



MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Somersworth, NH
November 18, 2019
7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by His Honor, the Mayor, Dana S. Hilliard, and upon roll call the following Council members were present: Pepin, Vincent, Dumont, Austin, Michaud, Witham, Sprague, Cameron, and Levasseur.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

Councilor Sprague led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinance No. 11-20 - Supplemental Appropriation for Additional Improvements to Maple Wood Elementary School Funded by State Building Aid

No comments

Ordinance No. 12-20 - To Amend Chapter 20, Building Codes, Section 20.L, Fees, Fines, and Penalties, and Add Appendix A, Fee Schedule

No comments

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

Matt Gerding, ward 1, stated that he missed the workshop on the Veterans Park, but he has extra funding from his campaign and would like to donate that to the Veterans park.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting held on October 28, 2019

Approve Minutes of the Joint Public Works and Environment Committee and City Council Meeting held on November 1, 2019

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Vincent, made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Calendar. The motion passed, 9-0.

COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCILORS

Councilor Pepin reported that COAST is having an informational meeting on December 3, 2019, from 6-8pm at Somersworth City Hall Council Chambers regarding route changes.

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter of Resignation from Judith Goodnow – Library Board of Trustees

The letter was read by the Clerk and accepted by the Council. Mayor Hilliard thanked Judith and extended an invitation to others to fill the position.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND DISPOSAL THEREOF BY REFERENCE OR OTHERWISE

None

MAYOR'S REPORT

Last Monday I had the honor of delivering the annual Veteran's Day Message. The message was especially meaningful this year as I informed those gathering how this body has made an official commitment to proceed forward with the construction of a new Veterans Park. The crowd was filled with joy knowing that we would break ground on Memorial Day 2020, and officially dedicate the park at next years Veterans Day services. Since that commitment by this Council, another \$1000 donation has been received, Councilor Dumont and I and all members of the Veterans Park Commission will continue to do out dur diligence in raising capital for the park, so that it is a true reflection of the Hilltopper Spirit.

Each year it has also become a tradition of mine to invite two of my students from Somersworth Middle School who have completed and submitted essays for the Annual Veterans of Foreign Wars Patriots Pen Competition. While the winners have yet to be announced, I was moved by two particular essays. This evening I am welcoming to the Podium, 8th grade students, Eric Goodrich and David Irot, to read their Essays on "Why America is Great."

It is great when fine young leaders like yourselves set forward. Thank you so much for those 2 wonderfully written essays.

May God forever offer His grace and guidance for those who hold true to the principles of our great Nation, and me He continue to shield us in His protection and those who willingly defended out Nation, and those who have sacrificed their lives in the name of democracy, and may God forever bless these 50 United States. Thank you all who carry the honor and title of United States Veteran and thank you for your service.

Remove the campaign signs, bumper stickers, flyers, and phone calls, and what you are left with during an election season, is time to reflect. Elections are exciting. They represent the formational elements of democracy. Individual suffrage to choose one's representative. Self-determination is a trait which identifies us as Americans. Our right to determine our direction and to create communities which foster our creed. A right to ensure that all citizens will be celebrated, honored and protected. As a united, committed citizenry we must continue to build communities which are homes which inspire, nurture and grow each generation like we just saw. So that they can reach their full potential. Elections also give us the chance to reflect on how far we have journeyed, and where we are going in the miles left in our travels. Now that the bumper stickers have been put away, the signs packed up, and the determination of who will be sitting on the next two bodies by the people who have spoken, it is time to review our successes. The elements of our successes were not created by a national based marketing firm, dictating to our community the key ingredients needed to reach those successes, instead, they were rediscovered by each member of our community, recognizing our achievements. For Somersworth to continue to hold a bright future, we

simply had to embrace our roots; overcoming adversity, and achieving greatness by recognizing our rich cultural diversity in all of our Citizens. What we hold within our 10 square miles community is the sacred elements of the Hilltopper Spirit. Our Hilltopper Spirit and values of neighbor helping neighbor, committed to each other, which has been the formula which has led to our city being on the move. Over the last 6 years, our investment in ourselves has created a Statewide reputation of Somersworth being named New Hampshire's Welcoming City, and recognized by Business NH Magazine as a community which has reemerged with economic vitality. Our Downtown has come back to life with business, energy, and belief in Somersworth once again. Our School System has been recognized statewide for its commitment to 21st Century based learning opportunities. This has led to accolades being bestowed upon Somersworth High School, Maple Wood, Idlehurst, and the Middle School being named as the 2019 New Hampshire Middle School of the Year. We were able to secure state funding to modernize our Career Technical Center and Maple Wood Elementary School. Ensuring that our students would continue to achieve beyond what New Hampshire considers an adequate education. We have invested over \$19mil in roads and infrastructure improvements over the last decade, attracting new businesses and families to Somersworth. We have made a commitment to our self and future generations by preserving our environment to a sustainable and conservation practices enquiring new open space areas, protecting and preserving natural species and habitats. Our team approach to governing has become a model to the state. The superficial lines between the City Council and the School Board have been erased. We are now one united community, working together in the same direction, ensuring that our community will remain on the move. While I may not always agree, and like any partnership, there may be family arguments with members amongst this Council, future Councils, and School Boards, disagreements will occur and while those disagreements occur, we conduct ourselves with openness, decorum, statesmanship, and civility. The creation of the Joint Commission of the City Council and School Board ensures that this model will continue with fidelity and that our Hilltopper values will be adhered to by all future generations. We have continued with compassion and empathy to support our most vulnerable citizens. With the adoption of the Mayor's Drug Task Force Master Plan and the Tri City Mayors' Homeless Task Force Master Plan. In true Hilltopper practices, we have ensured that these plans will not just be a collection among past legislative attempts to resolve issues. Instead we are implementing the Master Plans with success.

