every one of us, accepting each other, celebrating each other and defending each other.

As an American, I mourn the loss of my fellow citizens. As a member of the LBGTO community, I will continue to honor each of their lives by dedicating mine towards social justice. Like members of my community, I believe in this nation and its dream. I believe in the principles and doctrines it adopted that stifling July day in Philadelphia in 1776. We will continue to stand strong as a community and as Americans. We will embrace and celebrate our differences and continue our journey towards liberty, freedom and human dignity. Let us honor those who lost their lives by battling terrorist in the strongest way we can, let us, as individuals and as a nation, embrace, celebrate and honor one another.

- It was with honor that I delivered the official congratulations to members of Somersworth High Schools Class of 2016.

May the road of life lead you to joy, love and happiness.

May the road of life lead you towards commitment and services towards others.

May on the road of life, you celebrate the rainbow of diversity and each breath the universe has granted you.

And wherever the road of life may lead you, always remember your starting point, the great Hilltop city, the city which is always your home, your base of support and love.

Congratulations on your accomplishments, may life's road treat you kindly and may your blood forever run Hilltopper Blue.

- On the agenda this evening for a second reading is Resolution No. 40-16 Authorizing the City Manager to Engage in Discussions with the City Managers of the Cities of Rochester and Dover to explore the feasibility of joint city fire administrative services.

Resolution No. 40-16 takes no action, other than opening the door for discussion. It does not combine fire services or restructure the administration between the tri-city areas. What it does is allow our three cities to discuss and explore. Will joint administration between Somersworth, Dover and Rochester work? Does it make sense to have one Fire Chief and restructure the administration between our three cities? I do not have the answer to these questions, however I do know, if we are too afraid to explore neither will the Tri-city area.

The purpose of the Tri-City collation is to continue to engage in conversation to explore ways our three respective cities can improve services in a cooperative manner.

Resolution No. 40-16 intention is to carry forward on the spirit of that cooperation. I respectfully request that Council adopt the Resolution this evening and allow the discussion and exploration to carry forward.

- As we move into the summer months, we mark today with the summer solstice, the first official day of summer. The next **Mayors Community** forum will take place on **Saturday September 10th from 9:00 – 10:30** at City Hall. T Including in this forum will be **At Large Council members David Witham and Nancie Cameron and School Board members Kelly Brennan and Matt Hanlon**. *The* purpose of the forums is 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:

None.

This respectfully concludes my June 20th, 2016 Mayors Report

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilor Witham reported that the Finance Committee met on June 10, 2016.

- Prior meeting minutes were approved.
- Reviewed plans for a replacement WWTP front-end loader; the committee approved the purchase.
- Discussed other fleet purchases. Director of Public Works and Utilities, Mike Bobinski recommended the use of the State bid process for smaller fleet vehicles. The committee endorsed the sole source purchase. The Council will move forward with purchase requests this evening.
- Finance Director Scott Smith reported on the general fund. The Police Department is over budget due to payouts; Public Works because of street lighting; the Fire Department will need a transfer before the end of the year
- Road resurfacing estimates were discussed. The committee supports removing High Street (from Blackwater Road to South Street) from this years bid proposal list. A resolution to that effect is on tonight's agenda. He suggests a second reading tonight so they can go out to bid.
- Sewer fee determination was discussed. The committee generally felt that the sewer ordinance should be looked at. No action was taken.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Councilor McCallion said that there will be a seminar with DRED next Thursday, June 30, 2016,) at 4:30 pm.

PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Councilor Sprague said that they had trouble getting a quorum for their last meeting.

- In light of the Route 108 workshop this evening, he would like to have the PW Committee charged with going over those improvements.
- There is a July 25, 2016 meeting of the Tri City Coalition in Dover. They will get input from all three communities to put legislation together to back up the 108 corridor project.

Without objection, the Mayor referred the Route 108 improvements to the Public Works and Environment Committee.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

Special Committees

VISION 2020

Nancie Cameron reported that on June 13, 2016, they welcomed John Kennedy, so now they have a full board. At the International Children's Festival they had a table with a crystal ball and asked children what they would like to see in Somersworth. Responses included dinosaurs, cats and dogs, rainbows, etc., but they also came up with the following: a candy store, a soccer field, an up-graded basketball court and a community pool.

