

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

The meeting was called to order by His Honor, the Mayor, Dana Hilliard, and upon roll call the following Council members were present: Pepin, Soldati, Dumont, McCallion, Messier, Sprague, Cameron, and Paradis. Councilor Witham entered at 7:20pm.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

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

Councilor McCallion, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

Mark Fearis of 78 Stackpole Road, Ward 4 wanted the Council to be able to put a face with a name since he is on the agenda for consideration to join the planning board. He said he has met with the Mayor and discussed his application and credentials. He and his family have been in Somersworth for a little over ten years, he wants to get more actively involved.

Megan Dubois, 12 Pearl Street, commented that there was a great turnout for the Presidential Primary. She was proud to be a Somersworth resident that whole day. She spent 14 hours at the polls and enjoyed every second of it.

Jameson Small, 36A Market St, Ward 1. He thanked the Mayor for giving him the opportunity to join the Rail Advisory Committee and Planning Board. He mentioned the solar project and vision 2020; coming up in 2021 is a renewal for the GE dam. The city owns the lower dam. Maybe this is something we can work with.

COMMUNICATIONS

An email from Emilee Kenyon, of resignation from the Somersworth Conservation Commission was read by the City Clerk.

Without objection from Council, the email was accepted and placed on file.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayors Report for City Council Meeting February 16th, 2016

- A high energy event took place last Friday evening celebrating our communities' commitment to diversity and our proud Hilltopper traditions. Inaugural celebration included fare representing the founding ethnic groups of Somersworth and a variety of entertainment including; Irish step dancers, bagpipers, Indonesian dancers and rock performers, a sing a long lead by the City Council, School Board and me of the French song Alouette, and the local highlight band Acoustic Radio. The event continued build and foster the spirit of team, it is the spirit of team which has transformed our community over the last two years and will be the foundation and pillars of our future success.

A special thanks also to the Indonesian Consulate Generals Office for sharing their ceremonial instrument the "Gamelan" on Friday. The "Gamelan" which is permanently displayed in the Consulate Generals Office in New York City is only released for special celebrations. We are grateful for the Consulate General for sharing the "Gamelan" and having it travel to our Hilltop community.

I along with the Mayor's Culture Commission will continue to implement practices over the next two years which will not only recognize and celebrate Somersworth Proud Past, but will continue to Hilltop city has a Bright Future.

- A heart filled thank you from the City Clerk and I, to all citizens who took time out of their busy lives to ensure our democratic process would continue to function flawlessly. The NH Presidential Primary held last Tuesday witnessed record turnout and voter registration. In the Hilltop city alone, over 500 new voters were registered that day. I was able to have insightful follow up conversation with several citizens who served as Ward Clerks and Selectman during Primary Day, all offering suggestions on how we might be able to improve the process and attract more citizens to serve. I am therefore calling upon the Government Operations committee to begin exploring the following as we move towards the General election in November.
 - 1) The feasibility of restructuring the elected poll positions into two shifts, thus relieving some of the stress of a full day and evening commitment. Morning shift and evening shift.

- 2) Increasing the stipend and implementing a permanent food allowance for all poll workers.

I believe some of these suggested changes would help resolved the issue of a shortage of election officials within Somersworth and help attract some new citizens to offering their services.

There are also still some permanent election positions which are open for appointment. Any resident interested in serving in one of these positions please contact the City Clerk or Mayor's office.

- Another successful Mayor's Community Forum took place on Saturday, Thank you to all who attended and participated. The next **Mayor's Community** forum will take place on **Saturday March 12th from 9:00 – 10:30** at City Hall. Included in this forum will be the *Ward 2 City Councilor Jennifer Soldati and Ward 3 School Board Member Dana Rivers*. The purpose of the forums are to foster dialog and ideas, in a non-formal setting to continue to move our community forward. All members of the community are welcome to attend any forums.
- Last night on my way into the School Board meeting I jumped the metal fence and walked through the accumulated snow to lower the flag to half - staff in honor of the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. During his tenure on the Court Antonin Scalia dissenting opinions and votes often represented a nation foreign to me. His understanding of vision and intent of an evolving constitution and doctrine of universal protected rights differs greatly from mine. Justice Scalia and I envisioned two different nations and my support of his opinions were in most cases none existent.