Since our independence in 1776, Veterans have continued to hold to their oath of defending the values of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for every single person who calls themselves an American and those who make their way to our shores so that they may find the warmth that liberty supplies. These guardians of Liberty have never faulted in ensuring that each generation of Americans would bask in the warmth of freedom. Our community will forever be grateful for the sacrifices that they have made. In having enshrined our commitment with the recent adoption and approval of the Mayors Veterans Park Commission design to construct a new Veterans Park, under the leadership of Councilor Dumont, within Somersworth, located at the current Stein Park. While the fundraising campaign is still underway, and will be a full community effort, with the final approval of this Council which took place on October 28, 2019, the ground breaking for the park will now take place on Memorial Day, 2020, with the park's dedication scheduled for Veterans Day, 2020. Yet another accomplishment that can truly shine when a team comes together and works. We have committed ourselves to ensuring that each resident and their property be protected by investing in police and fire services and ensuring that our fire department will operate out of

a 21st Century, modernized facility. The final approval to move forward with the construction of a new Fire Department will take place in winter 2020, with the new Council which will arrive and be sworn in. We have welcomed new additions to our police department. Bravo, now proudly wears the badge of the Somersworth Police Department, as the inaugural member of the new K9 Unit. Somersworth Police Practices are now proudly implemented in every aspect of the department, building a lasting partnership in community safety under the direction of our chief and his commitment to community policing.

Our team approach to governing, we have been able to keep Somersworth on the move by working together. While being mindful to ensure that we keep to our community's affordability for all citizens. These practices have resulted in the Somersworth tax rate recently dropping from \$33.41 to \$27.28 per thousand; a \$6.13 decrease. This has occurred through the implementation of a team approach in governing. Not only between the Council and School Board but between City Leaders and City Professionals who now collaborate and communicate and respect each other.

While I do not personally adhere to the philosophy of "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." In fact, that is one of the philosophies that drive me nuts. I do subscribe to the statement of "the proof is in the pudding." Over the last 6 years, your elected team has been working on a successful pudding recipe, and while the pudding is still cooking, the progress on the batch is on its way toward success. So, on behalf of the Mayor's office and every member of the City Council and School Board, we would like to thank each citizen for your trust and faith in the team approach to governing. I thank the citizens for your vote of faith over the last 6 years and the recent election of which you have once again placed me in this role as Mayor. I pledge to you that I will continue my team approach to governing and continue to keep Somersworth on the move as New Hampshire's Welcoming City. A City that rises above partisanship and divisiveness and holds to its value to the community where all are celebrated and self-agendas and factions are dismissed.

I am excited and look forward to a new team with our two new Councilors who were recently elected and them embracing and continuing to do the work as a united team. Let us continue on the path we began, continue to create a community where all are honored and celebrated and continue to invest in the home that we call Somersworth.

Thank you to all of the Elected Officials and Citizens for your love of our great Hilltop City. Thank you for the support that you have entrusted in me in the past 6 years and thank you for granting me a renewal on my lease as Mayor. And once again, thank you for your continued belief in our team approach in keeping this great community on the move. Our work toward success and greatness is far from completed and there will be some new elements that will be added to that batch of pudding which is still brewing. So let us continue to build a community where we can celebrate each other where we can honor that Hilltopper Spirit, where neighbors will continue to keep helping neighbors and where all of us, united together, can truly wear that shirt and badge of honor of our proud past and be even more excited about our bright future.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance Committee – Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at 8am

Public Safety – Councilor Pepin reported that the Committee met on October 30, 2019. The Committee Discussed:

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- Kelly Davis of Port One Design shared the presentation for the Fire Station. The committee discussed procedure of construction on the same site. They also discussed the pros and cons of one- and two-story fire stations. Port One is looking to do a presentation to full Council in the near future.
- Update from the Fire Chief – Port One has visited 8 times, they have hired 2 call fire fighters. He is applying for a Homeland Security Grant to allow for the installation of a generator at the Chinburg Property formally known as Hilltop School to power the police and fire base station. Chief Hoyle has been informed there is a 50% City match for the grant but since we have already purchased new radios that will count as the City match.
- Update from the Police Chief - 2 patrol officers on field training, one opening now. Received 8 resumes. Bravo is doing great and is very active in the community. They discussed the plan of reviewing the Police department. The results will be distributed and discussed the next meeting.

