

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Somersworth, NH
October 17, 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, Witham, Sprague, and Cameron. Paradis Excused

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

MINUTES FOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON October 3, 2016

Councilor Dumont, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion passed 7-0. Councilor Soldati abstained.

COMMUNICATIONS

HDC Resignation – Albert Marcotta

Letter was read by the Clerk and will be kept on file.

Attorney Mark Beliveau – 1 Winter Street, Possible Acquisition

Mike McCluskey, P.E.- N.H. Department of Environmental Services, Brownsfield Program.

Attorney Beliveau gave a brief overview of the property at 1 Winter Street, Breton cleaners; soil and ground water contamination. The building is in a state of disrepair, and an attractive nuisance. The City could take the title of the property and be eligible for grants.

The site was investigated several times. Some things to consider is, will DES destroy the building and has the ground water contamination moved on. Currently, the City is not responsible for the clean up, but once the city becomes the owner, they are then responsible. The cost in 2007 to clean up the contamination on the property was in excess of \$200,000.

Councilor Witham said we know that if we take the title, then we inherit the risk. We are moving forward to obtain a Brownfield Grant. Does putting off cleanup efforts make the risks worse? Attorney Beliveau said they do not know if there are any other containers on the property. If there is not, there is no further contamination. It seems as though the contamination is beneath the building. Waiting does not increase the risk.

Councilor Soldati said she needs to understand why we can't hold the original owner accountable. How is this legally possible? Attorney Beliveau said the owner is legally responsible. The state has the ability to force them to clean up the property, but the owner may not have the resources to clean it up.

Councilor Messier said the owner is deceased and the property has been left to the family. Why would we be responsible if the current owner is not?

Attorney Beliveau said he knows of no instances in which a municipality takes a property by tax deed, and the EPA or DES has forced them to use city money to clean up a property.

They will help come up with a plan to remove the building, then remove the contaminated soil, then cap it. The EPA, DES will work diligently to find grant money, and after the cleanup, hopefully all that will need to be done is monitoring. Part of the negotiation will be to have a buyer take over the future monitoring.

Councilor Sprague asked if it was possible to get a memorandum of understanding from them that their intentions are not to hold anything if the grant does not go through,

Attorney Beliveau said he is not sure they would do that.

Councilor Soldati asked who was liable if someone injured themselves on that property. Beliveau said it depends on the scenario, but generally, it would be the property owner.

Councilor Soldati said, so the city would not be sewed for negligence. Attorney Beliveau said, no.

Councilor McCallion asked who we would go after if we are going to take the property. If there was any way to know who owns the property.

Attorney Beliveau said we could know today who owns the property.

City Manager Belmore explained the process in contacting the owner. The owner has been contacted in the past so the inspections could be done.

Mike McCluskey said there has been site investigation over a number of years. The last time work was done was in 2007. They are trying to get updated ground water results. The building is the biggest hazard. It is weathered and the roof is in bad shape. There is also asbestos, lead paint and other contaminants. We need to get the building out of the way to access the contaminated soil.

The goal of all of this work is to put the City in a good position to receive a clean-up grant from the EPA. The EPA holds an annual competition. There is a 70 page guidance document on the EPA website. The grants that they award are \$200,000 per site, with 60 available nationally. Minimum requirements are to have a phase two site investigation and draft cleanup plan. Application would need to be submitted by Dec 20th.

If successful, the awards are announced in spring 2017, and monies are available in Oct 2017.

Councilor Witham said, to submit the grant, we would have to be the property owner. If we take the deed, it is not going to happen instantaneously. It's a time crunch. We would then be responsible for securing the site.

Councilor McCallion said he thinks last year at this time is when we walked away (from deeding this property). It's down to the timing again. It is not like the DES is going to come after us immediately. Is there any way that we could have some sort of comfort that if we didn't get the grant, then we could wait for the next round of grants.

Mr. McCluskey said there are legalities; if we get the building down, they we should create a temporary cap to contain it. DES is not an enforcement program. They are trying to work with the city.

Councilor McCallion said across the bridge, they won the Brownfields in a big way. Either we do this or we never do it. There will be risk with everything.

Councilor Sprague said the owner of the property is the name that has to be on the grant. Why isn't the current owner applying for the grant? Mr. McCluskey explained that the person who applies for the grant cannot be liable. The current owner is ineligible for the grant.

