

## MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Somersworth, NH  
October 2, 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, McCallion, Witham, Sprague, and Cameron. Councilors Messier and Paradis were excused.

### MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

MINUTES of PUBLIC HEARING Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive Application from Chinburg Properties-17 Grand Street (Former Hilltop School) held on September 18, 2017

***Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Dumont, made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion passed, with Soldati and Cameron abstaining.***

MINUTES of the CITY COUNCIL MEETING held on September 18, 2017

***Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Dumont, made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion passed, with Soldati and Cameron abstaining.***

### COMMENTS BY VISITORS

Real Roseberry, ward 1, said he received a call from his Grandson, Casey Pridham. He joined the Airforce 6 weeks ago. He graduated from Somersworth High School this June. What he has done in six weeks would take a man 2 years to accomplish.

Mr. Roseberry shared a document showing photos his grandson's accomplishments and read a letter stating that Casey received the top of the score on the physical training test. He received an award, as the number 1 in everything. Casey will be attending tech school at Lackland AFB in Texas, he will be trained as a contractor, and he hopes to be stationed over seas. Casey saluted the Company Commander, as he received the award. The Mayor and the Somersworth School had something to do with this. The City should be proud.

Neil Larson, ward 1, stated that he is looking to be appointed to the Cemetery Board. His nomination is on the agenda tonight.

George Poulin, ward 1, stated he was there on behalf of the Summersworth Historical Society. He thanked everyone how showed up for the 15 year Open House. The museum has been doing rotating displays; churches, military. They leave it set up for about a month. Starting October 12, the Summersworth Historical Museum will be open every Thursday, 12:30-3:30pm.

Maggie Roberge thanked Mr. Larson for forward as a Trustee of Cemetery Board. She requested that the Council move forward with his appointment this evening so he can

attend the meeting on Thursday. She also thanked Mr. Larson's wife, Maggie, for running for the School Board.

Raude Raychal, President of the Indonesian Community Connect. She extended their gratitude to everyone for their great contribution in making the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Indonesian Fair a success. The Festival is designed for the local residents to learn more about Indonesia and to build a strong connection with each other in a fun and festive setting. One of the main events of ICC's vision and mission is promote the richness of the cultural diversity and to help facilitate mutual understanding among the different cultures and values. Many aspects of this event would not have been possible without the generous contributions of many groups of people, especially everyone who gathers here tonight. Thanked all for the help in allowing the community to enjoy the fair. Despite the current issues with immigration, the community's support with this event showed her that we can set aside our differences, work together and enjoy each other's unique culture. She went on to say that the community has shown their love, acceptance and support so that they feel that they belong in this community. As a token of gratitude, they presented the Somersworth First Responders – Somersworth Police, Somersworth Fire, American Ambulance- with a framed Certificate of Thanks. Mayor Dana Hilliard was also presented with a framed Certificate of Thanks at the event for the City of Somersworth. On behalf of ICC, she thanked them for their kindness and support. She presented the Somersworth Public Works Department with a Certificate of Thanks, for their significant contribution. The award was presented to Director Michael Bobinsky. She offered her deepest gratitude to everyone here and hopes they will work together again next year.

#### COMMENTS 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 Monday October 2nd, 2017**

- A highly engaging well attended downtown plaza planning session took place last weekend in conjunction with a grant from Plan New Hampshire. The event attracted a wide fascist of citizens and stake holders all dedicated to continuing to invest in the future of the Hilltop City and ensure that we continue to keep "On the Move!"

Amazing ideas and concepts were generated by citizens and members of Plan New Hampshire during the two public sessions and the final presentation on Saturday afternoon. Two concepts have been offered by plan NH on how our community to

revitalize the plan to rekindle economic growth throughout the downtown area, while creating common space that Somersworth residents could recreate in and celebrate all that great about our Hilltop City.

The most important aspect of the Plan New Hampshire session or any public project is to keep a forward motion and not have the energy or insight find its way onto the shelves of government bureaucracy. In keeping with the Hilltopper spirit of seeking insight and then applying it to solutions I am naming and creating this evening the Somersworth Plaza Commission. The purpose of the Commission will be as follows:

- 1) Review concepts and designs offered by Plan New Hampshire and explore possible further concepts and designs
- 2) Continue to generate feedback from stake holders and citizens before finalizing a concept
- 3) Vote on a final recommendation to be forwarded to Council for final debate and approval
- 4) Complete and finalize work to be forward to Council by April 30<sup>th</sup> of 2018.

