

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Somersworth, NH
February 6, 2017
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, Messier, Witham, Sprague, Cameron, and Paradis. Councilor McCallion was excused.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING, HELD ON JANUARY 17, 2017
Councilor Soldati, seconded by Councilor Messier, made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

Todd Patten of 18 Cinnamon Ridge apologized for not reaching out earlier. He has applied for the Ward 4 School Board Seat. He said he has been in Somersworth for 12 years. He has volunteered at the chamber of commerce and with the little league. He doesn't like to sit around and watch things happen, he wants to be involved. With Superintendent Mosca retiring, they are facing a lot of challenges. She has done a great job. He would like to be part of it and contribute. He believes the School Board has an obligation to teachers, parents, students and businesses. It affects everyone. It affects the graduation rates and the businesses within the community.

Christopher Smith of 46 Maple Street said he would like to fill the position of Ward 1 School Board member. He likes to be involved in the community. Has been involved in many committees and activities, and believes that the School Board is the next step.

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 February 6th, 2017

- Continuing to strengthen our relationships through celebrating are diversity, I was able to welcome the new members of the Indonesian Consulate General office to the Hilltop city recently. Benny Siahaan former acting Indonesian Consulate General was honored for his years of service and love of the Hilltop City. The Consulate General was introduced and welcomed to Somersworth for the first time. Both were given Hilltopper Pride shirts and proclaimed honorary Hilltoppers. I look forward to working with the new Consulate General and continuing to strengthen our relationships through celebrating and honoring our differences.
- I am excited to announce along with the Chamber of Commerce, that this summer Somersworth will be home to the Seacoast Food truck and craft beer festival. The festival will take place Father's Day weekend, June 18th and will conclude a weekend including the annual Children's Festival kick off on Friday night June 16th, the Hilltop Hustle 5k on Saturday June 17th, The Children's Festival Saturday June 17th and the Food Truck Festival on June 18th.
- The Food Truck and craft beef festival will include and variety of urban culinary cuisine and high quality craft beers and will showcase Somersworth downtown improvements and business. I look forward to event which is bound to drawn thousands of people to the Hilltop city and continue to highlight why Somersworth is "On the Move!"
- A great evening in Somersworth recently took place celebrating Hilltopper and New England Patriots Pride, at the annual police association basketball game. Special thanks to the Somersworth Police Department for being actively engaged in our community and continuing to keep us all safe.
- More exciting news honoring Somersworth "Proud Past" and "Bright Future". Last week I was pleased to receive communication and announce that Forest Glade Cemetery has been officially listed upon the National registry of historic places. The listing will continue to protect and preserve another great treasure for our community and will open future resources for improvements. An official ceremony and plaque unveiling will take place in the spring.
- New England pride was illuminating throughout the Hilltop City last week. I was excited to be joined by the Somersworth Little Toppers Football team and coaching staff, as we raised the New England Patriots flag showing Somersworth's support for the Super Bowl 51 Champions. In addition to raising the flag, honor of the Patriots, I also proclaimed last week as New England Patriots Pride week throughout the Hilltop

City. In continuing the celebration for our Super Bowl Champions, the Patriots Flag will continue to wave throughout the week on the citizen's flag pole and I am proclaiming this week as New England Patriots Super Bowl Champions week.

- A packed filled Mayors community forum recently took place at City Hall, thank you to Ward 4 City Councilor Jon McCallion for his participation and insight throughout the forum. The forums continue to foster and exchange of progressive open dialog and ideas keep our community “On the Move!”
- In 2018 Somersworth will reach a milestone celebrating its 125th anniversary of becoming a city. Our great city deserves festivities and celebrations commemorating this historic event, honoring our “Proud Past” and “Bright Future”. To ensure the Hilltop City has a bash to remember, I will be forming the 125th anniversary Commission over the next several months. The purpose of the Commission will be to begin planning for yearlong activities and events which will celebrate the 125 years we have stood strong as a city.
- I am calling upon interested citizens that would like to help plan Somersworth party to contact the Mayors the office. Together as a community we will continue to honor our “Proud Past” and “Bright Future” through celebrating our Hilltopper Spirit.
- The next **Mayors Community** forum will take place Saturday **February 18th from 9:00 – 10:30** at City Hall. Including in this forum will be **Ward 5 Denis Messier along with Ward 5 School Board member Ken Bolduc**. *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.
- Tonight on the agenda is Resolution 26-17 officially naming the Traffic Island at the Intersection of High Street and Government way “Citizen’s Park.” The Resolution was assigned to the Recreation Committee and is before you this evening with a recommendation from the committee to adopt the Resolution. The small park continues to evolve into an area where all aspects of our community can be celebrated. The newly installed citizens flag pole, has added an additional element where a variety of ethnic and civic groups can be recognized and honored. I would respectfully request that Council adopt the Resolution this evening.