Councilor Sprague went on to ask how many clean up grants have NH has received. None were awarded in the last year; 12 in the past several years. There is a vetting process done at a regional level, then national.

Councilor Dumont said that from what he understands from the paper, Berwick was awarded just over \$1.2million, but he believes that is for multiple properties.

Councilor Messier said he would like us to take ownership and clean it up. The biggest point of safety would be to take the building down. He said he thinks it is deplorable that we have codes within our City to keep up the buildings.

Councilor Witham asked about the competitiveness of the grant process. Does the fact that the property is in the downtown, in the gateway, does that improve our competitiveness?

Mr. McCluskey said these things should certainly be included in the application.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND DISPOSAL THEREOF BY REFERENCE OR OTHERWISE

Sewer Connection Charge Waiver Petition – Hilltop Laundromat

This matter was referred to the Finance Committee

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayors Report for City Council Meeting October 17th, 2016

- Fall festivities were in high spirits at that annual Pumpkin Festival. The packed event highlighted community and how our great city continues "On the Move!" Special thanks to the Somersworth Children's Festival Association for planning the annual event.
- A great event honoring those who helped build Somersworth's "Proud Past" and are dedicated to our "Bright Future", was sponsored by the Somersworth Police Department in conjunction with the Fire Department, Recreation Department, and Housing Authority. The annual senior picnic celebrates our senior citizens who through their efforts continued to keep our great city progressing forward. The event is a celebration of community and is a reflection of how Hilltopper pride honors all.

- I would like to commend Office Rick Campbell and members of the Somersworth Police Department for their swift action in apprehending the individuals who tagged various structures recently at the Noble Pines Park. While eliminating destruction of property, crime and violence is a massive undertaking. The Hilltopper Police force tackles these problem each day with pride, honor and efficiently. In a time where law enforcement is constantly being scrutinized, criticized and seconded guested for the practices that keep communities throughout the nation safe, our Hilltop community is grateful for to all the men and women who wear the Somersworth Police uniform each day and have dedicated their lives towards our safety. Thank you for your unwavering service.
- A perfect kick off to fire safety week in the our great city, as citizens learned the skills and training technics involved in being a firefighter and how they can keep themselves safe at home. The fire station was packed with eager learners Saturday at the annual Somersworth Fire Department open house. The event rapped up National Fire Safety week and launched Fire Safety week in Somersworth which I have proclaimed for this week. I was also honored to welcome my close childhood friend Smokey the Bear back to the Hilltop city. Thank you to all members of the Somersworth Fire Department, for planning and sponsoring this annual event. And thank you for keeping all of us safe.
- A successful Mayor's Community Forum took place last Saturday, with insightful ideas and conversation. Thank you Councilor Pepin, School Board member Collins and Senator Watters for participating in the forum.

The next **Mayor's Community** forum will take place this **November 19th from 9:00 – 10:30** at City Hall. Included in this forum will be **Ward 2 Council member Jennifer Soldati and Ward 2 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.

- Friendly remember that this Wednesday at 5:30pm in the Career Technical Center, the City Council and School Board will be holding their first joint goal setting session. The joint session is a reflection of the collaboration between the two elected bodies and how we continue to erase lines and barriers to keep Somersworth "On the Move!"

Nominations, Appointments and Elections:

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

- **Laura Barry**, as a regular member of the Historic District Commission with a term to expire in April 2018
- **Jenna Higgins**, as a regular member of the Historic District Commission with a term to expire in October 2019
- **John Kennedy**, as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment with a term to expire in October 2019
- **In accordance with Council Rule 17 Appointments**, these nominations shall remain open until the November 7th, scheduled Council meeting.

This respectfully concludes my October 17th, 2016 Mayors Report

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance Committee – The committee met on October 13th. There was discussion about the Somersworth Early Learning Center. SHA has been moving towards selling that property at a cost of \$450,000. There are grant monies involved and the City is the agent of the grant. They are interested in a PILOT program, since the new owner is a not for profit, and the property will continue as a childcare center.

The committee also discussed the Veterans tax credits. NH passed legislation to expand tax credits. The new tax credit would allow a credit for any veteran. There was discussion of the rough physical impact. They thought it would be best to discuss this during the budget process.

