

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING
ORDINANCE NO. 6-17
January 3, 2016 – 6:45 P.M.

**ORDINANCE NO. 6-17 AMENDING CHAPTER 4, PERSONNEL RULES
AND REGULATIONS, SECTION 2.3 PLEDGE AGAINST DISCRIMINATION**

Mayor Hilliard opened the public hearing at 6:45 p.m.

Gerry Cannon, Indigo Hill Road, ward 5, thanked the City Council and the Mayor for considering this “bill” to make all of our transgender people in the community aware that the city is hearing them and is treating them like everyone else. She appreciates their time in considering this and approving it this evening. She is looking forward to the outcome of a bill that was submitted to the State for similar rights to everyone in the state.

Elizabeth Bunker, resident of Exeter, said she is a New Hampshire citizen and a transgender American and is speaking in favor of the amendment. She thinks there are more gender variant people in the world than most people realized. Some go through external transformation and express themselves, while others do not, and that is fine. Gender Identity is a different thing than biological sex for some people. It is normal. But those people who do find themselves with a variation between who they know themselves to be inside and the body they were born with, face all kinds of discrimination. There is ignorance and fear about the facts of being transgender in the world. She loves that local change is happening and that the decision that is made here tonight might even resonate to the state level. We are far from a safe nation, for gender variant people, and the statement made tonight may even resonate to the national level in the months and years to come. Thank you very much.

Steven Wisso, of 45 Market Street, said he wanted to voice his support for the rule change. He thinks everyone should be safe and comfortable in their work environment and everywhere else in their life. He would be proud to be a resident of the City of Somersworth knowing that transgender and gender variant people are protected.

There being no further comments from the public, Mayor Hilliard closed the public hearing at 6:49 p.m.

Trish Harris, City Clerk

Dana s. Hilliard, Mayor