



MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Somersworth, NH

January 21, 2020

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, Gerding, Cameron, and Paradis.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

Councilor Paradis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

Allison St. Laurent, Executive Director of Falls Chamber of Commerce, said she has been in the process of identifying challenges and changes that were needed. She stated that she has been involved with the Chamber for a while and she cares strongly about the Chamber and about Somersworth as a whole. She invited all members of the Council to get coffee and get to know each other. She stated that there is a lot that we can accomplish by working together. It's most fun when everyone is involved.

She said she is working with Dover and Rochester Chambers of Commerce to have a legislative reception, so that the public can speak with local Councilors, Mayors and City Managers. This will take place in March. The date is to be determined.

She thanked the Council and said she is encouraged by the support and collaboration of the community.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approve Minutes of the Inauguration held on January 7, 2020

Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting held on January 8, 2020

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

COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCILORS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

None

**PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND DISPOSAL THEREOF BY REFERENCE
OR OTHERWISE**

None

MAYOR'S REPORT

- As the Tri City Mayor's Task Force Fidelity Committee continues to engage in ensuring all three communities meet the spirit of the Master Plan, the partnership is addressing a major social economic problem within our country is continuing to build strong. As we navigate another New England Winter, Dover, Rochester and Somersworth, have redefined their codes to allow for opening of temporary warming centers. Although the centers are a stop gap and will not offer long term solutions, it keeps citizens alive and offer them temporary relief and hope. To resolve some of the major complications encompassing homelessness will be a full community effort and partnership. The partnerships between government, non-profit, business and faith-based organizations will be the equation toward reaching long term sustainable solutions. I am grateful for the faith-based organizations which have stepped forward in all three communities to continue to aid our most vulnerable citizens. Last week, I met with the leaders of St. Ignatius and Next Level to discuss their desires of moving with opening a temporary warming center in Somersworth. Both Parishes have willingly taken on the cause with St. Ignatius leading and Next Level offering support. While other Elected Leaderships might shy away from forging partnerships with faith-based organizations, I will always keep my door open to any organization who is committed to the physical and spiritual wellbeing of all citizens. I am grateful to all the local churches and other organizations who have stepped forward to help our citizens in need during some of the most difficult months. As a municipal government, we must continue to offer support to these organizations who are willing to take on this cause and keep committed to the Master Plan that we adopted. Working within the structure of the Fidelity Committee, it is my intention to invite all partners with warming centers to discuss how we can support each other and create a rotation of shelter openings. It is imperative as we continue this journey to not only stay true to our mission, but to ensure that we support each other with resources in a manor that aids all three communities and to not place a strain upon the system we are trying to create. Leading with a compassionate and caring soul, we will continue to make progress on some of the most difficult issues facing our societies and our communities.
- While the Town of Rollinsford SAU 56 Withdrawal Committee has agreed to move forward to their own town meeting, authorizing the approval of leaving SAU 56. Our own City Government must be prepared to do the same if Rollinsford's Voters do not agree with the warrant article. The Somersworth Withdrawal Commission came to the same conclusion, believing it is in the best interest of our community and its educational system to now be fully autonomous in its decision making. With this in mind, I am re-appointing all members who served on the Somersworth SAU 56 Withdrawal Commission, with a sunset date of January 2022. If the Rollinsford voters approve of the warrant article to separate or the commission is no longer necessary, then I will disband the commission. Until then, it is in the best interest of our community that the Commission be reactivated in the event that they are needed to resume their work. As we continue to navigate the waters of full autonomy, we must continue to make the decision

of what is in the best interest of Somersworth's bright future and all of the students who have been entrusted, that we educate them.

- One of the key elements in moving forward with one of the Nation's first Little Indonesia Welcoming Gate and the Little Indonesia economic center, is the official commitment from the Indonesian Government on the conceptual project. On December 23, 2019, I held a video conference with the Ambassador of Indonesia to discuss the details of what the Mayor's Office would need in the form of a commitment from the Nation of Indonesia to proceed forward with the formation of a Commission to begin work of making this concept a reality. On January 3rd, 2020, the Mayor's Office received a letter of commitment from the Ambassador of Indonesia on behalf of the Indonesian Government. The letter is on file.