Yet, as an American and fellow human being it was with pride last night, with my hand, the same hand which he openly dissented against the claim of constitutional rights, that I lowered our nations flag in his honor. The foundation of our democracy is respect towards differences of opinions and honoring those individuals and institutions which "We the People" have created to continue the evolution of democratic governing. The current climate and culture of hostility and attacks between those who have been chosen to lead is dishearten, and continues to erode what we as a nation have fought for to progress over the last 240 years.

Those in positions of power at the state level and particular at the national level could take lessons from how the Somersworth City Council and School Board governs our local community. Policy is crafted and debated, and at times debate is heated. Yet, at the conclusion of debate and meetings each member of the respected political body is still viewed as a valued team member and citizen.

Ones sacrifices and loves to city, state and nation are to be respected. It is my hope that the tenure of service of Justice Scalia will not only be honored through our

nations time of mourning, but that the institution in which he served, the Supreme Court, will be respected through the conformation of a qualified replacement. I will continue the practices of my morals of honoring all those who believe and are committed to democracy. It is my hope that those that have been entrusted with the powers outlined within the Federal government will start doing the same.

Nominations, Appointments and Elections:

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

Donna Donovan re-appointment as a member of the Library Board of Trustees with a term to expire in February 2019

Mark Fearis as an Alternate to the Planning Board with a term to expire in February 2019

I would respectfully request that council confirm all nominees

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

Richard Brooks as an Alternate member to the Historic District Commission with a expire in February 2019

Miechelle Poulin as a member of the Conservation Commission with a term to expire in February 2019

In accordance with Council Rule 17 Appointments, the nomination shall remain open until the March 7th scheduled Council meeting.

Also under nominations and appointments, in accordance with **Council rule 15** I am naming the following Mayoral appointments:

Sarah McGrawn as a member to the Hilltop Commission

Pius Murray as a member to the Mayor's Cultural Commission

In accordance with Council rule 15 this nomination does not require Council approval.

This respectfully concludes my February 16th, 2016 Mayors Report

Councilor Sprague asked if a date for the budget hearing has been determined. The Mayor referred to the City Manager, who said the Budget Hearing will be held on April 4th at 5:30.

Councilor Sprague said he will not be able to attend the Goal Setting Session date on Saturday March 12th.

The Mayor said the format will be the same as previous, that the non-profits will be able to send presentations, questions only at the workshop. The Mayor encouraged the Councilors to meet with the non-profits prior to the meeting if they want more information.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Public Safety – Met on Feb 11, to discuss the overtime for the fire department. There has been a lot of turnover and illnesses. The City Manager and Finance Director said they would hold the line within the Fire Department budget. Under miscellaneous, the committee voted 3-0 to support the Police Department's new SUV's.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

Special Committees

School Board - Councilor Pepin said they met on February 9th and discussed the proposal for the public hearing. There was a presentation from the Superintendent and teachers about all day kindergarten next year.

The public hearing was held on February 15th and it was proposed to send the budget as presented to the City Manager.

Vision 2020 – Councilor Paradis said the meeting was postponed to February 17th due to the storm.

Hilltop Commission – Councilor Dumont said they had their initial meeting on Feb 4th. The Mayor outlined the direction for the Commission.

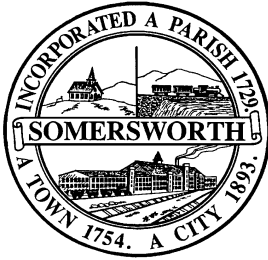
Cultural Commission – Councilor Dumont said they had their initial meeting on February 11th. The Mayor gave a presentation and direction. Both commissions are very exciting. A brainstorming on meeting is scheduled for March 10th for the Hill Top School and the many cultures of Somersworth.

Parade Committee – Councilor Dumont said they met on February 15th, and came to a unanimous decision to pursue the merging of the parade with Berwick. Several members of the Parade Committee will be meeting with the Mayor and Town Manager of Berwick on February 24th.

JBC – Councilor Messier said they will be meeting on February 18th at 4:00 at the CTC Center.

Tri-City Coalition – Councilor Sprague said they will be meeting on Thursday, February 18, at 5:00 in Council Chambers in Somersworth.