They received one proposal for the solar field at the superfund site. NH Solar Garden is the company who sent the proposal. There is some risk involved with the 20 year contract, particularly the fluctuation of the energy rate.

The committee discussed Wright-Pierce engineering, to do the engineering and design to deal with the BOD. They voted unanimously to move forward with a resolution and a supplemental appropriation ordinance.

There was robust discussion about the sewer use ordinance. We recognize that this needs to be worked on. It is appropriate that we look at this now.

Nothing out of the ordinary in reporting

Public Safety – The committee met on October 5th. They received an update from Police Chief, David Kretschmar. Parking enforcement vehicle was approved and delivered. It is set up like the SUV's paint scheme. There was discussion about having a liner in the back of the body. Somersworth PD is now on Facebook. If there is any criticism, it would be deleted. Community Access and Recovery has already been 2 people utilize it. Chief shared his concept of the Chief's Park and Walk; getting out and talking to the public.

Fire Chief, Keith Hoyle, reported that Mike Spinney got promoted to Lieutenant, The grant allowed us to put 17 call firefighters on. Trying for another grant; this is for a plan

that we can relocate emergency services as needed. He gave report on the open house. Inspection letters have gone out 330 property owners to inspect multi-unit homes.

Public Works & Environment – The Committee met on October 11th. The committee discussed the WWTF project of Wright Pierce and the financing needed. They plan on going after SRF for funding.

They discussed the Solar Proposal. It was tabled because there is some hesitation based on the rates of the electric costs.

Director Bobinsky gave an update on road improvements. Down, Alecia, Wiggins will all be done. A lot of the main road will be done.

Mast Point Dam improvements will be starting on a canoe launch and a Flag pole will be installed at Noble Pines.

There was robust conversation about the Sewer Connection fees. Maybe there is a committee that is needed.

There was discussion about a Granite curb policy. The committee let staff know that in every instance they should try to have granite curbing. The committee would like to have the final say.

Directors Saunders and Bobinsky recently did a TAP (Transportation Alternative Programs) Grant presentation against 2 other communities in the region. We scored the highest. That will be moving on to the state level.

Recreation – Met on October 5th. Staff gave an update on the Peewee soccer. 45 kids are currently registered. Started registration for youth basketball. There are currently 45 signed up; expecting 130.

Update on the Senior Picnic. Went very well.

Update on the Mast Point Dam. Wayne McKay will be doing the work on the 24th.

Update on the Millennium Park improvements; some trees came down during the wind storm.

Extra Cameras installed at Noble Pines.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

Special Committees

School Board – Councilor Pepin reported that the board met on October 11th. It was a light agenda. Somersworth Youth Connection is almost at the end of funding. The program has taken 60 students in the middle school and 80 at Idlehurst. Take a look at the presentation youth presentation on Channel 22.

Parade Committee – Councilor Dumont reported that anyone who would like a float in the parade to contact MAAdumont@somersworth.com, and the forms will be sent. There are 3 marching bands in this year's parade. Special thanks to American Ambulance, DF Richard, and American Legion post 69 for their support. Thank them greatly. Contact Marty Dumont or Beth Poulin if you have any questions about the parade.



CITY OF SOMERSWORTH
Office of the City Manager

TO: Mayor Dana Hilliard and City Council Members

FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager

DATE: Friday, October 14, 2016

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, October 17, 2016
City Council Agenda

6:15pm: Workshop - National Register of Historic Places Application for the Forest Glade Cemetery, Presentation from Lisa Mausolf. See attached pictures and other relevant documents.

6:45pm: Public Hearing for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Energy Improvements at the Somersworth Housing Authority (SHA) Albert J. Nadeau Homes Located on Bartlett Ave. CDBG Project Consultant Donna Lane and SHA Exec. Director Debbie Evans will be in attendance.

6:50pm: Ordinance No. 3-17 Amending Chapter 13 Police Offenses No Parking on Maple Street on the Westerly Side between the Intersection of Prospect Street. and Linden Street.

