



City Council Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2015
2015-16 Goal Session Workshop

Attendees- Mayor Dana Hilliard, Councilors present: Brian Tapscott, Jonathan McCallion, Dale Sprague, David Witham, Jennifer Soldati, Denis Messier and Martin Dumont. Councilor Sean Collins arrived at 10:10 a.m. Absent: Councilor Martin Pepin.

City staff present- City Manager Robert Belmore, Police Chief Dean Crombie, Director of Planning & Community Development David Sharples, Director of Finance & Administration Scott Smith, and Director of Public Works & Utilities Todd Smith; Absent: Fire Chief Keith Hoyle.

Others present- facilitator Eric Wind.

The Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

The Facilitator report, which provides the discussion points & goals, is attached.

Goal Setting Workshop adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert M. Belmore
City Manager

March 31, 2015

Somersworth City Council's 2015 Goal Setting Meeting

Facilitator's Meeting Summary from the March 28th, 2015 goal setting session

Councilors, the Mayor, the City Manager, City Department Heads and a facilitator met around 8:30 in the morning and started the session in earnest at 9:00. At 9:00 Councilors and the Department Heads participated in standing committee breakout groups to develop focused goals based on committee structures. At 10:00 the entire group got back together and discussed goals as a collective body until the meeting adjourned at 11:30.

Goals and Priorities for 2015

Use and sale of surplus city owned properties

- Continue to move aggressively in selling for surplus properties
- Meet with the Strafford Economic Development Corporation and the Great Falls Development Corporation to collaborate on public/private partnerships to fill vacant sites

Police Department staff retention

- Address issues including comparative regional salary shortfalls, deployment structure, feeder program and special initiatives
- Examine making the current staff assignment to the county task force full time
- Look at the Department's imaging/marketing for areas of improvement

Fire Department costs, climate and culture

- Utilize the new Tri-City Regional Council to examine regionalization of firefighting resources
- Examine the current staffing and management structure for ways to improve climate and culture within the Department

Mast Point Dam Revitalization Project

- All regulatory authorizations have been secured, site work will commence this spring

Parks and the Park Series Program

- Aggressively advertise the Parks and the Park Series Program
- Use technology/cameras to preserve park infrastructure and investments

Snow removal improvements

- Examine using fixed space contracting
- Transfer responsibility for clearing the School District's parking lots to the School District to better serve their needs and to keep Public Works resources on the streets

Pavement management/Road Resurfacing Management Plan

- Implement the Management Plan and examine different methods to catch up on funding (e.g. betterment assessments)

Examine whether to install gas service at the Police station before any adjacent road resurfacing begins

Maintain existing levels of service despite the tax cap and revenue hits

Streamline the Council Rules and the City Manager evaluation process

Upgrade finance department software

Code Enforcement

- Follow through on hiring a full time enforcement official
- Conduct an educational campaign relating to the recent changes in City Code enforcement authorities and what the expanded enforcement priorities will be

Historic District Commission size, scope and process

- A cooperative process to collaborate with the HDC and address the issues identified about the size of the District will be spearheaded by Mayor Hilliard

Superfund Site and Solar Array

- Council is awaiting recommendations and then EPA/DES approval
- Future action will be needed by Finance and Economic Development Committees