In accordance with Council Rule 15 and the City Charter Section 3.5 “C” I am naming the following members to this commission which does not require Council approval.

**Somersworth Plaza Commission with a sunset date of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2018**

***Councilor Marty Dumont Chair***

Councilor Denis Messier, Vice Chair

Councilor David Witham

Bob Belmore, City Manager

Shanna Saunders, Director of Planning and Community Development

Peter Michaud, New Hampshire Department of Historic Resources

Don Barrios, citizen

Lindsey Gagnon, citizen

Maggie Roberge, citizen

Matt Gerding, citizen

- As a Hilltop City and nation our heart once again is in mourning over the loss of 58 souls in concert attack at Las Vegas. The hateful and cowardly act has once again placed a permit scare upon the families who lost love ones who had looked forward to an evening of enjoyment and celebration.

Our nation has become too accustomed and numb to acts of violence. While we stop, pause, reflect and mourn, violence throughout our nation has become expected and normalized. Our society now trains for events of activity shooters within offices, malls, schools and places of gathering, as not only prevention but expecting them to happen. The evolvment of fortifying our places of work and schools as become a

normal expected part of our daily existence. We have grown not to be shocked by events of violence and terror but simply now adjust to them.

As a society, we must be forth right and examining the root of this continually violence which robs our nation of citizens lives each year. We can no longer evade the truth that untreated mental issues and loose restrictions on gun ownership have led and will continue to lead to the deaths of innocent Americans. As a society, we must honest with ourselves that American that the founders established in 1776 has shifted and changed, and with that change so to have the intentions in regards to the true interpretation of the Second Amendment. While I am a support of gun ownership and will continue to be, we must have an honest and truthful conversation of how we can live as a safe society within 2017 while honoring Constitutional rights. The continual dilemma of the rights of society verse the rights of the individual will never cease within our American society.

Yet, with technology advancements we must continue to debate how the Second Amendment can continue to broadly apply. We must also demand that our policy makers no longer avert the truth of how untreated mental illness continues to plague our nation and leads to acts of violence.

We will again lower the flags, again ask why, and bury loved ones.

We must also now say, enough. Take a stand, support those who have sworn to protect us, and search for the meaning of why our nation is so violent. Then stop the division, political spin and avoiding the root of the problem.

We no longer need empty rhetoric,

We no longer need flags at half – staff

We no longer need to be a nation in continual mourning.

We need honest actions, discussion and solutions.

### **Appointments**

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

Neil Larson, As a member of the Board of Cemetery Trustees with a term to expire October 2022.

**In accordance with Council Rule 17 Appointments, the nomination shall remain open until the October 16th, scheduled Council meeting**

- Also this evening, in accordance with Council Rule 15, the following appointments are being named this evening and do not require Council approval.

George Poulin as a member of the Cultural Commission

- Finally, in accordance with Council Rule 15 and the City Charter Section 3.5C, I am establishing the following commission and naming the following members. In accordance with Council Rule 15 and the City Charter Section 3.5C, this does not require Council approval.

**Somersworth Plaza Commission with a sunset date of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2018**

Councilor Denis Messier, Vice Chair  
Councilor David Witham  
Bob Belmore, City Manager  
Shanna Saunders, Director of Planning and Community Development  
Peter Michaud, New Hampshire Department of Historic Resources  
Don Barrios, citizen  
Lindsey Gagnon, citizen  
Maggie Roberge, citizen  
Matt Gerding, citizen

**This respectfully concludes my October 2, 2017 Mayors Report**

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Economic Development – Councilor Dumont said there was robust discussion about HB316. After a lengthy discussion, the committee took no action. There is a consideration to see how other communities approach this. Many compliments on the Plan NH Charrette. They look forward to moving forward. Thanked the Mayor for the establishment of the committee.

**REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER**

**Special Committees**

Building and Trades Trust – Councilor Pepin explained that this is a fund to supply the materials for the project that the students work on. During the meeting, there was an election of officers, discussion of the projects, seems like everything has changed because the school periods are shorter. It's harder to build a house on a site, because of transportation. There was lengthy discussion about that. Programs have changed a lot; students can gather college credits while in High School. The trust fund hasn't had any activity.