Communication (under Section 6 of Agenda)

B. Attorney Mark Beliveau – 1 Winter Street, Possible Acquisition and Mike McCluskey, P.E.- N.H. Department of Environmental Services, Brownsfield Program. Attached is a one-page summary on some key points pertaining to the possible acquisition of the former Breton Cleaners. Attorney Mark Beliveau will provide a brief review on these points and then answer any questions. Mr. McCluskey will provide an update on present remedial action taking place. The FY2017 Brownsfield's Grant proposal submission deadline is December 20,

2016. I have also provided a copy of the GZA supplemental investigation being conducted on the Breton's site by contract funded by N.H. Department of Environmental Services.

Lay on the Table (under Section 12 of Agenda)

Resolutions

- A. Resolution No. 15 – 17 To Notify the City Tax Collector that the City Council Shall Accept a Tax Deed on Property Located at 1 Winter Street, Tax Map/Lot Number 11-181a.** As a reminder, the NH Department of Environmental Services hired engineering firm, GZA, will be moving forward with their site work in anticipation of the City applying for a Brownfield's Grant this fall. I am still hopeful that we can meet the application deadline, but it is critical that the engineering work is completed in time. It is my understanding that the City Council will need to accept the property for the City to forward.

Unfinished Business (under Section 13 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. Ordinance No. 3-17 Amending Chapter 13 Police Offenses.** Again, this Ordinance change was discussed at the Traffic Safety Committee meeting on September 21st and the Committee recommends no parking on Maple Street on the westerly side between the intersection of Prospect Street and Linden Street.
- B. Resolution 16–17 To Notify the City Tax Collector that the City Council Shall not Accept a Tax Deed on Properties Located on Wexford Lane Subject to an Unredeemed Tax Lien.** As reported in years past, the City has information that confirmed there is some level of buried trash and/or debris on these properties. There would be significant expense to clean these properties. Both parcels are vacant land without buildings.
- C. Resolution No. 17–17 To Notify the City Tax Collector that the City Council Shall Not Accept a Tax Deed on Certain Properties Subject to an Unredeemed Tax Lien.** Again, the Finance Committee reviewed these properties and supports passage of these 2-Resolutions; No. 16-17 and 17-17. These properties are all Manufactured Housing Units. If approved, the City Council can reverse this action at any future meeting on any of these properties.

New Business (under Section 14 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. Ordinance No. 4-17 Supplemental Appropriation for Engineering Services for Improvements at the Somersworth Wastewater Treatment Facility.** The Public Works & Environment Committee reviewed this proposal at their meeting

on October 11th and Finance Committee on October 13th, both Committees voted to support the project as proposed as well as the funding source. Attached are copies of information provided to both Committees. Per City Charter, this Supplemental Appropriation requires a Public Hearing. **I recommend it be scheduled for 6:45 pm prior to the next Council meeting on Monday, November 7th. Approval will also require a 2/3rd's majority vote of City Council.**

Scheduled without objection from council.

Resolutions

A. Resolution No. 19-17 To Authorize the City Manager to Contract with Wright Pierce Engineers of Portsmouth, N. H. for Engineering Services at the Somersworth Wastewater Treatment Facility. Again, as stated above regarding Ordinance No. 4-17. The Public Works & Environment Committee and Finance Committee voted to support this Resolution.

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

A. Informational Items

1. Council Meetings – Please note the following Meeting schedule:

- October 19th at 5:30 p.m. at the CTC, 1st Floor Engineering Room
Joint City Council & School Board Goal Setting Meeting. Attached is a copy of the summary of the City Council March 12, 2016 Goal Setting Meeting.
- November 7th at 3:00 p.m. Somersworth Hydroelectric Lower Great Falls Dam Site Walk. Please note this is for City Staff, although City Councilors are welcome to attend.
- November 7th at 6:15 p.m. **Workshop, prior to the regular City Council meeting regarding FERC License Renewal and information on the sale of the Hydroelectric Plant by the present operators.**

2. Trick or Treat.

- City Wide Trick or Treat will be on Sunday, October 30th from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Recreation Department “Trick or Treat (ages 6 and under)” at City Hall will be on Monday, October 31st from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

B. Attachments:

1. Department Head Monthly Reports.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Mayoral Nominations – For Council confirmation vote.

Mayoral Nominations – Council Confirmation Vote

Historic District Commission

Laura Barry, Term to expire April 2018

(Alternate to Member, to complete term of Albert Merotta)

Jenna Higgins, Term to expire October 2019

(Alternate to Member)

Zoning Board of Adjustment

John Kennedy, Term to Expire October 2019

(Alternate to Member)

The appointments will remain open until the November 7th scheduled City Council Meeting.