Appointments

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

- **Ron LeHoullier**, for reappointment as regular member of the Planning Board with a term to expire in February 2020
- **Margaret Roberge** – for reappointment as a member of the Board of Cemetery Trustees with a term to expire in February 2020
- **Pius Charles Murray** – reappointment as a Member of the Board of Library Trustees with a term to expire in February 2020
- **Pius Charles Murray** – reappointment as a member of the Historic District Commission with a term to expire in February 2020

In accordance with Council Rule 17 Appointments, the nomination shall remain open until the February 21st, scheduled Council meeting.

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

- **Paul Robidas**, reappointment to the Somersworth Housing Authority, with a term to expire in February 2020.

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

- Under nominations and appointments this evening, are two applicants who have applied to fill the vacant Ward 4 School Board seat. I would respectfully request that Council place both applicants into nomination and we will then proceed with a confirmation vote. There is also one applicant with seeking the fill the vacant Ward 1 School Board seat. I would respectfully request that Council nominate and confirm the applicant.

This respectfully concludes my February 6th, 2017 Mayors Report

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance Committee – Councilor Witham reported that the committee met at 5:30 of this evening. They approved minutes of prior meeting. They voted to endorse a resolution to support a bid to award HVAC project to Design Day Mechanicals at City Hall. It was

budgeted to replace the ERV. There were a number of recommendations in their report. Also look into replacing the tower. The overall cost of the project was way over budget. Res 27-17, school post withdrawal fund. The town of Rollinsford paid a portion into a trust fund. This is the final year of the withdrawal.

The committee voted to endorse Res 28-17 to preorder a SUV style police cruiser. This will allow us to get into cue with the state bid.

They discussed the sale of the hydroelectric, Great Falls Dam. The City is the holder of the license, but does not own the dam. The current owners are looking to sell the dam. No objection from the finance committee. The City Manager will be moving forward with a vote at either this meeting or a future meeting.

There was discussion about the LED street lighting upgrade. The street lighting is the single most expensive bill. Portsmouth and Dover is also looking into this. A vendor in Dover is quite competitive. The savings could be substantial, by lowering the electric bill possibly in half or more, possible rebates from Eversource. Funding is open for discussion. Committee endorses the upgrade.

The committee went on to discuss the Comcast Cable franchise agreement. They are looking to extend the current agreement another 5 years. There is little to negotiate. Committee is in support of this.

Under miscellaneous items, the police department is looking to replace an unmarked unit which is in need of several thousand dollars of repairs. They want to buy a used vehicle for \$15,000 from the Drug Forfeiture Fund. The Finance Committee supports this.

Pavement line striping company has contacted. Bid last year included a multi year proposal. Amount budget is less than required, by about \$12,000. We will find the \$12,000 through appropriations or other funds.

The PD used the JAG Grant to purchase several needed items. One item that was included in that JAG grant was a card reader. The department received another grant for that equipment. With the extra funds, they are looking into standardized rifles.

The committee also discussed the laundry mat that is relocating to the Somersworth Plaza. The location is divided; there will be a laundry mat and take out restaurant. The restaurant portion is not subject to the previous abatement request.

Recreation – Councilor Pepin said the committee met on January 25th. They discussed Resolution 26-17, Citizens Park. Application forms for the use of the flag poles were reviewed. They discussed landscaping and the plaque that will be established in the near future. The committee endorsed the Resolution, 3-0.

The committee heard reports from staff on Recreation activities. Basketball is down about 20 kids from last year. Also discussed were the Father/Daughter Dance, Mast Point Dam, photos and boat launch.