With an official commitment from the Indonesian government to raise capital for the construction and the donation of the Nation's first Indonesian Gate, and the creation of Little Indonesia, I am appointing this evening, members of the Little Indonesia Commission. The Commission's Mission will be as follows:

1. Continue to foster dialogue through the Mayor and Mayor's Office with the nation of Indonesia
2. Examine and choose a proposal for the construction of the Indonesian Welcoming Gate and Little Indonesia
3. Work with members of the Indonesian Community Connect (ICC) at preparing a presentation to Council and the Economic and Social benefits for moving forward with the construction of a Welcoming Gate and Little Indonesia
4. Work with the Mayor and Mayor's Office preparing for Council, by the Fall of 2020, a Resolution for this body to officially debate, and endorse this project.

With the partnership and commitment of the Indonesian Government, we are a step closer towards making this a reality, and making Somersworth a major national destination, tourist stop. I look forward in the months to come, with the commission diving into their work and moving Somersworth towards its next chapter in its bright future. Together, united and celebrating each other, in honoring our greatest asset, our rich cultural diversity, we will continue to keep our great community on the move.

- Before the Council this evening for a first reading is Resolution 27-20, to display a permanent photo of former Mayor, James McLin, in the Somersworth City Council Chambers. For 18 years, Jim, as he was known throughout the community, served with commitment pride and love for the Hilltop City. Jim was a true representation of the Hilltopper spirit. Having served under Jim's leadership, as a City Councilor, it is no surprise that our politics rarely matched and was more often that we disagreed than actually agreed. However, Jim and I shared an important mutual bond; our love and respect for community. It was this common link and what I call, old fashioned political values, which developed not only a working relationship between each other, but a level of true statesmanship and respect. Jill will forever foster the example of commitment, sacrifice, and the Hilltopper Spirit and values which were a shining element of what makes our community great. Jim will also continue to be the example of the lost art of politics that I hope that our state and nation will someday return to. That being, setting political differences aside, to find the mutual ground, formulated upon respect, so that

two parties in governing bodies can continue to make the decisions in the best interests of their communities, state, and nation, moving forward. It is with this representation of these characteristics, that I have introduced, along with other Councilors joining me, Resolution 27-20, to forever recognize the late Mayor, Jim McLin, so that Somersworth will forever show its gratitude towards his time and his moment within history. I urge this full Council to rightfully honor the late Mayor with placing his photo upon our Chamber walls.

- We want you! Meaning, the City Clerk and I. Our great Hilltop City is in need of election workers for the upcoming New Hampshire Primary. This is a great way to give back to your community and be part of history. Anyone 17 years of age or older is eligible to help. The City will provide training. The training is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, 2020. We also provide breakfast, lunch, and a great experience to hang out with the City Clerk. We are expecting this to be a very historic, busy New Hampshire Primary and we can certainly use all the help we can get. So, if you are interested in keeping democracy on the move, then please contact the City Clerk, and join the few, the proud, the Somersworth City Poll Workers.
- Knowing that we are flexible, the structure of the first Mayor's Community Forum has already changed. The original structure would call upon our Ward 1 Councilor and Ward 1 School Board Member to obtain questions on February 15, 2020 from 9:00 to 10:30 am. This has been changed in order to aid in support of the temporary warming centers. The forum will now be hosting a training for anyone in this community or greater communities who wish to volunteer at these centers. The training is designed to prepare volunteers to assist at the local level City or Town Warming Centers or any entity opening under a special permit process; that could be the county extreme weather emergency shelter also. It provides an excellent overview or resources, available to homeless residents in our region. The training also includes a brief Narcan training and introduction to the practice of conflict de-escalation techniques. I urge anyone interested in aiding at the warming centers to attend the training.
In March, the Mayor's Community Forums will host Ward 1 City Councilor and Ward 1 School Board Member. As always, I thank both bodies for your flexibility.
- Under Nominations, Appointment and Elections

Nominations Requiring Council Confirmation Vote

- Sarah McGraw-Small, Re-appointment as a Member of the Conservation Commission, term to expire January 2023

Nominations for Council Confirmation Vote

- Mark Richardson, as an Alternate Member of the Planning Board, with a term to expire January 2023
- Mark Richardson, as a Commissioner for the Strafford Regional Planning Commission, with a term to expire January 2024 (Planning Board Recommendation to Council)
- Pius Murray, Re-appointment to the Historic District Commission, with a term to expire January 2023

Mayoral Appointments

- Jim Morrisette, re-appointment to Somersworth Housing Authority, Jan 2025
- Pius Murray, re-appointment to the Cultural Commission, with a term to expire in January 2022
- Members of the Little Indonesia Commission
 - Mayor Hilliard, Chair
 - Matt Gerding, Vice Chair
 - Nancie Cameron
 - City Manager or designee
 - Raude Raycel
 - Tise Melika Havi
 - Scott Marcus
- Re-Appointments of Members of the SAU Withdrawal
 - Denis Messier, Chair
 - David Witham
 - Don Austin
 - Matt Hanlon
 - Todd Marsh
 - Dana Rivers

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance Committee - Councilor Witham stated that a meeting is scheduled for January 29th.