LAY ON TABLE

Resolutions

Resolution No. 15–17 To Notify the City Tax Collector that the City Council Shall Accept a Tax Deed on Property Located at 1 Winter Street, Tax Map/Lot Number 11-181a.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Dumont, made a motion to remove Resolution 15-17 from the table. All in favor.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Dumont, made a motion to adopt Resolution 15-17.

Councilor Witham said we need to move forward to act upon this property this year. After the presentation, he was encouraged to know that there are no other grant applicants known in NH. He believes that the DES and EPA will work with us and not against us, if they know that we are working to clean up the site. The odds are more stacked in our favor. There is no sense in waiting any longer at this point.

Councilor Dumont said he agrees with what Councilor Witham said. There are risks every day, even when we just get out of bed. There are a lot of things that weigh in our favor; Gateway, waterfront, downtown. Whatever risk is presented to us at this time, they won't get better by waiting.

Councilor McCallion said we have to do something. It is a horrible thing to look at. Maybe consider a controlled burn. We wanted to act last year, but it was too close.

Councilor Soldati is in favor of moving forward. It fits in with the revitalization as a whole. The cost will continue to go up, but the risks are at a minimum.

Councilor Messier believes action is needed. He hopes someone who is working on the Tannery sight in Berwick, will see what we are trying to do and help us out.

Councilor Sprague, said he is in favor. What are the taxes that are due on that property at this time? City Manager Belmore said well over \$100,000. When a property is deeded and then sold, anything over and above, is given back to the property owner. City Manager Belmore said the City would be reimbursed for the improvements. Councilor Sprague said the current owners might be willing to just sign it over to us. It might just be a quick quit claim deed to the city.

Councilor McCallion, seconded by Councilor Witham, made a motion to suspend council rules for Attorney Beliveau to approach. All in favor.

Attorney Beliveau discourages that the owner just sign over the property. There is statutory liability with the deed process. Under state law, we need to follow the tax deeding process, then need to make a good faith effort to sell the property, up to 3 years. Under federal law, there needs to be an assessment done within 180 days. There needs to be an environmental assessment and review the groundwater assessment. Get DES an estimated cost on the cleanup. DES may be involved in the demolition of the building.

Witham said the site assessments that were done in 2005 and the current assessments could be coupled to be the first phase.

GZA will do some new groundwater testing. Phase 1 has to be complete within 180 days. It hasn't been done in several years.

Councilor McCallion we need to make sure that we have those in an amendment.

After a brief recess and consultation with Attorney Beliveau, the Council resumed.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Messier, made a motion to amend the Resolution to include,

Whereas, the City Council believes it is in the best interest for the City, for the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) to demolish the building and to remove the hazardous building materials as soon as possible.

The motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Messier, made a motion to amend the Resolution to include,

Whereas, the City would take title of the property only at such time as when the phase one environmental assessment is completed by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES).

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 15-17 is adopt as amended, by roll call vote, 8-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinances

Ordinance No. 3-17 Amending Chapter 13 Police Offenses.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Messier, made a motion to adopt Ordinance 3-17. Motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Resolutions

Resolution No. 16-17 To Notify the City Tax Collector that the City Council Shall Not Accept a Tax Deed on Properties Located on Wexford Lane Subject to an Unredeemed Tax Lien.

Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to adopt Resolution 16-17. Motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Resolution No. 17-17 To Notify the City Tax Collector that the City Council Shall Not Accept a Tax Deed on Certain Properties Subject to an Unredeemed Tax Liens.

Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Soldati, made a motion to adopt Resolution 17-17. Motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinances

ORDINANCE NO. 4-17 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT THE SOMERSWORTH WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY.

Somersworth, NH
October 17, 2016

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

The annual budget for the City of Somersworth for Fiscal Year 16-17 is amended as follows:

Appropriate \$343,800 from Sewer Utility Fund budget as follows:

Original Budget
\$ 2,133,671

Amendment
\$ 343,800

Revised Budget
\$ 2,477,471

Approved as to Funding:

Scott A. Smith
Director of Finance and Administration

Recorded by:

Trish Harris
City Clerk

Background:

This ordinance appropriates the use of the Sewer Utility Funds for the purpose of providing funding for a facility planning study, and engineering design services for essential improvements at the Somersworth Wastewater Treatment Facility.