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, February 12, 2016

**SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Tuesday, February 16, 2016
City Council Agenda**

6:00pm: Workshop on Solar Project at the Landfill Superfund Site

Attached is a handout prepared by Project Consultant Hank Ouimet

6:45pm: Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 12-16, Police Offenses – No parking

6:50pm: Public Hearing on Resolution No. 20-16, Adopting TIF RSA

Unfinished Business (under Section 13 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. Ordinance No. 12-16 Amending Chapter 13, Police Offenses.** This is a recommendation from the Traffic Safety Committee: No Parking on Kings Lane.

Resolutions

- A. Resolution No. 20-16 Adopting the Provisions of New Hampshire RSA Chapter 162-K Municipal Economic Development and Revitalization**

Districts. The Economic Development Committee reviewed this proposed action at their January 26th meeting and supports the adoption of this Resolution. Again, this is only adopting enabling legislation. Further Council action will be required to create an actual TIF District.

New Business (under Section 14 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. Ordinance No. 13-16 Amending Chapter 4, Personnel Rules and Regulations by Amending Section 7.6 Titled “Vacation” and Section 8.2 Titled “Suspension”.**
- B. Ordinance No. 14-16 Amending Chapter 29, Administrative Code by Amending Section 3.5 Titled “Department Head Authority, Duty & Responsibility” and Section 3.6.2 Titled “Common Duties and Responsibilities.** The Government Operations Committee is supporting the action items spelled out in “*Ordinance No. 13-16*” and “*Ordinance No. 14-16*”, which they reviewed at their January 28th meeting. Attached is a memorandum from Human Resource Manager Linda Corriveau highlighting the proposed changes to the Administrative Code and Personnel Rules & Regulations (for Non-union personnel).

Resolutions

- A. Resolution No. 21-16 To Authorize the City Manager to Notify the State of New Hampshire and State of Maine That the City Shall Provide Funding for the Eddy Bridge Project.** The Finance Committee and Public Works & Environment Committee met on February 1st, both Committees support this Resolution. The City Council did appropriate \$5,000 in this fiscal year’s budget for preliminary work for this project. I was contacted by Maine DOT as was NH DOT. Maine DOT wanted to move this project forward sooner than originally planned. NH DOT supports doing so, however, they will only move forward if the City makes a funding commitment regarding our cost share. I recommended the use of the Transportation Fund to the Council Committees, and again they support doing so.
- B. Resolution No. 22-16 To Authorize the City Manager to Order Two SUV Style Police Cruisers Which will Be Funded By a Lease Purchase Arrangement.** Attached is a memorandum from Chief Crombie on the cost for a Police SUV. The Public Safety Committee reviewed this proposal at their January 28th meeting & the Finance Committee met on February 1st to discuss this proposed authorization to order two (2) SUV’s prior to the next fiscal year’s budget adoption. Both Committees support adoption of this Resolution.

- C. Resolution No. 23-16 Vote to Authorize the Trustees of Trust Fund to Release the First Payment Due the Somersworth School District from the Post-Withdrawal Capital Trust Fund.** Attached is a memorandum from Superintendent Jeni Mosca requesting payment from the Post-Withdrawal Capital Trust Fund. The Finance Committee voted to support this action at their February 1st meeting. Finance Director Smith has provided a listing of the funding in all our Capital / non-Capital reserve Funds as of the end of 2015, a copy is attached.

Other

- A. Vote to Authorize the City Manager to Pursue an Amendment to the Existing COMCAST Cable TV Franchise Agreement.** My recommendation is to seek an amendment to extend the current contract which expires in 2018. I would also seek to address other matters in the Agreement as well as pursuing the recommendation to secure the Portland French Channel.