JOINT BUILDING COMMITTEE

Councilor Messier said that the JBC met this afternoon. The project is under budget, on time and they are working extended hours and starting to put flooring down and painting walls. Things are moving quickly

SCHOOL BOARD

Councilor Pepin attended that he attended the School Board meeting on June 7, 2016, but as they had a very light agenda, he had nothing to report,

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, June 17, 2016

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, June 20, 2016
City Council Agenda

6:00pm: Non-meeting School & Union Negotiations

*6:15pm: Workshop
NH DOT Route 108 Improvements presented by Shanna Saunders and Mike Bobinsky
Attached is a Copy of the PowerPoint Presentation for the Workshop.*

*6:45pm: Public Hearing
Ordinance No. 20-16 Amending Chapter 13 Police Offenses, Section 3.1.F.5, 15 Minute Parking.*

Unfinished Business (under Section 13 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. Ordinance No. 20-16 Amending Chapter 13 Police Offenses, Section 3.1.F.5, 15 Minute Parking.** This Ordinance change was discussed at the Traffic Safety Committee meeting on May 18 and the Committee recommends changing the 2 hour parking to 15 minute parking in front of the Market Street Bakery.
- B. Ordinance No. 21-16 Amending Chapter 4, Personnel Rules and Regulations.** The Government Operations Committee recommends a 2.5% COLA increase for non-union positions across the board, again if approved this will carry over to personnel in the Water/Wastewater Union.

Resolutions

- A. **Resolution No. 38-16 to Seek to Establish a Sister City Relationship with Thetford Mines, Quebec.**
- B. **Resolution No. 39-16 Authorizing the City Manager to Engage in Discussions with the Strafford County Administration to Explore the Feasibility of a County Property Tax Assessing Program to Include the City of Somersworth.**
- C. **Resolution No. 40-16 Authorizing the City Manager to Engage in Discussions with the City Managers of the Cities of Rochester and Dover to Explore the Feasibility of Joint City Fire Administrative Services.**

New Business (under Section 14 of Agenda)

Resolutions

- A. **Resolution No. 41-16 To Authorize the City Manager to Purchase a Replacement 6-Wheel Dump/Plow Truck for Use by the Department of Public Works.** The Finance Committee discussed Staff's recommendation at their June 10th meeting and voted to accept it. Attached are copies of memorandums from Public Works Department staff reviewed by the Committee.
- B. **Resolution No. 42-16 To Authorize the City Manager to Utilize the New Hampshire State Bid List for Certain Fiscal Year 2016-2017 General Fund Budgeted City Vehicles.** The Finance Committee discussed Staff's recommendation at their June 10th meeting and voted to accept it. Attached are copies of memorandums from Public Works Department staff reviewed by the Committee.
- C. **Resolution No. 43-16 To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with Southworth-Milton of Londonderry, New Hampshire for the Purchase of a New Replacement Front End Loader for the Wastewater Treatment Facility.** The Finance Committee discussed Staff's recommendation at their June 10th meeting and voted to accept it. Attached are copies of memorandums from Public Works Department staff reviewed by the Committee.

Note: Money has been allocated for this purchase in this fiscal years budget

- D. **Resolution No. 44-16 To Amend Council Resolution No. 28-16 by Removing High Street (Blackwater Road to South Street) from the Approved Selected Streets for Bid Specifications for Road Resurfacing and Associated Repairs.** City Council waived the rules and passed this Resolution on March 21st. It authorized the issuance of a bid package that included a portion of High Street. After a review of the projected cost of all the bid-approved streets that included a significant amount of water utility improvements, the Finance Committee voted to recommend the elimination of High Street for this year's

street improvement bid project list. I have attached a copy of the original Resolution and staff's cost estimates provided to the Finance Committee.

Other

- A. Vote to Ratify the Tentative Agreement between the Somersworth Association of Clericals and Aides (SACA) and the Somersworth School Board.** Attached is a confidential memorandum from Superintendent Jeni Mosca outlining the Tentative Agreement terms.

- B. Bonfire Recovery Services Sewer Fee Abatement Request.** Attached is a copy of the request as well as the City's billing assessment analysis. I have also attached a copy of the applicable section of the City's Sewer Ordinance. Finance Director Scott Smith will be available to answer any questions on the assessed bill for both abatement requests (to include 21 Grand Street).

- C. Transitional Housing, 21 Grand Street, Sewer Fee Abatement Request.** Attached is a copy of the request as well as the City's billing assessment analysis.