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

Sponsored by Councilors

Dale R. Sprague
David A. Witham
Denis Messier
Martin Pepin
Martin P. Dumont, Sr.

Approved

City Attorney

Ordinance 4-17 will remain in first read until the November 7th City Council Meeting.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION NO. 19-17 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH WRIGHT-PIERCE ENGINEERS OF PORTSMOUTH, N.H. FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES AT THE SOMERSWORTH WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY.

Somersworth, NH
October 17, 2016

WHEREAS, Wright-Pierce Engineers were retained by the City of Somersworth to evaluate the impact of future real estate property developments on the Wastewater Treatment Facility and to assess the facility's ability to treat influent flows and loads, and

WHEREAS, the Engineering evaluation identified certain recommended improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Facility that will increase the treatment capacity and help address the facility's ability to treat influent flows and loads, and

WHEREAS, Wright-Pierce has provided the City a proposal to provide engineering services to complete a plant facility assessment as well as engineering and design specifications for certain recommended improvements for a cost not to exceed \$343,800 (Three Hundred Forty Three Thousand Eight Hundred dollars), and

WHEREAS, the City Council's Finance and Public Works & Environment Committees have reviewed this engineering proposal with staff and recommend authorizing the contract utilizing available funds from the Sewer Utility Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to contract with Wright-Pierce Engineers of Portsmouth, N.H. for engineering services at the Somersworth Wastewater Treatment Facility for an amount not to exceed \$343,800 (Three Hundred Forty Three Thousand Eight Hundred dollars), and to take any other action related to this contracted project determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Sponsored by Councilors:

Dale R. Sprague
David A. Witham
Denis Messier
Martin Pepin
Martin P. Dumont, Sr.

Approved

City Attorney

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to waive council rules and have Resolution 19-17 read by title only. The motion passed, 7-1, with Councilor Sprague opposed.

Resolution 19-17 will remain in first read until the November 7th City Council Meeting.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Pepin thanked the Fire Department for their Open House, and commented that the Senior Lunch was appreciated. Thank you to all who were involved in that.

Councilor Dumont thanked Al Marotta for his dedication to the HDC. He supported the appointments for the HDC. These two bring knowledge and experience. The current commission consists of intellectual individuals. He expects nothing but the best as we move forward.

To the Cemetery Trustees, cannot say enough. They've done a good job at Forest Glade. To the audience, he had the pleasant surprise to have the tax assessor visit his house unexpectedly. She was kind enough to take a few minutes to answer his questions. He asked how many actually allow her in their house. The number was 50%. Councilor

Dumont spoke with another resident who did not let them in their house. There is a feeling of fear that something bad is going to happen to their assessment. Let the process take its place. He would think that the city suffers from a lack of revenue because of this. Our revenue sources are affected. We subsidize people who do not maintain their properties. They have the right to live the way they want to, but we are proud of Somersworth. If this person comes to your house, you will find the experience very pleasant.

Councilor Messier said the Pumpkin Festival, the Senior Picnic, Fire Department Open House was all wonderful. We have a lot to be proud of in this community. We have a responsibility to look into the Sewer connection fees. He said he doesn't know how it has come to this. When did this board change this ordinance? He wants a copy of the sewer use ordinance. He is embarrassed, this is an existing business. The usage will be the same.

State legislation passed legislation on auxiliary buildings for in laws apartments. He would like an update from planning that they are doing something about it.

Councilor Witham thanked Al Marotta for his time on the HDC. Good things are happening; The Pumpkin Fest, the Senior Picnic, the Fire Department Open House. He also had a visit from the property assessor and the square footage calculation was off in his favor. He is upset about the vandalism in Noble Pines Park. He was angry because all of the effort that has been put into the park. The investment in the cameras worked very well in apprehending those involved. Thanks to the Police Department for the quick work on that.

Councilor Sprague thanked all who helped in the Senior Picnic. It was a great event. Auxiliary dwellings are an interesting thought. He said he doesn't believe this will continue.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Cameron, seconded by Councilor Messier, made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Trish Harris, City Clerk

Dana Hilliard, Mayor