Public Works & Environment – Councilor Sprague reported that the Committee met twice since the last City Council Meeting. On November 1, 2019 the committee met at the Oaks. The Committee discussed:

- The proposed timber cut at the Oaks, which is City owned property. They need City permission to do the cut. This is not really a clear cut, but more of a selective cut. The reason for this is a lack of sun on the golf course. This must be done when the ground is frozen. There were 7 of 9 councilors at this meeting and all were in agreement to allow for the cut.
- Road repairs – The Committee talked about Nadeau St, right of way. They are working on an agreement.
- 8 Government Way - public parking spaces.

The Public Works and Environment Committee met again on November 14, 2019. The Committee discussed:

- BETA - the paving index. Councilor Sprague stated that hopefully the Council will continue putting \$1mil in the budget for road repairs. The Pavement Index was at 55, and it is now at 64. The City strives to be at 70. The Committee discussed the fact that the the past few years, our paving was done in the fall. We need to pass the budget in July, and instead of putting out to bid then and try to squeeze it in, it was suggested that the City wait until December and start the paving in the spring. It was suggested that some language be added to the bid request that the paving be completed by a certain date. There was lengthy discussion about the presentation.
- City Ordinance Chapter 12, revisions, has to do with the sidewalks. An amendment is suggested to make it unlawful to leave snow in the sidewalks. It shouldn't be the City's responsibility to redo what has already been done. An ordinance will be coming to council soon.
- Trench permitting – It was suggested that contractors be licensed.
- The Hall at Great Falls increasing occupancy from 100 to 300, which means more foot traffic. LED Crossing Signs at crosswalks was discussed by the committee. It was suggested that they start with 2 signs.

Councilor Levasseur stated, regarding the increased signage, he asked if it will be reviewed by the Traffic Safety committee as well.

Councilor Sprague stated that it will be forwarded to the Traffic Safety Committee.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

Special Committees

Somersworth Berwick Christmas Parade - Councilor Cameron reported that the Committee met on November 18, 2019. They are finalizing plans. The Block Party will have a fire and ice theme, Elvis will make an appearance, along with Acoustic Radio. There will be the annual Tree Lighting and fireworks. She also announced the Grand Marshal, Gordie Hilliard.

Veterans Park Committee – Councilor Dumont reported that are still sorting out how much a brick costs, and other details. The Finance Committee will be meeting to discuss the cost. Councilor Dumont stated that it is interesting going out and meeting with the different groups who are donating to the Park.

Councilor Levasseur asked for the total amount of funds so far.

Councilor Dumont responded that they have about \$4500 so far. Total commitments is just over \$14,000.

City Manager's Report

Office of the City Manager

TO: Mayor Dana S. Hilliard and City Council Members

FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager

DATE: Friday, November 15, 2019

**SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, November 18, 2019
City Council Agenda**

6:00 pm: Council Workshop

***Re: Analysis of Road Conditions presented by Conrad Leger of
BETA Group - Pavement Management Program***

Unfinished Business (Under Section 14 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. Ordinance No. 11-20: Supplemental Appropriation for Additional Improvements to Maple Wood School Funded by State Building Aid.** Again, the Finance Committee voted to recommend approval of this Supplemental Appropriation.
- B. Ordinance No. 12-20: To Amend Chapter 20, Building Codes, Section 20.L, Fees, Fines, and Penalties, and Appendix A, Fee Schedule.** Approval is supported by the Finance Committee.

New Business (Under Section 15 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. Ordinance No. 13-20: To Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 13.3.1-D, No Parking Anytime.** This Ordinance request was from Councilor David Witham. I recommend a Public Hearing be scheduled for the next City Council meeting on Monday, December 16th. Attached is a map depicting this area.

Other

- A. Vote on Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive Program Application, City Ordinance Chapter 31 – Somedowntown LLC., 8 Government Way, Requested by Councilor David A. Witham.** Attached is the resubmission letter from David Baker of Somedowntown LLC requesting Council reconsider his request for the full 7-years under the City's Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive Program.
- B. Return of Votes for November 5, 2019 Municipal Election.**
- C. Vote to Approve the Addition of Three (3) Public Parking Spaces Adjacent to the Property at 8 Government Way: One (1) Parking Space on Government Way and Two (2) Parking Spaces on John Parsons Drive. Requested by Groen Construction for David Baker of Somedowntown, LLC.** Attached is a copy of the request.