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

A. Information Items:

- 1. FY 2016-2017 Geosyntec Engineering Contract-Landfill Superfund Site.** As has been the practice, I will be signing (without objection) the attached Draft Contract Amendment for proposed monitoring work to be done by Geosyntec Consultants as required by the EPA, this would cover FY 2016-2017. This Remedial Action Services contract outlines our compliance obligations in accordance with the existing EPA Consent Decree and Record of Decision (ROD). Attorney Beliveau has reviewed & approved the Contract language as proposed. The Contract costs and other associated budgeted expenses is split between the City at 50.5% and GE at 49.5%.
- 2. iPad Training.** At least one City Councilor has requested another training and informational session with our IT consultant. I would appreciate some direction on day/time should the Mayor and City Council want to schedule a session.
Without objection from Council, iPad Training was scheduled for Saturday April 2nd, at 11:00.
- 3. State of City Address.** In accordance with City Charter, The Mayor and School Board Chairman have scheduled a joint meeting on Monday, March 7th, prior to the scheduled City Council meeting at 5:30 p.m. for the State of City Address.
- 4. Upcoming City Council Meetings & Workshops.**

Special Meetings

Monday, April 4

5:30pm: City Manager Presents his Proposed
2016/2017 Budget
6:00pm: Public Hearing on 2016/2017 Budget
7:00pm: City Council Meeting

Council Workshops

Saturday, March 12

8:30am: Goal Setting Session

Saturday, April 2

8:30am: Budget Workshop

B. Attachments:

1. City Attorney Certifications (4).
2. Department Head Monthly Reports.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Mayoral Nominations – Confirmation Vote.

Board of Library Trustees, Re-appointment
Donna Donovan, Term to expire February 2019.

Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Witham, made a motion that Donna Donovan be approved as a member of the Board of Library Trustees. The motion passed by voice vote, 9-0.

Planning Board – Alternate
Mark Fearis, Term to expire January 2019.

Councilor Sprague, seconded by Councilor McCallion, made a motion that Mark Fearis be approved as an alternate member of the Planning Board. The motion passed by voice vote, 9-0.

Mayoral Nominations – Requires Council Confirmation Vote

Historic District Commission Alternate
Richard Brooks, Term to expire February 2019

Conservation Commission

Miechelle Poulin, Term to expire February 2019

In accordance with Council Rule 17 Appointments, these nominations shall remain open until the March 7th scheduled Council meeting.

Mayoral Appointments

Hilltop Commission

Sarah McGrawn, Term to expire January 2018

Cultural Commission

Pius Murray, Term to expire January 2018

In accordance with Council rule 15 these nominations do not require Council approval, and are, therefore, appointed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinances:

Ordinance 12 - 16 Amending Chapter 13, Police Offenses

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Messier made a motion for the adoption of Ordinance No. 12-16.

Councilor McCallion offered an amendment, to allow parking on the right side. No parking on the left side. Strike “Kings Lane on the northerly side”, Seconded by Councilor Sprague.

Councilor McCallion said he lived on Kings Lane from 1990 to 1991; it is a small dead end road. There are only 2 spots that this could impact, in front of 5 Kings Lane and in front of the first. Councilor McCallion said he spoke with the Police Chief. Back in the day there was no issue of parking. It's not the best area for visitors to park, but people work together. If people park right, there is no issue.

Councilor Witham said this came before the Traffic Safety Committee; it was generated by a resident on Kings Lane. It was investigated by Director Sharples and others and one of the difficulties is there are no clearly defined curb edges. It forces some of the parking close to intersection and reduces the number of viable parking spots. However, there is more than ample parking on Union Street, although a lengthy walk.

Councilor Sprague asked if there would be signage for no parking along Kings Lane or just a sign at the beginning.

Councilor Witham replied that the Traffic Safety Committee favored fewer signs.

The amendment failed 3-9, by Roll Call Vote, with Councilors Dumont, Soldati, and Sprague in favor.

Ordinance 12-16 was adopted by Roll Call vote, 8-1, with Councilor McCallion opposed.

Resolutions:

Resolution No. 20 – 16 Adopting the Provisions of New Hampshire RSA Chapter 162-K Municipal Economic Development and Revitalization Districts.

Tabled.

14. NEW BUSINESS

Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 13 –16 AMENDING CHAPTER 4, PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS BY AMENDING SECTION 7.6 TITLED “VACATION” AND SECTION 8.2 TITLED “SUSPENSION”.