The City is trying to apply for another TAP grant for the River Walk. They are looking at the option to have it expanded into Berwick. Chinburg is involved. Grant is required to be DEA approved and will need to be maintained through the winter.

Also discussed was the possibility of a Dog Park in the community. Staff will look into it.

There was lengthy discussion about snowmobile and ATV trails. There is a Proposed a trail from Somersworth through Rochester, Rollinsford. Some of the problems are the landfill and the golf course.

10. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

Special Committees

Planning Board - Councilor Witham said the committee discussed the Market Street Meeting House. The applicant, Tri-Investments, is looking to use it as a banquet facility. This was Tabled because of parking issues.

COAST – Councilor Pepin said they discussed municipal funding for 2018. They formed a committee to update the formulas to be more fair. They came up with 3 proposals. The request will be a 2.8% increase. He did state to them that he doesn't see it possible that Somersworth fulfill this. Somersworth fees down to 50cents, because of advertising.

School Board – Councilor Pepin said it was a light agenda. There was a budget workshop. They need to cut \$147,000 to be under the tax cap. They are having to cut into the staff. He reviewed the budget with the Superintendent, and He is not happy. A Public hearing on the School budget has been changed to Feb 20.

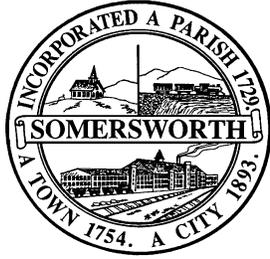
Historic District Commission – Councilor Dumont reported that they had an hour-long workshop which entailed discussion of certain materials which would be appropriate to be used in currant day. Windows are a big issue/challenge in the HDC. There has been some change in what would or would not be acceptable. What is available today could change tomorrow. Pressure treated wood is a problem for the HDC. It needs to be painted within a certain period of time. They have looked into issuing date specifics for painting. Another issue they are seeing is owners get approval for permits, the work is not completed, and they apply for another different permit. There are also those who don't apply and then come before the HDC after the project is done.

Councilor Sprague asked when something can be expected to come before the committee, about the size of the HDC. They have been asking for it for over 2 years now.

Councilor Dumont said it is difficult to get a date specific. The committee is on the 3rd chair in the past 14 months. He would like to bring a report to council before summer, but he can't give an exact date.

Councilor Witham asked if it was possible for a councilor to draft a resolution and have the HDC to review the resolution. A public hearing would also be needed.

Councilor Dumont said that is an excellent idea and a great way to move the committee forward.



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 3, 2017

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, February 6, 2017
City Council Agenda

Lay on the Table (under Section 12 of Agenda)

Resolution

A. Resolution No. 25-17 Authorize the City Manager to Enter Into a Purchase and Sales Agreement with Chinburg Properties of Newmarket, NH for the Sale and Re-Use of the Former Hilltop Elementary School Property at 17 Grand Street. Again, here are several of the key components of the Purchase & Development Proposal & Conceptual Plan:

- Sale of the Property for \$1.00
- Up to 30 market-rate apartments
- Civic space within the School
- Public park space
- Preservation of the building's historic features
- An RSA79-E agreement being approved
- A City initiated zoning change that would increase the present zoning overlay allowance of 20 apartments to 30 apartments

I also want to point out Mr. Chinburg has agreed to provide the City with an easement to continue to operate and maintain the public safety telecommunication's equipment located on the rooftop of the building. Attached is a copy of a memorandum from our Assessor that explains the recently re-priced assessed value of the property at \$710,000. I anticipate having a refined Purchase & Sales "Draft" Agreement by early next week.

Unfinished Business (under Section 13 of Agenda)

Resolution

- A. Resolution No. 26-17 To Officially Name the Traffic Island at the Intersection of High Street and Government Way “Citizen’s Park”.** The Recreation Committee met on January 25th and voted to support adoption of this Resolution by the full Council.