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

A. Informational Items

- 1. Somersworth ERZ Zone - Is your Business Eligible for the Somersworth ERZ Tax Credit?** On Thursday, June 30th at 4:40 p.m. the Council's Economic Development Committee and State Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) officials will be on hand to present details of the program and answer questions regarding Somersworth Economic Development.

- 2. Liberty Mutual Donation.** As part of the Serve with Liberty Volunteer Day, Liberty Mutual is making a \$1,000 donation to the City for our Parks & Recreation Programs/Projects.

B. Attachments

- 1. City Attorney Certifications - Seven (7).
- 2. Department Head Monthly Reports.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

None.

LAY ON TABLE

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 20-16 AMENDING CHAPTER 13 POLICE OFFENSES, SECTION 3.1.F.5, 15 MINUTE PARKING.

Councilor Soldati, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to accept Ordinance No. 20-16. Councilor Pepin received a phone call from the owner of the bakery. The two hour parking of is hindering the business so she asked if it could be changed back to 15 minute parking, which it used to be. ***Ordinance No. 20-16 passed, 8-0.***

ORDINANCE NO. 21-16 AMENDING CHAPTER 4, PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, COMPENSATION SCHEDULE.

Councilor Soldati, seconded by Councilor Messier, moved the acceptance of Ordinance No. 21-16. The motion passed, 8-0.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION NO. 38-16 TO SEEK TO ESTABLISH A SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THETFORD MINES, QUEBEC.

Councilor Sprague asked to be added to the sponsor list for Resolution No. 38-16 as he was not at the last meeting. Without objection, his name was added. (See the following.)

RESOLUTION NO. 38-16 TO SEEK TO ESTABLISH A SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THETFORD MINES, QUEBEC

Somersworth, NH
June 6, 2016

WHEREAS, Somersworth has a rich history of cultural diversity and;

WHEREAS, Somersworth's Vision 2020 master plan seeks to continue to be a "vibrant and highly sought after community in which to live, work and play that celebrates its history, culture, diversity and industrial roots." and;

WHEREAS, the community of Thetford Mines, Quebec is linked to the Hilltop community through citizens of Somersworth and their families who immigrated from Thetford Mines and;

WHEREAS, Somersworth continues to honor and celebrate its Franco American history and culture and;

WHEREAS, Somersworth is a member of the North American Francophone and Francophile network and;

WHEREAS, seeks to formally establish a sister city relationship with the City of Thetford Mines, Quebec;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE THAT, the City Council seeks to formally establish a sister city relationship with the City of Thetford Mines, Quebec, Canada.

Sponsored by

Mayor Dana S. Hilliard
Councilor Denis Messier
Councilor Jennifer G. Soldati
Councilor Martin P. Dumont, Sr.
Councilor Jessica Paradis
Councilor David A. Witham
Councilor Martin Pepin
Councilor Nancie Cameron
Councilor Dale R. Sprague

Approved:
City Attorney

Effective Date: _____

Councilor Cameron, seconded by Councilor Messier, moved to adopt Resolution No. 38-16. The motion passed, 8-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 39-16 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE STRAFFORD COUNTY ADMINISTRATION TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF A COUNTY PROPERTY TAX ASSESSING PROGRAM TO INCLUDE THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH.

Councilor Sprague, seconded by Councilor McCallion, offered the following amendment as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 39-16 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE STRAFFORD COUNTY ADMINISTRATION TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF ***ANY COUNTY COOPERATIVE SERVICES TO INCLUDE*** A COUNTY PROPERTY TAX ASSESSING PROGRAM TO INCLUDE THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH.

Somersworth, NH
June 6, 2016

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth is a member of the Tri-City Coalition (Coalition) whose mission is to foster dialog, exploration and implementation of joint policies and programs which would benefit the member Communities of the Coalition, and

WHEREAS, the members of the Coalition include the Mayors of the Cities of Somersworth, Rochester, and Dover, and two City Councilors from each Community, and

WHEREAS, the Coalition has discussed the possibility of a County Assessing Cooperative *and any other potential County Cooperative Services* run under the direction of the Strafford County Commissioners and its Administration, providing assessing services *and/or any other cooperative Services* to each participating Community in Strafford County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to engage in discussions with the Strafford County Administration to explore the feasibility of a County property tax assessing program *and any other possible County operated Cooperative Services*.