Government Operations Councilor Michaud said a meeting is scheduled for January 22nd.

Economic Development – Councilor Dumont reported that the Committee met today, and discussed form-based codes, which is still under review. They also discussed the Somersworth Plaza sign standards. They will review updated proposal at the next Committee meeting in February. They also discussed the lack of response for the Plaza RFP.

Public Safety – Councilor Pepin reported that the committee will be scheduling a meeting soon.

He asked for clarification regarding the Police Department needs for the future.

Mayor Hilliard stated that the recommendation would be for the FY2020 budget.

Public Works & Environment – Councilor Witham reported that the Committee met on January 15, 2020. The Committee discussed:

- The acceptance of Nadeau Street as a City Street. This is a short, dead end street. It is not a City street; it is essentially a private ‘driveway’. City has been plowing that because we thought it was a City street, and recently found that it was not during paving conversations. Consensus is that Council wants to take it over as a City street, but we need to be sure that it is up to standard. A turnaround area is needed, as, at this time,

plows must back out, and this is a concern. It will cost approximately \$50,000 to get the street up to City Standard. Will continue with plowing for this year.

Councilor Vincent said the street was supposed to be brought up the standard by the developer. Councilor Witham said it was accepted as a common driveway. The smallest street is causing our biggest headache.

- Support House Bill 1111. This is regarding double utility poles; when a utility puts in a pole and does not remove the previous pole. In some cases, the pole has been put in the middle of a sidewalk, some areas that we can't finish a project until they move a pole. Gerri Cannon is a co-sponsor on this bill. A resolution will be coming to Council at the next meeting.
- Rt. 108, paving project this spring; the plan is to shim and overlay at this time because a complete street project is scheduled for 2024. There are several structures, water shut offs and manhole covers that will need to be replaced at a cost to the city. There was also discussion about grading crossings, specifically at the intersection of Rt. 108 and Blackwater Road.
- Old Rochester at Blackwater Road, intersection of serious accidents. A road safety audit was done. They will be clearing trees and moving the fire hydrant. This is all in the works.
- Water Division engineering studies; drinking water well off Rocky Hill Road. This is currently not for drinking water. The City has studied the well to make it a viable drinking water source.
- Historic water tank at Noble Pines; they are looking into the viability to refurbish or replace this water tank. The Council will be provided with a recommendation.
- Looking at the head pressure of the tank, for adequate fire pressure, this is part of the study. No action was taken.
- Winter salt brine. Need to be cognizant of salt usage, and brine allows for less salt during the storms. Looking into this application on the major roadways and on the Hills. Looking into price proposals.
- FY 2021 paving; they are looking at a list of roadways. Looking to group streets, neighborhood areas, based on the PCI index and other factors. Alternatives, looking at sidewalks along the High Street corridor from West High Street to Memorial Drive.
- FY 2021 Sidewalk plan; money in this budget. Starting point could be the school walking routes.

Recreation – Councilor Cameron reported that a meeting is scheduled for Feb 5th.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

Special Committees

School Board – Councilor Pepin reported that the Board met on January 14, 2020. They welcomed the new school board members. Matt Hanlon was elected as Chair, Steve Potter as Vice Chair, and Tom McCallion as Secretary.

Joint Building Commission – Councilor Pepin reported that the Commission appointed him as the Chair. They discussed the report from the architect for new music room. Construction is supposed to start in March. Construction drawings will be presented to fire marshal in a

few weeks. There is currently \$669,000 remaining in the budget; they need to make sure all of the bills are paid and not over spend before the next budget in June.

Joint Commission of City Council and School Board – Councilor Dumont reported that there was discussion about the Middle School elevator. Director Smith said it will cost approximately \$600,000 to replace elevator. The Finance Committee will review. Superintendent Gadowski presented a review of the budget.