School Board – Councilor Pepin said there was discussion about active shooter training. The Police Department and the teachers are being trained. They have found that it is best that the students try to leave if it is safe.

COAST – Council Pepin said there was a guest speaker, Scott Bogren, Executive Director of Community Transportation of America. They are trying to get legislation for the organizations. There was discussion about the problems with ADA and the problems of being reimbursed with Medicare and Medicaid. There was also a business meeting, financial report, and election of officers.

Joint Commission City Council and School Board – Councilor Dumont said they received updates from Mayor and Superintendent. There was the current enrollment rate remains level with the other years, which is interesting with the Rollinsford transfer. Somersworth is one of the few communities with the enrollment stability. There was discussion about land acquisition for future use.

Historic District Commission – Councilor Dumont said he is pleased to report, since being televised, that the applications are being presented more accurately, promptly presented and approved. There was a presentation from the people who are developing the Somersworth Hotel, a rendering of the hotel. The building as it sits could be a problem. Demolition is possible.

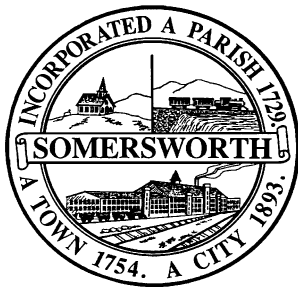
Cultural Commission – Mr. Poulin of the Summersworth Historical Society has been appointed to the Commission Discussion. There was discussion about the Indonesian Fair. He is very proud to have them in our community. There was discussion about the Thedford Mines Community Celebration for 2018, exchange student program, and 4<sup>th</sup> run from Thedford Mines to Somersworth for the 125<sup>th</sup> Somersworth celebration.

Councilor Witham stated there was a hearing of the Governors' Advisory Council on intermodal transportation. These are held every 2 years by the state. They are presentations and listening sessions with regard to the State Department of Transportation's 10 year capital Improvement Plans for State Highways and the aid that would come to local projects and communities. There are 3 projects in Somersworth that are in the 10 year plan; a complete street upgrade of State Rt 108 from Weeks Crossing in Dover to the Rochester Line, another consideration is an upgrade to signalized intersection of High Street, West High Street, Washington Street, and Hamilton Street. Captain Timmons provided accident data. The other consideration is exit 10. Director Bobinsky spoke and Councilor Witham said he spoke as well as an Elected Official. Somersworth had good representation at the hearing.

Councilor Sprague asked who put forward the intersection on High Street? It was clarified that the City put it forward. Councilor Sprague said it absolutely does not make any sense. We just did that intersection, it's ridiculous. We have other intersections with more accidents than that one.

Sustainability/Vision 2020 – Councilor Soldati said the two committees met for the purpose reviewing what was set out in the master plan, and the progress that has been made. There was discussion about the solar panel project, replacement for the lights in the City to LED lights, reinstating the City's designation of the City being a Tree City, Community Gardens, and legislation for chickens and eggs.

Christmas Parade Committee – Councilor Dumont said the enthusiasm is growing, there are people waiting for the application to be mailed to them. The gala will have a lot more activity. Some people in the community don't have the ability to enjoy the parade and gala. They would like to consider having it broadcast live on the public access channel.



**CITY OF SOMERSWORTH**  
*Office of the City Manager*

**TO:** Mayor Dana S. Hilliard and City Council Members

**FROM:** Robert M. Belmore, City Manager

**DATE:** Friday, September 29, 2017

**SUBJECT:** City Manager's Report for Monday, October 2, 2017  
City Council Agenda

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*New Business (under section 14 of Agenda)*

**Resolutions**

- A. Resolution No. 10-18 To Authorize the City Manager to Continue the City of Somersworth's Support in Furthering the Plan for an Intermunicipal Agreement with the City of Dover for the Development of a Water System Interconnection between Dover and Somersworth.** The Public Works & Environment Committee met on September 12<sup>th</sup> and reviewed preliminary plans for this potential interconnection and voted to support a continued dialogue with Dover's staff and consultant engineer. Attached is a technical memorandum that Dover shared with us regarding alternative designs as well as recommending a new temporary hydrant location for emergency hook-ups. Staff is moving forward with this new hydrant installation off Rte.16B. Finally, I would point out that design alternative 3A is the preferred construction design for a permanent interconnection facility.
- B. Resolution No. 11-18 To Authorize the City Manager to Contract with Envirovantage of Epping, NH for Abatement and Demolition Services associated with the Remediation of Property Located at 1 Winter Street, formerly known as Bretons Cleaners.** Attached is a memorandum from Judd Newcomb, out project consultant from Credere Associates, that provides a listing of the three (3) bids received. The recommendation is to move forward with Envirovantage of Epping, NH at their low bid of \$48,000. As