Somersworth, NH
February 16, 2016

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

AMEND Chapter 4, Section 7.6 titled “Vacation” by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

Vacation is earned in increments of a whole day beginning with the first day of employment of the current employment with the City according to the schedule below:

Years of Service	Days per Year Earned
6mo. To 1 year	5 working days
Over 1 yr. to 5 yrs.	10 working days
Over 5 yrs. to 10 yrs.	15 working days
Over 10 years	15 working days plus one day per year of service over ten years to a maximum of 30 days

For recruitment purposes of exempt employees the City Manager may approve additional days of vacation taking into consideration years of service or previous experience.

Exempt employees may carryover or cashout up to 5 days (40 hours) vacation time with prior City Manager approval.

AND FURTHER AMEND Chapter 4, Section 8.2 titled "Suspension" by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

8.2 Suspension

The City Manager may suspend an employee without pay for inefficiency, incompetence, misconduct, negligence, insubordination, or for other sufficient cause. A written statement setting forth the reasons for such action will be filled with the Personnel Officer.

This ordinance will take effect upon its passage.

Introduced by Councilors:

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

Approved:

City Attorney

Ordinance 13-16 will remain in first reading until the March 7, 2016 Meeting.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14 -16 AMENDING CHAPTER 29,
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE BY AMENDING SECTION 3.5 TITLED
"DEPARTMENT HEAD AUTHORITY, DUTY & RESPONSIBILITY"
AND SECTION 3.6.2 TITLED "COMMON DUTIES AND
RESPONSIBILITIES."**

Somersworth, NH
February 16, 2016

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

AMEND Chapter 29, Section 3.5 titled "Department Head Authority, Duty & Responsibility", by removing "for purposes of the Personnel Plan and" and adding "as defined by".

The Section will read as follows:

b) Department heads serve at the pleasure of the City Manager for indefinite terms and are salaried, exempt employees as defined by the Fair Labor Standards Act.

AND FURTHER AMEND Chapter 29, Section 3.5 titled "Department Head Authority, Duty & Responsibility", by removing section d) in its entirety.

AND FURTHER AMEND Chapter 29, Section 3.6.2 titled “Common Duties and Responsibilities” by removing “more than once in every five (5) years”, and adding “without approval of the City Manager.”

The Section will read as follows:

d) No funds shall be expended to defray the costs of a department head attending a national convention or a national training session without approval of the City Manager.

This ordinance will take effect upon its passage.

Introduced by Councilors:

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

Approved:

City Attorney

Ordinance 14-16 will remain in first reading until the March 7, 2016 Meeting.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION NO. 21 – 16 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO NOTIFY THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AND STATE OF MAINE THAT THE CITY SHALL PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE EDDY BRIDGE PROJECT.

Somersworth, NH
February 16, 2016

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2017-2022 Capital Improvements Program contains a recommendation for funding for improvements to the Eddy Bridge on Salmon Falls Road connecting Somersworth, NH and Berwick, Maine, and

WHEREAS this Project is a three-party project with funding provided from the City of Somersworth, State of New Hampshire, and the State of Maine, and

WHEREAS, the City Council has appropriated an initial \$5,000 in this fiscal year’s budget for preliminary Eddy Bridge Improvement Project work, and

WHEREAS, additional Project funding required of the City of Somersworth is \$45,000 (Forty Five Thousand dollars), and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution 17-13 to create the Municipal and Transportation Fund for the purpose of improvements in the local or regional

transportation system including roads, bridges, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, parking and intermodal facilities, and public transportation, and

WHEREAS, the City Council is the designated agent to expend these funds,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to notify the State of New Hampshire and the State of Maine that the City will provide funding in an amount of \$50,000 (Fifty Thousand dollars) for this project and the City Manager is further authorized to take any and all necessary action to complete this project in the best interest of the City, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the additional Project funding of \$45,000 (Forty Five Thousand dollars) is authorized to be funded from the Municipal and Transportation Fund.

Introduced by Councilors

David Witham
Dale R Sprague
Jennifer Soldati
Martin Pepin
Denis Messier

Approved

City Attorney

Resolution 21-16 will remain in first reading until the March 7, 2016 Meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 22 – 16 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ORDER TWO SUV STYLE POLICE CRUISERS WHICH WILL BE FUNDED BY A LEASE PURCHASE ARRANGEMENT.