Sponsored by:

Councilor Dale R. Sprague
Councilor David A. Witham
Mayor Dana S. Hilliard

Approved:
City Attorney

Councilor Sprague said this comes from the Tri City Coalition and that the point is to just to enter talks and look at any and all (services) at the County so we don't have to keep coming back to the Council. The same resolution, before the amendment, was forwarded to Rochester and Dover. He is sure if we pass this, they will get a copy of it. The Coalition wants all Councils to partake so that when they have something, it comes back and they are all part of it.

Councilor Soldati expressed discomfort.

Councilor Sprague said he wants to hear about anything that can save the City money. He thinks government can get in its own way sometimes. His amendment is asking, if anything else comes up, to apprise (the Council) of it.

Councilor Witham is not averse to cooperation but said they do that now. He will not support the amendment.

Councilor Messier will support to have the discussions. Anything that comes out of it will have to come through a resolution. He does not support regional fire and police. If we really want to go to a county form of government then we need to enact a charter commission and let the county do the work. He does not support that, but he does not want to preclude conversations that could save money. As the Mayor stated, it doesn't hurt to have discussions.

The motion to amend Resolution No. 39-16 as above, passed, 5-3.

Councilor Sprague made a motion, seconded by Councilor McCallion to adopt Resolution No. 39-16, as amended. The motion passed, 5-3.

RESOLUTION NO. 40-16 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CITY MANAGERS OF THE CITIES OF ROCHESTER AND DOVER TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF JOINT CITY FIRE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES.

Councilor Sprague, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 40-16.

Councilor Sprague said that this just allows the three (fire) chiefs and the three city managers to sit down to discuss fire administration (structure). He said that it is not always just about saving money; sometimes it is about improving service.

Councilor Witham doesn't think we need a resolution to do (this). He doesn't know why they singled out fire administration and wonders about a hidden agenda.

Councilor McCallion thinks the discussion needs to happen.

Mayor Hilliard said the Tri City Coalition was formulated for discussion; it has no legislative authority at all. It cannot enact or and/or make decisions for the three area cities. It is a board of the three mayors and two council representatives from each city. It is simply to foster ideas and conversation. (For an idea to move forward) a resolution would need to be drafted and forwarded to each council. For something to happen, all three councils would have to adopt.

Councilor Dumont agrees with this. He does not want to ever close the door to ideas. ... We owe it to ourselves to gather this information and this is an excellent (vehicle) to do it.

Councilor Pepin, speaking as a 32 year veteran of the fire department, said his heart is at the fire department. He thinks this is a slap in the face of the Somersworth firefighters. He said we can't even pay for a full-time secretary for the Chief and they don't offer a captain more pay than a lieutenant so there is no initiative. He is dead set against spending money to an outside organization to do the work to support our firefighters. There is no initiative to stay and advance here. He cannot support this.

Councilor Witham offered the following amendment: add the words "or any other city cooperative administrative service" at the end of the title and throughout the rest. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sprague. He said he does not know how this would work if Dover and Rochester did not pass similar resolutions. The Mayor said they would have to adopt similar language.

Councilor Witham (still) doesn't think a resolution is needed, but if we are going to have one, we might as well allow the City Manager and department heads to talk about (whatever we can cooperate on).

Councilor Sprague agrees. He thinks this is a great amendment.

Councilor McCallion said this is not a slap in the face; it is just worth a conversation.

Councilor Witham clarified that the amendment also needs to be adjusted in the body of the text.

The amendment passed on a voice vote, Councilor Pepin opposed.

Resolution No. 40-16, as amended, passed by roll call, 6-2. (Councilors Pepin and Witham opposed.)

The text of the amended resolution follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 40-16 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CITY MANAGERS OF THE CITIES OF ROCHESTER AND DOVER TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF JOINT CITY FIRE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, OR ANY OTHER JOINT CITY COOPERATIVE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES.

Somersworth, NH
June 6, 2016

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth is a member of the Tri-City Coalition (Coalition) whose mission is to foster dialog, exploration and implementation of joint policies and programs which would benefit the member Communities of the Coalition, and

WHEREAS, the members of the Coalition include the Mayors of the Cities of Somersworth, Rochester, and Dover, and two City Councilors from each Community, and

WHEREAS, the Coalition has discussed evaluating the benefits to the member Communities working together to establish joint fire administrative services, OR ANY OTHER JOINT City cooperative administrative services,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to engage in discussions with the City Managers of the cities of Rochester and Dover to evaluate the benefits of joint fire administrative services, or any other joint City cooperative administrative services.