New Business (under Section 14 of Agenda)

Resolution

- A. Resolution No. 27–17 Vote To Authorize The Trustees Of Trust Funds to Release the Balance of the Post-Withdrawal Capital Trust Fund to the Somersworth School District and Close The Post-Withdrawal Capital Trust Fund.** As of the end of December there was \$84,887 in this post withdrawal account. If approved, this action will close out this account.
- B. Resolution No. 28-17 To Authorize the City Manager to Order One SUV Style Police Cruiser Which will be Funded by a Lease Purchase Arrangement.** This will be a lease to purchase acquisition. The City will have ownership of this vehicle at the end of 3 years. Please see attached memorandum from Chief Kretschmar. Both the Finance Committee and Public Safety Committee will be reviewing this request at their next scheduled meetings.
- C. Resolution No. 29-17 To Authorize the City Manager to Contract with Pro HVAC of Somersworth, NH to Install an Energy Recovery Ventilator at the Somersworth City Hall.** City Council appropriated \$37,000 in this fiscal year’s budget to replace this unit. The City received 3-bids for this project. City Staff recommends the project be awarded to the lowest bidder, Pro HVAC. I have also provided a copy of the HVAC assessment of the entire City Hall HVAC system completed by Design Day Mechanicals. Please note that the Finance Committee will be reviewing this bid award at their Monday meeting.

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

A. Informational Items

- 1. FY 2017-2018 Geosyntec Engineering Contract-Landfill Superfund Site.** Without any objection, I will be signing the attached Draft Contract Amendment for proposed monitoring work to be done by Geosyntec Consultants as required by the EPA, this would cover FY 2017-2018. This Remedial Action Services contract outlines our compliance obligations in accordance with the existing EPA Consent Decree and Record of Decision (ROD), as well as other work that may be required from time to time. Attorney Beliveau has reviewed & approved the Contract language as

proposed. The Contract costs and other associated budgeted expenses are split between the City at 50.5% and GE at 49.5%.

2. **Green Street-NH Department of Transportation (DOT).** Attached is an email from Public Works Director Bobinsky regarding NH DOT's notification that they will complete road surface improvements to Green Street this Spring with a $\frac{3}{4}$ pavement overlay shim. It would run the length of this road primarily from Indigo Hill Road to the Rollinsford line.

B. Attachments

- a. City Attorney Certification Three (3)

11. NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

School Board Vacancies

Kyla Yoder for School Board, Ward 4.
Todd Patten for School Board, Ward 4.

Councilor Paradis nominates Yoder and Patten, seconded by Councilor Witham.

Councilor Paradis commented that Kyla Yoder said she wanted to be here, but she had a previous engagement with her kids. She previously filled a vacant position on the school board.

Councilor Witham said we are fortunate to have 2 nominees with the skill sets that these 2 individuals have. Todd Patten brings a skill set to the table and a background. He will support Todd Patten.

Councilor Soldati said we have 2 excellent candidates for this position. It is not a requirement, but a plus to have the kids in the public school system. Kyla does have kids in the Somersworth Schools. She does not know Todd, but she was sure his IT skills could be utilized. She will be voting for Kyla Yoder.

Kyla Yoder was appointed as Member of the School Board for Ward 4, by Roll Call Vote, 5-3.

Christopher Smith for School Board, Ward 1

Councilor Witham nominated Christopher Smith for School Board, ward 1, seconded by Councilor Paradis.

Councilor Soldati, wholeheartedly supports Chris Smith, he is an asset and a hard working man.

Councilor Dumont said he echoes Councilor Soldati's comments. Chris is an incredible individual and has done a wonderful job on the Parade Committee.

Councilor Paradise said she is extremely happy to endorse this person.

Christopher Smith was appointed as Member of the School Board for Ward 4, by Voice Vote, 8-0.

Mayoral Nomination – Requires Council confirmation vote.

Ron LeHoullier, Reappointment as a Member of the Planning Board, term to expire Feb. 2020.

Margaret Roberge – Reappointment as a Member of the Board of Cemetery Trustees, term to expire Feb. 2020.

Pius Charles Murray, Reappointment as a Member of the Board of Library Trustees, term to expire Feb 2020.

Pius Charles Murray, Reappointment as a Member of the Historic District Commission, term to expire Feb 2020.

These appointments will remain open until the February 21, 2017 Meeting.

Mayoral Appointments – Does not require Council confirmation.

Paul Robidas, for Reappointment to the Somersworth Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, term to expire Feb 2022.