City Manager's Items (under section 11 of Agenda)

- A. Informational Items.**
 - a. Dog Park Report - As Directed by Resolution No. 17-20.** Attached is a copy of my recommendation. Should Council decide to move forward, the recommended location is Millennium Park. Associated research completed by Staff is located in the google drive in the folder titled- "Presentations, Reports & Memos".

- b. **Aclara Meters Hydroelectric Surrender Project.** Attached is a letter that I sent to FERC to protect the City's interest in the process and outcome of Aclara's Surrender Application.
- c. **Economic Development Website Page.** Staff is close to finishing our Marketing Project with our Consultant Christina Pappas of Open the Door. I am pleased to report that the new Economic Development section on our Website has been launched: Click on the "Doing Business" tab on the Home page to access it. Attached are copies of some of the Marketing Materials.
- d. **2019 Energy Management Achievement Award.** Jamie Wood, Chief Operator at the WWTF and his staff are the recipients of the 2019 Energy Management Achievement Award presented by NEWEA (New England Water Environment Association). Congratulations to Jamie and his staff for this outstanding achievement. Attached is the award letter received by the City.
- e. **Upcoming City Council Workshops.** I recommend the following Workshops be scheduled prior to the Council's regular meetings.

➤ **December 16 at 6:00 p.m.** Form Based Codes Workshop

Once you have voted on the 2020 City Council Meeting Calendar, I will be arranging additional Workshops for the following presentations:

- **New Fire Station Design**
- **Cemetery Road Complete Streets Design**

Attachments

- 1. **City Attorney Certifications One (1)**
- 2. **Department Head Reports**

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Nominations requiring Council Confirmation Vote

William Poole, Alternate Member of the Historic District Commission, with a term to expire December 2022

The nomination will remain open until the December 16, 2019 City Council Meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES



City of Somersworth – Ordinance

Ordinance No: **11-20**

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS TO MAPLE WOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FUNDED BY STATE BUILDING AID

October 28, 2019

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 2019-2020 is amended as follows:

Appropriate \$669,865 from unanticipated School Department Revenue, State Building Aid, as follows:

Original Budget	Amendment	Revised Budget
\$26,103,113	\$669,865	\$26,772,978

Approved as to Funding:

Recorded by:

Scott A. Smith
Director of Finance and Administration

Trish Harris
City Clerk

Background:

This Ordinance appropriates funding for improvements to Maple Wood Elementary School, with funding provided by the State of New Hampshire through School Building Aid. The total amount of Building Aid to complete the improvements is \$1,835,649. The School will receive a distribution of \$669,865 this fiscal year, and a distribution of \$1,165,784 next fiscal year.

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.

Authorization

Sponsored by Councilors:

David A. Witham
Dale Sprague
Martin Pepin
Martin Dumont, Sr.

Approved:

City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Ordinance 11-20

History

First Read Date:	10/28/2019	Tabled:	NA
Public Hearing:	11/18/2019	Removed From Table:	NA
Second Read:	11/18/2019		

Discussion

Ordinance 11-20 will remain in first read until the November 18, 2019 City Council Meeting. A public hearing has been scheduled for November 18, 2019.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to approve Ordinance 11-20. Motion passed 8-0. Councilor Dumont was not present for the vote.

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	X	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent	X	
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont		
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin	X	
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham	X	
At Large Councilor	Sprague	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Levasseur	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		8	0
On 11/18/2019 Ordinance 11-20		PASSED	



City of Somersworth – Ordinance

Ordinance No: **12-20**

TO AMEND CHAPTER 20, BUILDING CODES, SECTION 20.L, FEES, FINES, AND PENALTIES, AND ADD APPENDIX A, FEE SCHEDULE

October 28, 2019

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the Ordinances of the City of Somersworth, as amended, be further amended as follows:

Delete Sections 20.L.1, 20.L.2, 20.L.3, 20.L.4, 20.L.6, 20.L.7, in their entirety,

and Add the following:

20.L.1.1 BUILDING PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE

See Appendix A

20.L.1.2 COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL–THIRD PARTY INSPECTIONS

Third party inspections may be required as determined by the City Engineer, Code Enforcement Officer, City Planner or, Fire Chief or their appointees. These inspections are, but not limited to: compaction, slump, torque, welding, structural, loading, lighting, drainage, subsurface waste, water treatment, pollution, and fire safety. The expense of such third party inspections is the responsibility of the applicant.

