



Minutes of City Council Meeting Monday, December 13, 2021

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. 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 ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Pepin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no Public Hearings.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

There were no opening comments by visitors.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve Minutes of the City Council workshop held on November 15, 2021

Councilor Austin made a motion to approve all items in the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 9-0.

COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCILORS

Councilor Paradis requested that Council Rules be waived to allow for a second reading of Resolution No. 19-22.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND DISPOSAL THEREOF BY REFERENCE OR OTHERWISE

There were none.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayors Report for City Council Meeting December 13th, 2021

This evening is the last meeting of this sitting Council. For the past two years this sitting body continued to keep Somersworth "On the Move!" We did so by keeping focused on the foundation of our success, our team approach governing, despite both internal and external undermining to what has made Somersworth the model of functional democracy. We have proven our commitment to the

Hilltopper values of neighbor helping neighbor, staying entuned with what identifies each of us as Hilltoppers throughout the pandemic.

During our greatest challenges, we found a way, a way to keep our government open and accessible and refused to let our team deteriorate. As a team we should be proud, proud of what we have accomplished. During the last two years of this body's session, we have;

Approval, funding, and initiation of the \$9M state-of-the-art, new fire station project.

City Projects – Infrastructure - Completed

Downtown Improvements – Includes Water, Sewer, Drainage, Sidewalks, Decorative Lighting, Road Resurfacing.

Somersworth Berwick Bridge including Decorative Lighting.

High Street Improvements

Rocky Hill Road Culvert

Maple Street Culvert

LED Streetlights Upgrade-Energy Efficiency Improved

Franklin & Fremont Street Drainage Improvements

Blackwater Road Pump Station Improvements

Rocky Hill Road Water Tank Improvements – Paint and Water Circulator

Bretons Cleaners-Brownfields Clean-up

Hamilton Street Water Tank Study – Phase I Complete

City Projects – Parks, Recreation, Cemetery Completed

Noble Pines Park Improvements: Splash Pad, Pavilion, etc.

Mast Point Dam: Boat Launch, Walking Trails

Veterans Memorial at Stein Park

Dog Park at Millennium Park

Furber Chapel Slate Roof and Capital Improvements Plan done with Grants

City Projects – Infrastructure – In-Progress

Transportation Alternative Program: High Street Sidewalk, Connector Trail between Schools, Memorial Drive Intersection Improvements

Congestion Mitigation Air Quality: Traffic Light Synchronization with Panel Light Infrastructure Upgrade to Today's Technology

Rocky Hill Road Culvert #2-Under Design

Main Street, Constitutional Way Complete Street Design Underway

Cemetery Road Complete Streets

Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade

Fire Pumper Replacement – Just Approved

Fire Station Reconstruction Project

City Projects – Parks, Recreation, Library, Cemetery In-Progress

Jules Bisson Park: Gazebo, New Playground, ADA Improvements

Noble Pines Basketball Court Repairs – Funded in FY22

Millennium Park Lights Repair – Funded in FY22

Library Improvement Study Launched

The Division of Historical Resources a Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for the State of New Hampshire listed Forest Glade Cemetery in the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places.

Other Capital Improvements – Road Resurfacing:

The City has made great progress in the road resurfacing program. Our goal is to continue to increase funding in this area in the future as the budget allows. In FY21 we resurfaced 18 roads and reconstructed 1 via a betterment assessment district. In FY20 we resurfaced 22 roads.

Other Capital Improvements – Motor Vehicles and other Equipment:

Through the Capital Improvement Plan, the City has developed a rather robust vehicle and equipment replacement program. Historically the City would downshift retired police cruisers to other departments for use. We have stopped this program and improved our entire fleet improving efficiency and reliability of our vehicles and equipment. When necessary, we are adding to the fleet, for example this past Fiscal Year we recognized the need for an additional sidewalk plow, and the City Council took the necessary actions to make it happen before the winter season.

These are just a short snapshot of the accomplishment our City government was able to achieve when we work together as a united team. For those who have dedicated themselves to this community over self, thank you. For those members of Council who believe in the power of team over one's own agenda, thank you. We have made a difference; we continue to keep Somersworth "On the Move" and have held steady to defending the values which have equated to our success. It has truly been an honor to serve with you, and with a high level of excitement I look forward to the return of the eight of you that were re-elected, welcoming the return of Dennis Messier and building a unified team committed to keeping Somersworth "On the Move!"