12. LAY ON THE TABLE

RESOLUTION NO. 25-17 AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AND SALES AGREEMENT WITH CHINBURG PROPERTIES OF NEWMARKET, NH FOR THE SALE AND RE-USE OF THE FORMER HILLTOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROPERTY AT 17 GRAND STREET.

Councilor Dumont made a motion remove Res 25-17 from the table. The motion passed by voice vote.

Councilor Dumont, seconded by Councilor Paradis, made a motion to approve Res 25-17.

Discussion:

Councilor Soldati said she has respect for the work that Chinburg does on all of the property that Chinburg takes over. What is the price that the City is selling this property

for? City Manager Belmore replied that it is being sold for \$1. Councilor Soldati said she has some hesitancy. The last time we sold a building for \$1, we bought it back for \$60,000. We need to learn from our mistakes. Mr. Chinburg could afford to purchase the building for more than \$1.

Councilor Pepin said he hasn't seen anything come down the pike about any changes. City Manager Belmore said he had a conference call with Mr. Chinburg and they discussed the agreement; there are several changes and Council will see in an new draft agreement.

Councilor Pepin said he doesn't have any question about the draft. His only question is that if we vote against it tonight are we done with this. The resolution is dead.

Mayor Hilliard said they could file a motion of reconsideration. The options this evening is to pass, oppose or lay the resolution back on the table.

Councilor Cameron, so we sell the building for \$1 and the cost for the restoration is all on Chinburg. Is there anything that will ease our mind that this property will come back to us.

City Manager Belmore said there is nothing in the agreement.

Councilor Soldati said what bothers her is that we are being asked to vote on an agreement that they haven't seen yet.

Councilor Witham asked if we were to authorize this resolution this evening, any changes to the purchase and sales agreement will be vetted through the Economic Development Committee. City Manager Belmore said that is what he is hoping to do.

Councilor Witham said the original purchase and sale was fairly strong, and the City Manager wouldn't weaken the agreement, only make it better. The building has set for many years, and the City of Somersworth won't have the funds to renovate this building. Chinburg is a reputable developer. The building would become inhabited. He has faith that this will be profitable for the City and be a meaningful purpose for the building.

Councilor Messier said multiple committees have already discussed this. We have received one proposal. This piece of property is getting us nothing. It is a beautiful pigeon coop. Economic Development Committee will slow it down further. We have been dealing with this way too long, if it is not sold, he will write and support a resolution to tear the building down. Get something that is a blight on the hill to be functional and on the tax rolls. It is frustrating dealing with what we want to do. He is sure the City Manager conveyed the questions to Mr. Chinburg.

Councilor Dumont said he appreciates the intellect from Councilor Messier. We, as a community, have really disrespected that building for too long. Taking that away, none of us are that naive to believe we are the epitome of development. Chinburg's prior success demonstrates his professionalism in Somersworth. Somersworth presents one of the greatest challenges to get his return. Tax incentives are his only opportunity to get his return. Without the tax incentives, the City of Somersworth lacks appeal for developers. Reality is, putting it back on the tax rolls is a benefit rather than having an empty building. He agrees with Councilor Witham, the City Manager isn't going to weaken the agreement. We've had many years to think what if. The City Manager has heard a lot of input. He has confidence in the City Manager to sit down with Chinburg and negotiate the agreement. There was a previous proposal. But it wasn't approved because additional buildings were proposed. If we don't do this, the options are gone. We need

to change our focus as to how we develop Somersworth when we let buildings sit empty for a long time. He is going to support this.

Councilor Paradis said she supports this resolution. She would like to see how much civic space and outside land will be available to the public. After hearing the discussion tonight, she is sure City Manager will make good choices and Director Shanna Saunders has in depth knowledge of the community needs.

Councilor Soldati said her hesitation is not that she is going to vote against the resolution. She feels, as a Council, they have to know what is in the purchase and sales agreement. She has confidence in the City Manager's abilities.

City Manager Belmore stated that most of the changes that the City has asked for, Chinburg has agreed to. The City Assessor brought the value down to about \$700,000. This will be coming back to the Council and Planning Board. There will be a lot more discussion, as well as a final deed.