Add Appendix A

Chapter 20 Appendix A

SERVICES:	FY 20 FEES
BUILDING PERMIT FEES:	
Residential 1 & 2 Family Dwellings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Single < 4,000 sqft• 2 Family <8,000 sqft	Application fee of \$25.00
Residential Construction or Alteration with labor cost	\$9.00 per thousand dollars
Residential Construction or Alteration without labor cost	\$12.00 per thousand dollars
Estimate cost first floor (w/an unfinished basement or crawl space)	\$50.00/sqft
Estimate cost other finished areas	\$40.00/sqft

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Estimate cost other unfished areas	\$30.00/sqft
Estimate cost first floor on a slab or over finished basement	\$40.00/sqft
Commercial/Industrial Construction/Renovation	\$9.00 per thousand plus \$25.00 application fee
DEMOLITION PERMIT FEES:	
Demolition Application Fee	\$35.00 Structure
PLUMBING PERMIT FEES:	
Residential Application Fee	\$25.00
Residential Install, Add or Change Water Distribution Fee	\$10.00
Residential Install, Add or Change Water Piping Fee	\$10.00
Residential Boiler & Associated Plumbing for Hot Water Heating Fee	\$10.00 per thousand dollars
Residential Fixtures Fee * See list below	\$5.00/fixture
Commercial Application Fee	\$9.00 per thousand dollars plus \$25.00 application fee
MECHANICAL PERMIT FEES:	
Mechanical Permit Application Fee	\$9.00 per thousand dollars plus \$25.00 application fee
SUBSURFACE SEWER DISPOSAL, INSTALLATION OR REPAIR PERMIT FEES:	
Subsurface sewer disposal, installation or repair permit fee	\$35.00
ELECTRICAL PERMIT FEES:	
Residential Service Installations or Upgrades:	
• <100 amp service	\$7.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• >100 – 400 amp	\$10.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• >400 – 800 amp	\$12.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• >800 – 1000 amp	\$15.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• >1000 amp	\$18.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
Residential Meter Installation:	
• Domestic	\$5.00 plus \$25.00 application fee

SERVICES:	FY 20 FEES
• Quick Recovery	\$5.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• Off Peak	\$5.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• Primary	\$5.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• Power	\$5.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• Temporary Service	\$15.00 plus \$25.00 application fee

Residential Switches:	
• Standard	\$1.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• With Light	\$1.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• Generator transfer	\$5.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
Fixtures:	
• Standard incandescent	\$1.00 each plus \$25.00 application fee
• Standard fluorescent	\$1.00 each plus \$25.00 application fee
• 4 light tube fluorescent	\$3.00 each plus \$25.00 application fee
• Sign	\$10.00 each plus \$25.00 application fee
• Suspended ceiling fixture	\$3.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• Smoke and/or CO detector	\$3.00 each (\$25.00 max) plus \$25.00 application fee
• Neon, LED sign, strip rope lighting	\$3.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
Outlets:	
• Duplex, Quadruple or GFCI	\$1.00 each plus \$25.00 application fee
• Hi-Intensity Lighting	\$10.00 each plus \$25.00 application fee
• Power (special i.e. generator) less than 10 KW	\$10.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• Power (special i.e. generator) 10 – 25 KW	\$16.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• Power (special i.e. generator) more than 25 KW	\$24.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
Baseboard Heat:	
• < 10 KW	\$3.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• 10 – 25 KW	\$5.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• > 25K W	\$.50 per KW plus \$25.00 application fee
Equipment:	
• Solar Photovoltaic Array	\$2.00 per panel plus \$25.00 application fee
• Microwave, Disposal, Dishwasher, Exhaust Fan, Oven, Range/Oven Combo, Warmer Table, Surface Range, Washing Machine, Clothes Dryer, Hot Water Heater, Air Conditioner, Oil Burner, Electrical Furnace, Motors less than ½ hp	\$5.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
Transformers:	
• Up to 25 KVA	\$10.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• 25 KVA and Over	\$25.00 plus \$25.00 application fee
• Commercial work and installations	\$9.00 per thousand dollars plus \$25.00 application fee

*** Fixtures are, but not limited to the following:**

Stacks	Sill Cocks
Sinks	Showers
Bath Tubs	Urinal
Water Closet	Catch Basin
Lavatory	Dishwasher
Water Heaters	Humidifier
Water Storage Tanks	Kitchen Disposal
Laundry Tray	Clothes Washer
Floor Drains	Special Wastes
Sewage Ejector	Rainwater Leaders
Drinking Fountain	Main backflow preventer
Pump	Miscellaneous Fixtures

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> David A. Witham Dale R. Sprague Martin Pepin Martin P. Dumont, Sr.	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Ordinance 12-20

History

First Read Date:	10/28/2019	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:	11/18/2019	Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	11/18/2019		

Discussion

Ordinance 12-20 will remain in first read until the November 18, 2019 City Council Meeting. A public hearing has been scheduled for November 18, 2019.

Motion made by Councilor Witham, Seconded by Councilor Cameron, to approve Ordinance 12-20. Motion passed 8-0. Councilor Dumont was not present for the vote.