Sustainability – Councilor Paradis reported that they heard from Chris Aswell at the Somersworth Middle School about a Pollinator Garden. They have applied for a couple of grants, which are pending. They are looking at parcels at Malley Farm Community Garden. There are other possibilities of expanding this initiative into the High School. They also discussed getting better word out about hazardous waste, improving some of the information on the website, hazardous waste cleanup day in Rochester. The committee went on to discuss alternatives to pesticide use, organic pesticides, and grants.

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, January 17, 2020
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Tuesday, January 21, 2020
City Council Agenda

5:30 pm: Non-meeting -Tentative Agreement between the City of Somersworth and New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA) Local #19

5:45 pm: Non-meeting -Tentative Agreement: School Board and Somersworth Association of Educators

6:00 pm: City Council Workshop

Re: New Fire Station Design - Presented by Kelly Davis from Port One Architects
A copy of the Conceptual Design Report is in your City Hall mailbox

Unfinished Business (Under Section 14 of Agenda)

Resolutions

A. Resolution No. 23-20: Proclaiming Somersworth a Welcoming City. This Resolution has been referred by Mayor Hilliard to the Government Operations

Committee. The Government Operations Committee has a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 22nd at 5:00pm.

New Business (Under Section 15 of Agenda)

Resolutions

- A. Resolution No. 27-20: Displaying a Permanent Photo of Former Mayor James McLin in the City Council Chambers.** This Resolution follows the same format as the Resolution Council passed for former Mayor Fred Brown's Photo in Council Chambers.

Other

- A. Vote to Ratify a Tentative Three (3) Year Wage and Working Agreement between the School Board and the Somersworth Association of Educators.** Attached is a "*confidential*" memorandum from the School Superintendent that provides the cost elements of the tentative agreement.
- B. Vote to Ratify a Tentative Two (2) Year Wage and Working Agreement between the City of Somersworth and the New England Police Benevolent Association Local #19 (NEPBA).** Attached is a "*confidential*" summary of the terms of this proposed Agreement; cost summary will be provided at the meeting.

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

A. Informational Items.

- a. Millennium Park.** Recently, the City's Park has experienced damage.
- **Field Lights:** One light base has failed to the point that the light pole fell onto the Pavilion. We have submitted an insurance claim and are in the process of hiring a contractor to inspect all the other light poles.
 - **Fence:** During a recent ice storm, a car slid off Stackpole Road, damaging the fence.
- b. Debt Service-Proposed Projects.** I have attached a copy of our debt schedule both current and projected new debt to assist Council's deliberations on moving forward with a new Fire Station and Cemetery Road Complete Streets improvements. This document was presented and discussed at the November 26, 2019 Finance Committee meeting.
- c. Estimated Tax CAP Impact for FY 2020-2021 Budget.** Attached is a copy of the Tax Cap analysis notice as required by City Council's adopted policy.

d. Upcoming City Council 2020 Workshops. The following Workshops are scheduled with Mayor Hilliard's approval:

- **Monday, Feb. 3rd @ 6:00p.m:** Cemetery Road Complete Streets Design, Wright Pierce Engineers, Ryan Wingard.
- **Tuesday, Feb. 18th at 6:00 pm:** Somersworth Housing Authority, Executive Director Debbie Evans will update the Council on their upcoming RAD project.

City Manager Belmore said he is looking for direction from the Mayor and Council on the next steps for the Fire Department.

Mayor Hilliard assigned to the Finance Committee, for review of the bonds, and to the Public Safety Committee for further review of the Fire Station.

Attachments

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

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Nominations Requiring Council Confirmation Vote

Sarah McGraw-Small, Re-appointment as a Member of the Conservation Commission, term to expire January 2023

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to approve the nomination. The motion passed, 9-0.

Nominations for Council Confirmation Vote

Mark Richardson, as an Alternate Member of the Planning Board, with a term to expire January 2023

This nomination will remain open until the February 3, 2020 City Council Meeting.

Mark Richardson, as a Commissioner for the Strafford Regional Planning Commission, with a term to expire January 2024 (Planning Board Recommendation to Council)

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Austin, made a motion to suspend Council rules to allow approval of the nomination. The motion passed, 9-0.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to approve the nomination.

Councilor Witham stated that this position has sat vacant for many years, and he is happy to see Mark Richardson filling this position. There is value to having the proper representation on this board.