The motion passed unanimously, by roll call vote.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION NO. 26-17 TO OFFICIALLY NAME THE TRAFFIC ISLAND AT THE INTERSECTION OF HIGH STREET AND GOVERNMENT WAY "CITIZEN'S PARK".

Councilor Pepin made a motion, seconded by Councilor Dumont, to approve Resolution 26-17.

Discussion:

Councilor Paradise said she would not be supporting this resolution. While she likes the idea of "Citizens Park", a place for us to gather, to celebrate our citizens...this plot of land, can't truly be considered a place for all citizens as long as it exclusively focuses on a religion that isn't shared by all the citizens. That's why we have laws that are supposed to separate church from state. She said she thought it was inappropriate to have this religious icon prominently displayed in the middle of town since I first saw it over 20 years ago. She thinks there are better options for its display. She feel that the city taking it on as a city park, to ensure it remains there is the wrong choice.

She said that she, and others, feel that the idea that our City is displaying a religious icon is disturbing. To many, it's seen as not part of our proud past...but a relic of a time when the constitutional adherence to separating government and religion was confused. Placing a historical marker on it and exhibiting it where everyone sees it every day, doesn't stop it from being religious interference endorsed by our city's collective government body. She truly believes in an absolute separation of ALL churches and religions...from ALL government, government property and public schools. She believes that virtually all organized religions, in their patriarchy and misogyny, continue the false idea of an obsolete social order. Being a true egalitarian and atheist, she could never endorse anything resembling religious dogma or icons. She considers it an unethical use

of space. This resolution inadvertently discriminates against all those citizens who do not follow these beliefs, and therefore she does not support it.

Councilor Witham said he supports the idea, but has concerns with around the term ‘park’.

Councilor Witham made a motion to amend the name to change it from Citizens Park, to Citizens Place. Councilor Sprague seconded the amendment.

Councilor Soldati said it is a creative amendment. She still doesn’t agree with it and will be voting against it.

Councilor Cameron said she agrees with Councilor Witham’s amendment.

The amendment to change the name from Citizens Park to Citizens Place, passes by voice vote.

Councilor Soldati said the optics of that little traffic island, as you drive through, are further poking the eye of the constitution, with the city and community flagpoles, and the promotion of Christianity, which was the original intent of the gifters. Eight out of ten court decisions say it promotes Christianity. It is in violation of the Constitution. She doesn’t have a big explanation as an observer.

Mayor Hilliard put the gavel down and said, he would allow Councilor Soldati to continue her comments, however, her comments are not directed to the resolution itself. The resolution is on the adoption of a name and not on the monument. We have debated this monument as a body; the majority of the Council approved that the monument be resurrected.

Councilor Soldati asked if she was being censored and the Mayor replied that her comments are not germane to the subject. The debate this evening is on Citizens Place and not the monument.

Councilor Soldati continued, saying, by calling it Citizens Place, we reinforce the notion that it is government promoting religion.

Councilor Sprague said, when he hears Citizens Place, he thinks of Citizens Bank.

The motion to adopt Resolution 26-17, as amended, passed, by a Roll Call Vote, 7-2.

14. NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION NO. 27-17 VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS TO RELEASE THE BALANCE OF THE POST-WITHDRAWAL CAPITAL TRUST FUND TO THE SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT AND CLOSE THE POST-WITHDRAWAL CAPITAL TRUST FUND.

Somersworth, NH
February 6, 2017

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 2017 debt payment has been made by the Somersworth School District and the balance of the fund is due from the post-withdrawal capital trust fund and the fund may now be closed, 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 the balance of Post-withdrawal Capital Trust Fund to the Somersworth School District and close the Post-withdrawal Capital Trust Fund.

Sponsored by

Councilor David A. Witham

Approved

City Attorney

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Paradis, made a motion to suspend rules for a second read. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Resolution 27-17 was read a second time by the Clerk.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Paradis, made a motion to approve Resolution 27-17. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 28-17 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ORDER ONE SUV STYLE POLICE CRUISER WHICH WILL BE FUNDED BY A LEASE PURCHASE ARRANGEMENT.

Somersworth, NH
February 6, 2017

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 continuing 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 one new "SUV" style police cruiser which will be funded in the FY2018 budget through a lease purchase arrangement.