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	X	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent	X	
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont		
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin	X	
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham	X	
At Large Councilor	Sprague	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Levasseur	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		8	0
On 11/18/2019 Ordinance 12-20		PASSED	

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES



City of Somersworth – Ordinance

Ordinance No: **13-20**

TO AMEND CHAPTER 13, POLICE OFFENSES, SECTION 13.3.1-D, NO PARKING ANYTIME

November 18, 2019

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the Ordinances of the City of Somersworth, as amended, be further amended as follows:

Amend Police Offenses, Section 13. 3.1-D, No Parking Anytime, by adding:

Blackwater Road, 250 feet westerly from Route 108, on the north side of the street

Blackwater Road, 250 feet westerly from Route 108, on the south side of the street

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilor:</i> David A. Witham	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

Ordinance 13-20 will remain in first read until the December 16, 2019 City Council Meeting. A public hearing is scheduled for December 16, 2019.

OTHER

- A. Vote to Reconsider Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive Program Application, City Ordinance Chapter 31, Somedowntown LLC., 8 Government Way Requested by Councilor David A. Witham,

Motion by Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Austin, to Reconsider the Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive Program Application, City Ordinance Chapter 31, Somedowntown LLC., 8 Government Way. Motion passed 9-0.

Councilor Witham said his motion to reconsider was to allow the applicant the ability to address the council.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Vincent, made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow the applicant, David Baker, to come forward to address the Council. The motion passed, 9-0.

David Baker stated regarding the Mayor's commitment to the City is admirable and unparalleled. He thinks it is something that more towns should follow. The progressiveness of this City Council, and the forward-thinkingness is going to be replicated by many cities going forward. He said he completely agrees with the view of the City where we are at and how optimistic that we should be. Some of the things that were started in 2013, 2014, we are starting to see come to be. He thinks over the next three years we are going to see an acceleration, and that is why he is here.

Regarding the reconsideration, the issue had to do with the redevelopment of the of the current building and new build. In his paperwork he outlines additional points, the impact of the 79e and why it is significant. He plans to add 3 high end living units in the upper floor, and a single commercial unit on the lower floor. The salon Tease, that is currently beside Teatotaller on High Street, is paying 1/3 the rent from in Portsmouth. Her business is expanding and she will be moving into the lower floor at 8 Government way. She is increasing her business, which is adding economic benefit to the City. With the 79e, it will allow for lower rent while businesses expand. The same with Teatotaller, which has become a central gathering place in town. The lower rent, allows businesses to grow and be prosperous. The green space that is proposed at 8 Government way would be a great place to sit and hangout. Even for visitors to the Plaza. It is an investment in the community and he is looking at other properties in the downtown area too. The challenge he has is that, without the 7-year tax relief, he may have to go to other people for capital for future projects. His vision is to develop and kickstart the downtown. There is a very unique footprint on Main and High Streets.

Councilor Levasseur said, as a millennial, he would be happy to live in a space like that. He asked about the 2 separate spaces originally proposed for the lower level. Mr. Baker said that there will be 2 separate spaces, but for the salon, it will be connected as one. This will make it easy to separate in the future.

Councilor Levasseur stated that he has reviewed the plans regarding accepting the parking spaces, said he doesn't quite see how an individual with potential mobility issues would access this property.

Mr. Baker stated everything is done according to ADA standards.

Councilor Witham thanked Mr. Baker for his remarks. He said that he wrangled with the length of the 79e. When we go through this, it is very subjective. The subjectiveness led to a discussion that the second story doesn't exist. The current building is not in terrible disrepair. As he thought about it since the meeting, someone can seek relief for 7 years, and then destroy the building and build something completely new.

Mr. Baker stated that he is spending \$600k on this building. Whoever is going to do the RFP on the Plaza property, will see this. The significance goes well beyond the one building. It provides the ability to do the next project. The impact is magnified. He is bringing people into the downtown.

Councilor Vincent asked Mr. Baker what other projects he has done.

Mr. Baker said he has redeveloped the building that Teatotaller, Tease, occupy as well as the apartment above. Leroy's building, and a space that Bill Rogers uses to allow internships for kids at the high school, at a low rent. He also owns and has renovated a residential property on Highland.

Councilor Sprague said he doesn't want to lose focus on what the 79e has done. The property at 8 Government Way is assessed at \$133,000. So, whether Mr. Baker does or does not do anything to that property, the City will receive taxes on the assessed value of \$133,000 for the next 7 years. If he upgrades the business, the taxes will be more after 7 years. We are at the top in the State, of those who use the 79e. It is about momentum, and it trickles down.

Mr. Baker said he lives in Portsmouth, and that ship has already sailed. Somersworth is the place to be. New Hampshire and Maine are the oldest (age of population) states in the country. The impact of these renovations is much broader. It will attract the younger population.