Judd has pointed out, this favorable bid allows us to negotiate additional work at the site and stay within the Grant funds allocated and overall project goals for clean-up. If authorized, I would negotiate additional work under the previously approved Credera contract and under this Envirovantage contract.

### **Other**

- A. Vote to Authorize a City Council Letter of Support for the City's CMAQ Grant submittal. Project cost estimated to be \$699,000 (80/20 match; \$559,200 State / \$139,800 City).** I have attached a "*Draft*" letter for your consideration. It is important to note that the letter indicates Council's commitment to providing funding for the required local funding match.

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

#### **A. Informational Items.**

- 1. Moose Plate Grant Award – Forest Glade Cemetery.** The City was notified that our Moose Plate Grant Application was approved and the City will be receiving \$10,000 to restore the main entrance gates and granite pillars at the entrance to Forest Glade Cemetery. Please note, there is no local match and the full amount that we applied for was granted. See attached memorandum from Public Works Director Mike Bobinsky. My congratulations are extended to our City's Cemetery Trustees and Director Mike Bobinsky.
- 2. City Sponsored Events.**
  - a. Coffee with a Cop.** Join Chief David Kretschmar and the officers from Somersworth PD for Coffee with a Cop, Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. at the Dunkin Donuts on the corner of NH Route 108 and Whitehouse Road.
  - b. Somersworth Annual Senior Picnic.** Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Flanagan Center Gym on Bartlett Avenue from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
  - c. Fire Department Open House.** The Annual Fire Department Open House will be held on Saturday October 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

#### **B. Attachments.**

- 1. City Attorney Certifications (2) Two**
- 2. Plan NH PowerPoint Presentation**
- 3. Staff Letter to GACIT Members & NH DOT Regarding NH Ten Year Plan**

## NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Mayoral Nomination - Requires Council Confirmation Vote

Neil Larson – Appointment as a member of the Board of Cemetery Trustees with a term to expire October 2022

***Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion suspend Council rules to act this evening appointment this evening. The motion passed unanimously.***

***Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to approve the nominee. Motion passed unanimously.***

## LAY ON TABLE

None

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

## NEW BUSINESS

### Resolutions:

RESOLUTION NO. 10-18 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTINUE THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH'S SUPPORT IN FURTHERING THE PLAN FOR AN INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF DOVER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A WATER SYSTEM INTERCONNECTION BETWEEN DOVER AND SOMERSWORTH.

Somersworth, NH  
October 2, 2017

WHEREAS, as part of a water facilities improvements project at their Willand Pond Well, the City of Dover is developing a design plan for a water system interconnection between Dover and Somersworth with its project engineer Underwood Engineers, and

WHEREAS, both the City of Dover and the City of Somersworth have expressed interest in a water system interconnection to allow for water sharing in case of an emergency, and

WHEREAS, the City Council's Public Works and Environment Committee has reviewed this potential intermunicipal project with City staff and with Dover's staff and consultant, and the Committee has voted to support the project's concept,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to continue the City's support in furthering the possibility of an intermunicipal agreement with the City of Dover for the development of a water system interconnection and said agreement would include such elements as the final design, operational responsibilities, and cost sharing of

the proposed water system interconnection, as well as other necessary components deemed to be in the best interests of the City.

Sponsored by Councilors:

Dale R. Sprague  
David A. Witham  
Denis Messier

Approved:

City Attorney

***Resolution 10-18 will remain in first read until the October 16, 2017 City Council Meeting.***

RESOLUTION NO. 11-18 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH ENVIROVANTAGE OF EPPING, NH FOR ABATEMENT AND DEMOLITION SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE REMEDIATION OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1 WINTER STREET, FORMERLY KNOWN AS BRETONS CLEANERS.