Sponsored by:

Councilor Dale Sprague
Mayor Dana S. Hilliard

Approved:
City Attorney

Other:
None

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinances:
None.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION NO. 41-16 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO PURCHASE A REPLACEMENT 6-WHEEL DUMP/PLOW TRUCK FOR USE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Somersworth, NH
June 20, 2016

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2017-2022 contains a recommendation to purchase certain vehicles for City Departments; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth Fiscal Year 2016-2017 adopted General Fund budget provides down payment funding for the lease-purchase of a replacement 6-wheel plow truck and related attachments for use by the Department of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, City staff evaluated equipment from qualified vendors for the purchase of the 6-wheel dump/plow truck and related equipment and recommends contracting with Peterbilt of Bow, New Hampshire for the truck and chassis, and to contract with Howard P. Fairfield Equipment of Pembroke, New Hampshire for the winter plow related equipment including sander and plow gear; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee for the City of Somersworth reviewed the proposal and support's staff recommendations,

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 New Hampshire Peterbilt of Bow, New Hampshire for the 6 wheel dump truck, and Howard Fairfield of Pembroke, New Hampshire for related equipment attachments, and take any and all other such actions relative to these purchases determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Sponsored by Councilors

David A. Witham
Dale R. Sprague
Martin Pepin

Approved:
City Attorney

Note: Is intended this equipment will be acquired through the use of a lease-purchase arrangement with other additions to the City's fleet.

Councilor Sprague made a motion to waive rules to allow for a second reading. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed on a voice vote.

After a second reading by title only, Councilor Sprague, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to approve Resolution No. 41-16. Councilor Witham said that PW Director Mike Bobinski and lead mechanic Roy Remick did a very good job in stating why this makes a lot of sense for our community. The motion passed, 7-0. (Soldati left the meeting due to illness, prior to this vote.)

RESOLUTION NO. 42-16 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO UTILIZE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BID LIST FOR CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 GENERAL FUND BUDGETED CITY VEHICLES

Somersworth, NH
June 20, 2016

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for FISCAL YEARS 2017-2022 contains a recommendation to purchase certain vehicles for City Departments; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth Fiscal Year 2016-2017 adopted General Fund budget provides down payment funding for the lease-purchase of the following new vehicles; a Recreation Office pick-up truck; a Highway Division 1-ton truck; a Public Works Department SUV; a Code Enforcement vehicle; and a replacement pick-up truck for the Police Department parking enforcement/animal control; and

WHEREAS, City staff has evaluated the advantage of the use of a standard vehicle manufacturer acquisition policy and recommends the use of NH State bid list for Ford vehicles as the most efficient method of procuring these new vehicles; and;

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee for the City of Somersworth reviewed the proposal and support's staff recommendations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to utilize the NH State

Bid list to purchase these vehicles with the approved State bid dealership and to take any and all other such actions relative to these purchases determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Sponsored by Councilors

David A. Witham
Dale R. Sprague
Martin Pepin

Approved:
City Attorney

Note: Is intended this equipment will be acquired through the use of a lease-purchase arrangement with other additions to the City's fleet.

Councilor Witham moved that Council Rules be suspended to act upon this resolution this evening. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sprague and passed on a voice vote. After being read a second time, Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Sprague moved to adopt Resolution No. 42-16. The motion passed, 7-0.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Dumont, made a motion to read Resolution No. 43-16 by title only. The motion passed on a voice vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 43-16 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SOUTHWORTH-MILTON OF LONDONDERRY, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW REPLACEMENT FRONT-END LOADER FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY.

Somersworth, NH
June 20, 2016

WHEREAS the City of Somersworth fiscal year 2015-2016 Wastewater Utility adopted budget contains an appropriation for a new replacement front-end loader for the Wastewater Treatment Facility; and

WHEREAS, the City staff requested sealed bids from qualified vendors for this purchase and recommends contracting with Southworth-Milton of Londonderry New Hampshire for the purchase of a Caterpillar front-end loader at a cost of \$88,900; \$96,900 less trade-in credit of \$8,000 for the City's 1970 John Deere loader; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee for the City of Somersworth has reviewed the recommendation by staff to award the contract to Southworth-Milton, and supports the recommendation,

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 Southworth- Milton of Londonderry New Hampshire for the purchase of a new

Caterpillar front-end loader and to accept their trade-in proposal for the 1970 John Deere Loader to offset the City's cost of the new Front-End Loader for a net cost of \$88,900 and, furthermore, the City Manager is authorized to take any and all such actions relative to this purchase determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Sponsored by Councilors

David A. Witham
Dale R. Sprague
Martin Pepin

Approved:
City Attorney

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Sprague, made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow for a second reading this evening.