Councilor Vincent said Mr. Richardson is no stranger to Planning and he will be a good person in that position.

The motion passed, 9-0.

Pius Murray, Re-appointment to the Historic District Commission, with a term to expire January 2023

This nomination will remain open until the February 3, 2020 City Council Meeting.

Mayor Hilliard also announced the following Mayoral Appointments:

Jim Morrisette, Re-appointment to the Somersworth Housing Commission, with a term to expire in January 2025.

Pius Murray, Re-appointment to the Cultural Commission, with a term to expire in January 2022.

Little Indonesia Commission

Mayor Hilliard, Chair

Matt Gerding, Vice Chair

Nancie Cameron

City Manager or Designee

Raude Raycel

Tise Melika Havi

Scott Marcus

SAU Withdrawal Commission

Denis Messier, Chair

David Witham

Donald Austin

Matt Hanlon

Todd Marsh

Dana Rivers

LAY ON THE TABLE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS



City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: **23-20**

PROCLAIMING SOMERSWORTH A WELCOMING CITY

December 16, 2019

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth has long been recognized as a hospitable and welcoming place where people, families and institutions thrive and the contributions of all are celebrated and valued; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth is committed to building a welcoming and neighborly community, where all individuals, regardless of race, color, creed, place of origin, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, political affiliation, marital / parental status or military service are welcome, accepted and integrated; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth is committed to enhancing its cultural fabric, economic growth, global competitiveness and overall prosperity for all individuals in the current and future generations who choose to make their home in the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth desires to create an environment that strategically positions our City as a globally competitive 21st century leader; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth is pleased to join the Welcoming Cities and Counties initiative to help unite our community and ensure that all are welcome here;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City of Somersworth hereby proclaims Somersworth a Welcoming City.

Authorization

Sponsored by Councilors:

Edward LeVasseur*
David A. Witham
Dale R. Sprague*
Nancie Cameron
Kenneth S. Vincent
Donald Austin
Richard R. Michaud

Approved:

City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Resolution 23-20

History

First Read Date:	12/16/2019	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	01/08/2020		

Discussion

On December 16, 2019, Councilors Witham, Sprague, Cameron, Vincent, Austin, and Michaud asked that their names be added as sponsors to Resolution 23-20.

Mayor Hilliard referred Resolution 23-20 to the Government Operations Committee for further review.


On January 21, 2020, Councilor Dumont asked that his name be added as a sponsor to Resolution 23-20.

**Councilor Levasseur and Councilor Sprague were City Councilors when this Resolution was introduced on December 16, 2019. The new members of the City Council, Councilors Gerding and Paradis, took their place at the beginning of January 2020.*

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont		
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Gerding		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Paradis		
TOTAL VOTES:			
On / / Resolution 23-20		PASSED	FAILED

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

	City of Somersworth – Resolution
	Resolution No: 27-20 TO DISPLAY A PERMANENT PHOTO OF FORMER MAYOR JAMES McLIN IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

January 21, 2020

WHEREAS, James McLin was a lifelong citizen of the City of Somersworth; and

WHEREAS, James McLin was elected Mayor of the City of Somersworth; and

WHEREAS, James McLin served as Hilltop City's longest Serving Mayor from 1988-2006; and

WHEREAS, James McLin inspired generations of Hilltoppers to celebrate and be proud of their Hilltopper Heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Somersworth High School gymnasium has been dedicated to the Honorable James McLin of Somersworth for his decades of support for Somersworth Sports and Education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT in honor of his accomplishments and the Hilltopper pride bestowed upon our Community by his service, that a permanent photo of James McLin will be displayed in the Somersworth City Council Chambers.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by:</i> Mayor Dana S. Hilliard Councilors: Martin Pepin Kenneth S. Vincent Martin P. Dumont, Sr. Donald Austin Richard Michaud Matt Gerding Nancie Cameron	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Resolution 27-20

History

First Read Date:	1/21/2020	Tabled:	NA
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	NA
Second Read:			

Discussion

Resolution 27-20 will remain in first read until the February 3, 2020 City Council Meeting.