Somersworth, NH
February 16, 2016

WHEREAS the City of Somersworth's Capital Improvement Plan proposes a replacement schedule for police cruisers to maintain fleet integrity and reduce maintenance costs, and

WHEREAS the Somersworth City Council has an established goal whereby they may review and approve a priority list of CIP (capital improvement plan) items earlier than the actual FY budget approval process is complete in order to allow for timely ordering, and

WHEREAS, the Somersworth City Council would like to improve the fleet of police cruisers by initiating the replacement of traditional sedan style cruisers with a more modern SUV style of police cruiser,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to order two new “SUV” style police cruisers which will be funded as part of the annual budget process through a lease purchase arrangement.

Introduced by Councilors

Martin Pepin
David Witham
Dale Sprague
Jennifer Soldati
Denis Messier
Jessica Paradis

Approved:

City Attorney

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to suspend council rules, to allow for a second reading of Resolution 22-16. All were in favor.

There was a second reading of Resolution 22-16 by the City Clerk.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to adopt Resolution 22-16.

Councilor Witham said this is an achievable goal. Over the past several years they have wanted to purchase two cruisers, but because of the budget, they have only been able to fund one. The only reasonable way to do it is through this lease/purchase agreement.

Councilor McCallion asked what the savings is for us to lease instead of purchase.

City Manager Belmore said it doesn't save in the long run, but looking at it as a total package, a rolling stock. The City needs other vehicles; Parking Enforcement needs a new truck, Recreation Department needs a new truck, Highway Department needs a new vehicle. So in order to approach this, he has gone to the committees. This will help us to not fall behind in all of our rolling stock. There is a cost associated with financing two new vehicles, but we get two new cruisers right away.

The City Manager said it is a lease purchase; not a traditional lease. We will have ownership of the vehicle at the end of a 3 or 5 year lease.

Councilor McCallion commented that many other municipalities are going to and SUV type vehicle for their police cruisers. It is a hardier vehicle, emissions are better and a more reliable vehicle, overall.

Councilor Sprague commented that there is no residual or pay off at the end. We would own the cruisers. He stated that we should go 3 years. He asked when the color scheme needs to be known by.

The City Manager said they will be looking at a different color scheme. They come all black or white, but can be ordered in a different color. City Manager said he has talked with Public Safety and other Councilors and decided on grey, but they have the option of just ordering them the way they come, and then modify it from there. There is a deadline to order by March 11th.

Councilor Witham said part of the reason for suspending the rules and moving on this tonight is that this gives the City Manager a few weeks to work out the details.

Resolution 22-16 was adopted by Roll Call vote, 9-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 23 – 16 VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS TO RELEASE THE FIRST PAYMENT DUE THE SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM THE POST-WITHDRAWAL CAPITAL TRUST FUND.

Somersworth, NH
February 16, 2016

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth City Council adopted Resolution 1-15 creating the Post-withdrawal Capital Trust Fund created for the purpose of holding the post-withdrawal payment made by the Rollinsford School district to the Somersworth School District for pending payments on outstanding bonded school debt, namely the 1996 Series C bonds dated August 15, 1996, and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2016 debt payment has been made by the Somersworth School District and the amount due from the post-withdrawal capital trust fund for that payment is \$82,743 (Eighty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Three dollars), and

WHEREAS, the Somersworth City Council has been named as agents to expend,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH, that the Trustees of Trust Funds are authorized to release \$82,743 (Eighty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Three dollars) to the Somersworth School District from the Post-withdrawal Capital Trust Fund.

Introduced by Councilors

David Witham
Dale Sprague
Jennifer Soldati
Martin Pepin

Approved

City Attorney

Resolution 23-16 will remain in first reading until the March 7, 2016 Meeting.

Other:

Vote to authorize the City Manager to pursue an Amendment to the existing COMCAST Cable TV Franchise Agreement.

City Manager Belmore said he is working with a three member team along with, Jeni Mosca and Scott Smith, as they pursue an agreement. They would like an amendment as opposed to a total renegotiation process. It will save legal funds and time in the process.

Councilor Messier said there is presently a tax that the rate-payers pay in which creates a fund within the city. He said he assumes that will continue. The City Manager said the franchise fee is used to support the cameras, operators and equipment for the City and for the School. Council has the ability to reduce the fee at any time.