Councilor Pepin said he was in favor of the 79e for the whole 7 years. He has proven himself with other buildings. By going the 7 years it gives him the opportunity to do the next building. For the 7 years now.

Councilor Cameron agreed, the vision falls in with exactly what we want to do with the City. She is in favor of granting the 79e for 7 years.

Dumont said it is a pleasure to be around people like Baker. Passion is an important piece and more importantly, his enthusiasm is contagious. If the glass is half empty, fill it up.

Councilor Vincent said the way Councilor Sprague put it; it is really a no brainer. We're not going to lose.

Councilor Witham thanked Mr. Baker. This will bring more energy into the downtown. He can see the benefit; what is a blighted property will be improved immensely, with the added green space. Another benefit is that it is a corner stone property to the Plaza.

Councilor Austin said he was a little concerned with the 7-year tax incentive. He is now convinced by the conversation tonight, that approving the application for 7-year tax relief is the right decision.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Vincent, made a motion to grant the Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive Program Application, City Ordinance Chapter 31, Somedowntown LLC., 8 Government Way for a period of 7 years. The motion passed, 9-0.

- B. Vote to Certify Return of Votes for November 5, 2019 Municipal Election
Vote: 9-0.
- C. Vote to Approve the Addition of Three (3) Public Parking Spaces Adjacent to the Property at 8 Government Way: One (1) Parking Space on Government Way and Two (2) Parking Spaces on John Parsons Drive. Requested by Groen Construction for David Baker of Somedowntown, LLC.

Councilor Levasseur asked if there are any handicap parking spacing along the street. City Manager Belmore explained that there are some in the plaza and at City Hall.

Councilor Levasseur said he would like to see the addition of a ramp for ADA access. Councilor Witham said this came before the Planning Board, and there will be tipdowns.

Vote: 9-0.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY VISITORS

Lori Lane, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, thanked the Council for supporting the Maple Wood project. Phase one of the project has been completed. The new office space is incredible. The focus of the second piece of the project will be on building a music room. They are very fortunate of the support and the funding. She also wanted to take a moment to thank those who will be leaving the City Council. She said she was thinking about a couple of years ago, when she used to sit in this room and there were times when it was very challenging. There was a strained relationship between the Council and School Board. There were a number of budget concerns, and it is hard to believe in some respects that that was only 2 years ago. We have come very far as a body coming together. She thanked Councilor Sprague specifically, for keeping an open mind, for having a lot of dialog, and for

letting the School Board rebuild our trust. There were a lot of concerns. She thanked the entire Council and said they are in a great place now and are excited about phase 2 of this project.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Pepin thanked all of the voters that came out on election day. Dan DeSantis was a former City employee, but Pepin said, he spent more time talking with him on election day, than at any other time. He and his wife were a joy to talk to.

There were lots of campaign signs in his front yard, Democrat, Republican, LGBTQ; he is independent, and will vote for those he thought would do the best for the city. He paid for his own signs and mailings. He doesn't not take any campaign contributions.

He votes by the budget books. He suggested that people go through the budget line by line, and understand it. The Council received an email from a school teacher who is struggling to pay her taxes. It's difficult. With all of the projects that are needed to be done. That is what he votes on. None of what we do is possible without the tax payers.

Then he looks at Fosters Daily Democrat after the election. The headlines saying, LGBTQ wins Big in the city of Somersworth. He stated that the term 'Rainbow City' takes him back a bit. We are a diverse community. Then he hears people talking about the "Good Ol' Boys" on the City Council. He explained that, currently on the City Council, there are three Firefighters, five members of St. Ignatius, and many who are active in the Children's Festival. Why is LGBTQ such a big deal? It doesn't make any difference. We accept all who come into our community. We are the City of Somersworth. Mayor Hilliard has done a fantastic job of showing our diversity, hanging flags for our diversity. This is what is important. Forget the labels.

Councilor Vincent said this past year at the State House, with the election of Bill Gardner, Secretary of State, a younger candidate raised \$260,000 to run for Secretary of State. But we are talking about local election. He stated that he has been involved with the City for 2 years as a City Councilor. He is a democrat, a diehard democrat. And sitting to his left is a republican. Never in a meeting, has anything been divided as democrat or republican. Decisions are made based on the need of the City. In this election, there was partisanship. He congratulated the candidates who won.

Councilor Vincent went on to say that he is sad that Councilor Sprague was not re-elected. The list of what he has done is very long. He is tremendous with road repair because he has been involved in it as a business. He may not be the most personable guy. He's full of himself, but he walks the walk.

Regarding the comments in the paper, a dying newspaper company needs lines like that to sell more papers. This is the Hilltop City.

Regarding Gordon Hilliard as the Grand Marshal for the Christmas Parade, he is to be honored, he is an icon.

To Eric and David, those were great reports that they wrote. It is good to see kids writing things that they believe in.