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont		
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Gerding		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Paradis		
TOTAL VOTES:			
On / / . Resolution 27-20		PASSED	FAILED

OTHER

- A. Vote to Ratify a Tentative Three (3) Year Wage and Working Agreement between the School Board and the Somersworth Association of Educators
Councilor Gerding recused himself from discussion and voting. Vote passed, 8-0.
- B. Vote to Ratify a Tentative Two (2) Year Wage and Working Agreement between the City of Somersworth and the New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA) Local #19
Councilor Pepin recused himself from discussion and voting. Vote passed, 8-0.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY VISITORS

None

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

City Council Meeting
January 21, 2020

Councilor Pepin thanked Port City Architects for the presentation on the Fire Station. He stated that he remembers working out of the Pleasant Street station. The current station was quite an upgrade. The kids that made that building went through an ordeal. A lot of effort was put into that building. He recently went into the fire station with his nephew. He was amazed with the apparatus that is available now. Hats off to the City Manager, Finance Director, City Council and Chief Hoyle. He stated that he just wished he had some of the current equipment while he was there.

Councilor Vincent stated that while sitting in the Public Works and Environment Committee Meeting during the discussion about the sidewalks on High Street from Washington to West High, made him think that High Street is the new Main Street. It is the corridor to the City. He asked the City Manager to send a committee to look into changing the zoning from current residential to business residential. There should be provisions for commercial. The homes along Indigo Hill should be cleared for business. For those who must endure the traffic and the noise; there are possibly those who own those homes are getting up in age, will pass on, estate will be taken over. That property could sell at a great price. The Mayor could send this to committee, it is inevitable, and it is coming.

Regarding Jim McLin, he heard that Jim bled Hilltopper blue. He and his wife were always good people. He was a good man.

Councilor Dumont stated that he was pleased about hearing about a pollinator garden. He had one and he really enjoyed it. The butterflies and hummingbirds do come to our city.

Regarding Jim McLin, his tenure was just fantastic, and having his picture in there would be a wonderful thing. He had his heart in the right place.

Pius Murray donates his time, and he comes with a history that is phenomenal. He is an educated man and just a great guy. God Bless Pius Murray. Sarah Small, is another prospective that is very enlightening. He stated that he appreciates the Mayors appointment. She always does a great job.

Regarding Election Day Volunteers, in his experience serving about 16 years in that capacity, there is nothing better than to be at the polls to visit with neighbors as they cast their votes. The stories and the people; it is a great system. We are a small city and that is a wonderful thing for us. It is a great day for comradery. The days are long, but it is a great reward. We need volunteers.

He said he is saddened that he does not have a story from the Sunday Market Basket Group. Everyone went on Saturday because of the storm.

He welcomed Allison, stating that there is much evidence that the Chamber has kicked it up.

Councilor Austin pitch for the election worker volunteers; it is important to participate in the process, and certainly come vote. It is a great way to give back to the community.

Councilor Michaud thanked Port One Architects for their presentation. He welcomed Allison, from the Chamber of Commerce.

Councilor Witham stated that he has seen many news reports on recent months stating that elected officials are standing in the way of temporary homeless shelters. He stated that there have been many meetings with the Tri City Mayors, and local agencies. There is nothing

standing in the way. In the news, Officials in Somersworth are not doing enough. We are not only not standing in the way; nobody has stepped forward. City Manager and staff have worked on a process so there is a way to do this. And now finally St. Ignatius and Next Level Church have come forward. But never in the past ten years has anyone come forward. We are not cruel and heartless.

Councilor Gerding stated that he is also excited about the pollinator garden as an educator. He has planted some pollinators in his yard with good results.

He stated that he is excited about Little Indonesia and being part of the Commission.

Somersworth Ready Together is applying for a grant to fund a response team for those in traumatic states, in or out of the home. He stated that this is a phenomenal program, and he would like to come speak with the Council.

Councilor Cameron said her son just texted her to say he is disappointed that Councilor Dumont didn't have a Market Basket story.

She said she had conversation with Jim McLin about Politics. He appointed her to be Supervisor of the Checklist. She stayed in that position for 20 years.

She commended the Public Works Department about their work during this last storm, even though they were short staffed.

She likes the idea of a pollinating garden.

Councilor Paradis thanked all who came to Coffee with the Councilor. They had casual conversation about the library being more accessible, more grants, and the dog park. The next Recreation Committee Meeting will be February 5, 2020 and they will be discussing the dog park. She thanked the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce for hosting a great skating night. Allison has done a great job. She said a new restaurant, Gravy, will be opening February 1st, 2020.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

NONPUBLIC SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Austin, seconded by Councilor Witham, made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Trish Harris, City Clerk

Dana Hilliard, Mayor