After a second reading, Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Sprague, made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 43-16. Councilor Sprague said it not always just about price. This is not the lowest price; attachments, serviceability, warrantees, etc. were all taken into account. Councilor Messier made a point to clarify that this will be housed at Wastewater, not at the City barn. Councilor Sprague said if it were needed, the City could rent/lease from the Enterprise Fund. Valid point, he said. ***Resolution No. 43-16 passed, 7-0.***

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Messier, made a motion to waive Council Rules to read by title only. The motion passed.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to suspend Council Rules to act upon this resolution this evening and allow a second reading. The motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 44-16 TO AMEND COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 28-16 BY REMOVING HIGH STREET (BLACKWATER ROAD TO SOUTH STREET) FROM THE APPROVED SELECTED STREETS FOR BID SPECIFICATIONS FOR ROAD RESURFACING AND ASSOCIATED REPAIRS

Somersworth, NH
June 20, 2016

WHEREAS the City Council adopted Resolution No. 28-16 that authorized the City Manager to prepare bid specifications for road resurfacing and associated repairs of selected streets; and

WHEREAS the Finance Committee of the City of Somersworth has reviewed city staff's estimated costs for resurfacing and repairs to the approved selected streets, and recommends the removal of High Street (Blackwater Road to South Street) due to the total estimated costs for all the selected streets,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT Resolution No. 28-16 is hereby amended by removing High Street (Blackwater Road to South Street) from the approved selected streets in regards to the City Manager’s authorization to prepare bid specifications for road resurfacing using a complete streets concept, and the amended list is approved as follows:

Memorial Drive (Cemetery Road to High Street)
Down Street (Bourque Street to the dead-end)
Indigo Hill Road (Williams Street to Green Street)
Indigo Hill Road (Green Street to Union Street)
with a “bid alternate” of Indigo Hill Road (Union Street to Main Street).

Introduced by Councilors

David A. Witham
Dale R. Sprague
Martin Pepin

Approved:
City Attorney

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Pepin, moved the adoption of Resolution No. 43-16. Councilor Dumont asked if this is an attempt to save money to do another street. Councilor Sprague explained that the Finance Committee wants better engineering on this section of the street so that they don’t waste money. Councilor Witham spoke about the water/utility costs, etc. He said they can reclaim a few spots to get by for another year or two. Councilor McCallion said he will support this. He said they do need to make sure when they do Memorial Drive that they have the stubs for the sewer like they talked about. Councilor Pepin wants crosswalks looked at more and he said this will give time (with respect to) Cumberland Farms. Councilor Sprague said that is right. He then spoke about a 6-inch line (at Memorial Drive) for food service, boosters, concerts, etc.

Council adopted Resolution No. 44-16, 7-0, on a roll call vote.

Other:
None.

VOTE TO RATIFY THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SOMERSWORTH ASSOCIATION OF CLERICALS AND AIDES (SACA) AND THE SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD.

The Council ratified the agreement, 7-0, by roll call.

BONFIRE RECOVERY SERVICES SEWER FEE ABATEMENT REQUEST.

Councilor Sprague thinks that he was surprised when he received a call from Mr. Pope. He thinks this \$87,000 impact fee is anti-business, astounding and is a money-grab. Staff is just enacting Council legislation, but what is being used for calculations is off-kilter. They need to work on the ordinance. They need good dialog as to how they do things.

Councilor Witham thinks that Councilor Sprague is on point: \$87,000 is too much, there is a number but the number is not zero because there *is* a change.

Mayor Hilliard presented two choices- discuss and come up with a number or motion to refer to the Finance Committee and authorize the Finance Committee to come up with a number. The Mayor believes it is best to vet this through committee.

Councilor Messier agrees with what has been said, he is skeptical with leaving the Finance Committee with the decision. There needs to be a study. He said they will also have that conversation with transitional housing on 21 Grand St. \$87,000 is ridiculous. You might as well send both to the Finance Committee.

Councilor McCallion thinks the dilemma is not the number but when it was voted on. Rates changed about 8 years ago because the city was in a deficit. He thinks there should be discussion in committee and then it should come back to be debated. There has to be some kind of number, it has to be amended, (but) he thinks they need to change the (resolution) as a whole.