As for the people saying they are glad that there will be change in the Council because the "good ol' boys" were broken up. There is a right-to-know law. There is no good ol boys club here. We all work together.

Councilor Dumont thanked American Legion Post 69 for the work they do for our veterans. Keep up the good work. To the newly elected councilors, new is good, change is inevitable. Things will definitely change without Sprague.

The 2 young men that read their essays, made him think about the words that were used in their essays. They used words that we don't hear very often; they did some research. They will be good citizens and community members.

To those who ran for election, the credit goes to the candidates. People are happy to have their right to vote in this town.

Bravo! My hero. He still would like a kennel and have the Police Department raise K-9's. We need a dalmatian for the new Fire Department, too!

Comment about the elders; he has a wonderful time at Market Basket. He runs into many people and has pleasant conversation. He appreciates the opinions of others.

As for the tax rate, there are people in our city on a fixed income, but the taxes are based on the formula of assessed value times the tax rate. The tax rate went down, but the assessed value went up. They are paying a lot more tax now. He encouraged those with concerns to have a conversation with the tax assessor.

He asked if Aclara is paying taxes. There was a time when GE made this community pop. Gordie Hilliard is a wonderful person, and a great choice as the Grand Marshal.

Councilor Austin thanked the voters. The local election is probably the most important election you can take part in, because it affects you more directly.

He recognized the 2 students who read their papers. You can tell they did a little research. They have pride in being a US citizen. Sometime we lose what is going on around us. He went on to say that Partisanship can only lead to division. We are representatives of the community as a whole. When we are up here and in meetings, we aren't democrat, republican, libertarian. We work together. We experience that here and on the school board and many other areas in Somersworth.

Councilor Michaud Thanked Eric and David for their essays. He congratulated Matt and Crystal for their wins, and thanked Councilor Sprague for his many years of service. He has learned a lot from Councilor Sprague. He also thanked Councilor Levasseur for his service and congratulated him for his election to the school board.

Councilor Witham thanked Eric and David, and stated aside from their speeches, their ability to get up and speak was commendable. He knew David from baseball, and the time and energy he puts into it shows good work ethic.

He stated that no one call or emails him, but he did receive the email from the teacher and had a dialog going with her.

To Crystal and Matt, he said he was look forward to getting to know them on Council. He met them during the election day and is looking forward to engaging with them in Meetings.

Councilor Sprague said, "I didn't win?" He congratulated Crystal and Matt, be careful what you learn, if can be like watching sausage being made. He stated that he is tired, and did not put a lot of effort into campaigning. His heart really wasn't there. He thanked all who did vote for him. He thanked Lori Lane for her kind words. Her commitment is what helped him bridge the gap between the City Council and the School Board. There was one instance, when he was a State Representative, he had the chance to secure \$6mil for CTC. He stated

that he contacted the City Manager to schedule an emergency Committee meeting on Thursday, then it went on Mondays Council meeting, where it was approved and the letter was submitted to the Chair at the State House on Tuesday morning. She is one of the main stays that brought the faith back. Same with Don Austin. As a City Councilor, you have to ask tough questions.

The 2 kids did great reading their essays. A couple public speakers in the making.

He stated that even though he lost the election, he still feels like he won because we passed Sports Betting!

Not personable? If any of my words or actions have offended anyone, you can blame your parents for making you soft.

Councilor Cameron reminded all of the Christmas Parade and Block Party that will take place on December 7, 2019 starting at 2:30. She went on to say that change is inevitable; one day a lot of us will not be up here, and the younger generation will be taking over. She congratulated Matt and Crystal and welcomed them to the Council.

Councilor Levasseur said he is elated to hear that there will be upgrades to the signage along High Street in the downtown area, as he has lamented many times. When we think about being a walkable community, we need to think about those who are visiting and those who live downtown.

In regards to the 79e application, he recently requested that staff pull together a timeline of applications. In the past few years, we have seen an uptick in the amount of applications we have received. We are re-envisioning the downtown. We need to consider the people who do live here at the same time as being a welcoming City. As the Mayor said, and one of the students mentioned the diversity. Diversity has many facets; sexual orientation is part of that. We need to be open to those who are different than we are. There is a network of welcoming communities. One in North Carolina recently adopted a resolution to be a welcoming community. He would like to sponsor a Resolution that will form a committee to be welcoming and improve areas where we can be more welcoming.

He was grateful to see the increased number of voters. We must do better if we want to be a welcoming city. In some instances, he can see where people could see this as the good ol boys club. But since being on the inside, this council has a team approach, with one thought to keep the community on the move. With the thought of the good ol boys club, there were other clubs that operate within the community. He recommends that the next Council amend the Charter for partisan races. He will leave that for the next Council to decide.

He thanked the voters who did come out, look forward to doing the best work that he can.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Dumont, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm. 8-1, Sprague opposed.

Trish Harris, City Clerk

Dana Hilliard, Mayor