Somersworth, NH  
October 2, 2017

WHEREAS, the Somersworth City Council adopted Resolution No. 37-17 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for the purpose of funding the remediation of the former Breton's Cleaners property located at 1 Winter Street, and

WHEREAS, the City's consultant engineer for the project solicited proposals from qualified contractors for the abatement and demolition of the building located on this property, and

WHEREAS, the City's consultant engineer for the project reviewed the proposals received and recommends awarding the contract to Envirovantage of Epping, NH for an amount of \$48,000 (Forty Eight Thousand dollars), and

WHEREAS, based on the cost for abatement and demolition there is an opportunity to utilize available grant funding for additional remediation to include but not limited to concrete slab removal and soil abatement,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to contract with Envirovantage of Epping, NH for abatement and demolition services associated with the

remediation of property located at 1 Winter Street for an amount of \$48,000 (Forty Eight Thousand dollars), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to amend the contract with Envirovantage to include actions such as concrete slab removal and soil abatement to the extent these costs do not exceed the amount of grant funding available and to take any other actions relative to this project determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Sponsored by Request:

Mayor Dana S. Hilliard

Approved:

City Attorney

***Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to waive Council Rules and allow for second read or Resolution 10-18. Motion passed unanimously.***

***Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to approve Resolution 10-18.***

Councilor Witham said he wants to move forward while there is still good weather. The estimate was lower than expected and Credere has worked with Envirovantage on other projects in the past.

***The motion to approve Resolution 10-18, passed unanimously.***

#### Other

- A. Vote to authorize a City Council letter of support for the City's CMAQ grant submittal. Project cost estimated to be \$699,000 (80/20 match; \$559,200 State / \$139,800 City)

Councilor Witham wanted to confirm that this is for the signalization timing through High Street corridor

***The vote passed, unanimously, by voice vote.***

#### 15. CLOSING COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

Maggie Roberge thanked the Council for moving forward with approving Neil Larson. Thanked everyone for all of the support for all of the events in the chapel in Forest Glade Cemetery. They are very thankful for the moose plate grant.

Real Roseberry, ward 1, attended a meeting at the high school (Somersworth Plaza Charrette). He said it was a terrific idea. He likes the idea of a gazebo in the middle courtyard. Let's do it right, and put in a large gazebo to have dances, weddings, bands. He loves the idea of getting the tax payers involved.

#### 16. CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Pepin complimented the people who showed up for the charrette, there wasn't an empty seat, and lots of good conversation.

Councilor Soldati spoke about what happened in Las Vegas. There are too many guns. Lincoln Soldati joined the NRA at age 13. Then, it was all about gun safety. They didn't lobby congress. Our economic system is the problem, it's about money. NRA is about profit. They send out propaganda that the government is going to take your guns away. Then 2 things happen, stock for gun manufacturers goes up and sales of guns go up. She is not against hunters. She urged people to write to senators, congressmen, president.

Councilor Dumont complimented the Trustees of the Cemetery for their culturally rich and well received events. Forest Glade is a great place. The 18 cemeteries carry a lot of culture in the city.

The Charrette will deliver to our community a vision. He is proud of our community and he thanked the Mayor for the appointment on the special commission.

He complimented the museum; a wonderful place to go and visit. It's a museum to be proud of.

He stated that most impressive is the love of a grandpa for his grandchild. There is no doubt that Casey has excelled, and those can see why Casey was so successful, the encouragement of a proud grandpa, Real Roseberry.

He thanked fosters for running an article about the elderly tax exemption in Exeter. Somersworth should use the example of what Exeter has, since it is close in population to our city. The ability to exempt the elderly from taxation is supported by a 43cent tax transfer. It is somewhat of an equalization. There are currently 69 people who receive the elderly exemption. He would like to see Somersworth be treated with more respect. A lot of the homes that are being sold in Somersworth today are elderly because they are now paying a tax rate for more than their original house payment. He hopes to be able to grant more abatements.

Councilor Witham said Elderly tax exemption will be on the Finance agenda. He was happy to see that the Charrette meetings were very well attended.

To Mr. Roseberry, he said agrees with his pride with Casey; he is a fine young man.

Councilor Cameron said, as a class advisor, she doesn't get to know all of the students, it is always nice to see what happens after they graduate, kudos to the family.

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

#### NONPUBLIC SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

*Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Dumont, made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.*

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Trish Harris, City Clerk

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Dana Hilliard, Mayor