Councilor Cameron was at the Festival when she heard that number. Outrageous. They need to look at how it is assessed. She thinks they are all in agreement that they need this, they want this, but to do this, they are pushing them away. The policy needs to be adjusted to be fair and equitable to each other.

Councilor Dumont said that we probably didn't intend to, but we created a hurdle in front of people who are really trying to provide these services. The thought of sending it back to the Finance Committee bothers him because they need to take action now. People with knowledge and numbers came to them with a request for an abatement; he doesn't see why they can't act on that abatement. Delay this for debate? Are you kidding? There have been several months of discussion. This should be written tonight.

Councilor Pepin agrees that they need to take action. They need to come up with a formula but can't see stringing this out.

Councilor McCallion said that they are charged with making the legislation for the whole city, not just individuals. They need to look at that ordinance. There was a body that made that legislation before us: why? We need to look at that and have a good discussion. To make a change for one individual is not good for the city.

The Mayor called for a motion.

Councilor Witham asked the City Manager whether, if they act on this tonight, it establishes a precedent and whether they need to be consistent in their practice.

The City Manager said you open up the possibility, he would be cautious in looking at the merits of the abatement and how it might be applied in relation to the ordinance language itself. He knows there is urgency with both organizations to move the projects forward.

Councilor Witham wants more time to arrive at the number, because it does apply to others.

Councilor Messier made a motion that the abatement requests from Bonfire Recovery Services and transitional housing at 21 Grand Street be referred to the Finance Committee to make a final decision.

Councilor McCallion was concerned about disregarding the (resolution); Mayor Hilliard clarified that they were seeking only to act on two abatement requests. Councilor Sprague said that anybody has the right to come to Council for any type of abatement. This is similar to what they do for Malley Farm or Sober Sisters; they are doing good for the community. He will recuse himself from the vote, and probably from the Finance Committee meeting, but the moving targets are: looking at the Ordinance for future projects, but now we have two projects in front of us that have to move on.

Councilor said looking at the Sewer Ordinance and dealing with two abatement requests are two different buckets.

Councilor Dumont reminded the Council of a 25 year abatement given to GE before any of the current members sat on the Council. He said that this is a special need for society, let alone Somersworth, and we are kicking this around like it's a ball we all get to play with. He doesn't think we are showing a good sense of commitment. He hasn't heard anyone say they don't deserve this abatement. "Think of what we did! Oh, by the way, we need \$87,000." This is a solution for a need! Are we just thinking about ourselves, or the people who really need this help?

The motion to refer to the Finance Committee was seconded by Councilor Witham and passed on a voice vote. (One abstained and one opposed.)

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING, 21 GRAND STREET, SEWER FEE ABATEMENT REQUEST.

Referred to the Finance Committee by the previous vote.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

None.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Pepin thanked all who workers at the Children’s Festival. It was really appreciated.

Councilor Dumont complimented Public Works on the flags on High Street. Mr. Dumont was in Florida during the Orlando shootings; he said that the whole state felt the effects. He received a call from an elderly lady who received a call from the (IRS) saying that she owed money. They left a message she called them back, recorded the threatening call, and then played it for the Police Department. If you get a call like this, please refer it to the Police Department. Line of sight, safety issue on the corner of Clement and Green Streets, there are overgrown bushes that need to be trimmed. Dylan Zinkevich, what a wonderful person to read that book tonight, thank you. Bienvenue signs- wonderful thing.

Councilor McCallion thanked everyone who volunteered at the Children’s Festival. People are seeing that Somersworth has a lot of positive things happening. We need to keep that momentum up. Thank you to the people who did the race. We need to promote the volunteerism and thank the people. We need to revisit that (Ordinance).

Councilor Messier said the race and festival were good. For negatives- he brought up the task of trying to get people to maintain their property. He had a friend who got a letter after being on vacation tin which he was threatened with legal action if he did not mow his weeds on Ben Rich Drive. Let’s start out (playing nice). The easy ones they seem to go after hard and the difficult ones seem to get ignored. He doesn’t have an answer but he knows it is a daunting task in this community to get people to maintain their properties. He wants an update on the Mast Point Dam project. He thinks it is being stalled because of bats in trees. He wants people in the community to really know what is going on

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

NONPUBLIC SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Cameron, moved for adjournment. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 9:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elise B. Brellis, Deputy City Clerk