Sponsored by Request

Councilor David A. Witham

Approved:

City Attorney

Resolution 28-17 will remain in first read until the February 21, 2017 City Council Meeting.

RESOLUTION 29-17 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH PRO HVAC OF SOMERSWORTH, NH TO INSTALL AN ENERGY RECOVERY VENTILATOR AT THE SOMERSWORTH CITY HALL.

Somersworth, NH
February 6, 2017

WHEREAS, the Somersworth Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2017 through 2022 contains a recommendation to replace the energy recovery ventilator (ERV Unit) as part of an overall HVAC improvement plan at the City Hall, and

WHEREAS, the fiscal year 2016-2017 adopted budget contains an appropriation for the replacement of the ERV Unit at the City Hall, and

WHEREAS, the City requested sealed bids from qualified contractors for this project, and

WHEREAS, City staff recommends awarding the contract for this project to Pro HVAC of Somersworth, NH for an amount not-to-exceed \$29,657 (Twenty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Seven Dollars),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to contract with Pro HVAC of Somersworth, NH to install an energy recovery ventilator at the Somersworth City Hall for an amount not to exceed \$29,657 (Twenty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Seven Dollars) and take any and all other such actions relative to this purchase determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Sponsored by Request:

Councilor David A. Witham

Approved

City Attorney

Resolution 29-17 will remain in first read until the February 21, 2017 City Council Meeting.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Soldati congratulated New Beginnings and Seeds of Faith. They spent years looking for property to established Lydia's house of hope. We are unique to have that facility in this area. Homelessness is improving and their dream has been realized.

Councilor Dumont said he received a letter from a resident about Comcast, stating that there is a difference in pricing over in Berwick.

In the past, the real estate tax rates for each community were listed in the newspaper. We struggle with budgets. We are the highest by \$2 over Durham.

What a job the Patriots did. Never before has a team come back from that large of a spread.

Last meeting he talked about the retirement plan for the State of New Hampshire. State retirement bill in the state house. Began in 1967, contribute up to 40%... for police, fire... 2009, lowered to 30%. The employees are at the understanding that they will be paid a certain amount of retirement benefit. In 2007, they broke their promise. What does this mean in 2018? The reality in the numbers is that that the state suffers from \$4bil dollars deficit. The cities and towns were made to contribute to offset the cost of that. He is hoping that our legislature looks at this long and hard. We are covering their responsibility.

Councilor Messier said the employees paid their said amount (to retirement), towns paid their share, it's about the state cost cutting and cost shifting. There is a new regime in Concord.

The State's plowing has really been disgusting and is getting worse. Today is Feb 6. Can we start taking down them Christmas lights?

Councilor Witham said he learned while on the Fire Department that there are 2 types of head injuries... he often leaves council meetings thinking he has a head injury. Every other community in Strafford County has a lesser tax rate than us. But if he owned the same house and land in another community, he would be dishing out a larger check, because evaluations are higher in other communities. Senator Waters is aware of the issues with the state retirement system. These conversations bring the matters close to home.

He is happy to see the cigarette butt containers were installed downtown. He hopes they are working.

Hats off to the Police Department for the 2 busts that occurred last week. The neighborhoods are happy with their work.

He commended the Fire Department; 2 fires in one evening. Their quick response kept the fires from spreading.

He likes the idea of generating an ordinance change that speaks to the scope of the HDC. He mentioned the permitted parking spaces at the Queensbury Mill; they need to do something, better signage, better striping. The parking creates a narrowing of the road mouth.

Councilor Sprague said, regarding the vote we took tonight on the hilltop parcel, he voted for it to get it in the works, but he will be looking for the details on the outside space and common area. It will have an impact on the Hilltop Community.

He commended the Strafford County Drug Task Force and Somersworth Police. Granite Hammer is starting to really work.

Councilor Cameron congratulated the Task Force, and she is glad we are moving forward. She said she is not a football fan, but she knows a good game when she sees one. Boston Strong!

Councilor Paradis said she appreciates the 'robust discussion' and she thanked her fellow Councilors. She welcomed the new School Board Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Cameron, seconded by Councilor Dumont, made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm.

Trish Harris, City Clerk

Dana Hilliard, Mayor