Councilor Messier said he would like a breakdown of what is in that account. He is in favor of doing anything they can to reduce the cable bill. He is not in favor of having a fund just to have money.

Councilor Witham said he is in full support of this. It is a financial consideration as much as anything else. The term 'negotiation' is misleading. Comcast tells you what they are going to do. He agrees with extending the agreement, perhaps with slight modification.

By voice vote, all were in favor of extending the existing agreement with COMCAST Cable TV.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

Ann Ward, 18 Linden Street, Ward 1, said she worked the New Hampshire Primary for the first time. It was awesome and she looks forward to doing it again.

16. CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Pepin thanked all of the voters for coming out to vote, regardless of their affiliation. This place was packed. People can only wish they have the freedom we have. Thanked the pole workers. It's a long day, and they did amazing the work. He thanked the City Clerk and Deputy City Clerk for their work as well.

Councilor Dumont said he would like to recognize that we have lost a patriot and friend of Somersworth; Ralph (Skip) St. Hilaire. He was dedicated to helping those who needed help. His grandparents were the founders of Pearls Bakery on Market Street.

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia was an impressive person. He was the guest speaker at the National Press Club in D.C. in 1993, because of his affiliation with the Catholic Church. He was very polite and generous person.

Many thanks for the consideration of the food for the poll workers. It was much appreciated. He worked the polls for 16 years, and it was a highlight to meet with neighbors and friends. Even though we need more people, in the past, the ward activists would meet and organize themselves as a ward. There was a lot of activity within the ward. Candidates would go speak to the wards. There is no doubt that the people who work are great people with great attitudes.

The Inaugural Ball was superb, and he thanked the two key people who made it happen, Sean Peschel and Maureen Jackson. The City shined with diversification.

The song sung by the City Councilors is now on the Somersworth Now blog.

There has been turnover on the Public Works crew, and plowing is a learning process. The streets are being cleaned like never before. Main thoroughfares are cleaned early in the day. He is very proud of the job they have been doing.

He thanked the Fire Department. They are being tested and answering the calls with tremendous response. He can hear the professionalism among the men and women on the scanner.

Councilor McCallion said the solar presentation was well attended. If we could put everything together and diversify and cut electric bills for some companies by 20%, we would have the people to join in this with us.

The Inaugural Ball was awesome. Residents who saw it in the paper talked to him. It is nice to have some positive press. We are moving forward.

He said he doesn't want to dwell on the negative, but there is now no parking on Kings Lane. Because of the neglect of the City to care for a road, we make a resolution.

Councilor Witham said at the next meeting, they will be taking up ordinances 13-16 and 14-16. He is looking for information on the genesis of the change. At this point, based on his first read of these, he will be making a motion to defeat them.

The Inaugural Ball was a great event. It has gotten better and better.

Councilor Sprague thanked the poll workers. He knows there was a rush at the end to get some workers at the polls. He also thanked those who were nominated. There was an impressive number of voters throughout the state. The general election should be historic. Fire Department has been tested in extreme temperatures. The temperatures were the worst that he could ever remember. The Inaugural Ball was great, a lot of planning over a couple of months. He also said he has heard comments from residents about the roads not being plowed curb to curb. When they first started plowing, the ground wasn't frozen yet, and there would have been a lot of damage to the City. They did exactly what they needed to do.

Councilor Cameron thanked all of the poll workers that volunteered for Election Day. When she went to ward 2, they were very appreciative of being fed. She said she was happy to hear that they missed her. She personally thanked everyone who was there that day. The Inauguration Celebration was fun except for having to sing.

Councilor Paradis thanked the School department for securing all day kindergarten starting next year. It is a huge deal for these kids to start off and be prepared. All of the college and career readiness standards are based off of having full day kindergarten. If we don't have full day kindergarten, all of our students go into first grade behind. The middle school students did a presentation on recycling and garbage on which was televised on Channel 95. It was a good hands-on project where they dissected a bag of garbage. It pointed out our lack of recycling, and they have some great ideas for how we can minimize our waste and maximize our recycling. She encourages the Sustainability Committee to reach out to the new Recycling Club at the Middle School. It's great to get the younger kids involved in what's happening in the community.

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

Trish Harris, City Clerk

Dana Hilliard, Mayor