Since the beginning of the pandemic our community has continued to demonstrate its resiliency and ability as united Hilltoppers to overcome adversity. While we have made tremendous gains in the battle against COVID, there will be times when we continue to wage this fight that we will have to go back to implementing some of the prior safety measures to ensure the safety of ourselves, our neighbors and all Hilltoppers. With the foundation of those thoughts and practices in mind, at a recent COVID review meeting we have determined that the institution of the mask wearing policy for all Council, City Department meetings, and boards and commission meetings at City Hall is within the best interest of our community.

Beginning tomorrow mask wearing will be required at all indoor meeting where social distancing cannot be maintained.

The team will continue to monitor the data and meet regularly, when gains have been made, we will review mandate and see if we can again move towards voluntary compliance. It is clear, that the exit from COVID 19 is by higher rates of vaccinations. If you have not been vaccinated, please do so. Our City will continue to offer opportunities for vaccinations. Just this last weekend over 153 students and school staff joined the ranks of those who are now vaccinated. As a united community we must continue to raise the numbers of those who have received their shots. This is the key to us ending COVID. If ever we want to return to a full sense of normalcy, it only occurs when over 70% and higher of our population has been vaccinated against COVID.

Let's us continue with our commitment to look after each other, to care for each other, and to keep each other safe. Continue to wear mask in public while in retail spaces. Continue to maintain social distance when feasible and receive your shots and boosters if you have not. Together as a united community we will win the battle against COVID, why..... because we are Hilltoppers.

The universal messages of the spiritual power the month of December holds pre-date the Roman civilization. For thousands of year cultures have gathered during this month celebrating how the greatest powers, the power of light and life, cannot be defeated by the powers of darkness or death. For millennial Pagan societies worshiped the Winter Solstice on December 21st celebrating how on the darkness day of the year, the following morning the return of light and warm embrace us all again

with the rising of the December 22nd sun. For on that morning darkness has been defeated as the days once again slowly get longer and warmer.

During these celebrations evergreens would be brought into the households symbolizing that despite the death that surrounds us during winter, life does prevail, and life will return to be born again within the endless circle.

The Pre-Christian Romans would modify these celebrations marking their calendar with festivities throughout the full month of December, leading to one of the largest celebrations in Rome taking place on the 17th - 25th, honoring the birth of the Roman God Saturn. Saturnalia along with the Roman holidays of Sol Invictus were practiced throughout the Roman empire celebrating the birth of both the old and new sun gods. Acts of generosity and charitable giving would take place throughout the month. Large gatherings and celebrations were common throughout the Empire, and evergreens would be decorated marking the occasion of life and light prevailing. These celebrations would again mark how the sun and light were reborn on December 25th and would continue to be the high official Roman holiday until in 325A.D, when Emperor Constantine 1st removed the holiday and replaced the birth of the sun god, with the birth of the son of God. Throughout the Empire December 25th would now mark the celebration of the birth of Christ.

While the practices of all the major world religions claim importance during the month of December, the message is relatively still the same. Whether pagan, Christian or Jewish, in the darkest of hours, in the coldest of months, we are reminded by the mysteries of nature and the divine that light and life will prevail.

This December, let the Hilltopper light of neighbor helping neighbor prevail. In your households, whether you gather in a pagan circle, around the menorah or manger, let the inner light shine guiding humanity towards the promise of a society where all can be honored and celebrated.

This December as we place candles in our windows, illuminate our Christmas trees and leave cookies out for the return of Santa let us be reminded of the joy of the holidays. Let us capture its energy, its magic, its humanity and continue those practices throughout the year. For each sunset cast darkness, yet each sunrise delivers upon the promise of light. Let us sieve upon that promise and the hopes, dreams, and magic of the holidays to continue to spread our values of neighbor helping neighbor and build the city, state, nation, and planet all of us aspire too, 10 square miles at a time.

From the Hilliard and Peschel household, wishing you and all your loved ones a Merry Christmas and Happy 2022. May peace and prosperity fill your heart and soul each day of the New Year.

This respectfully concludes my December 13th, 2021 Mayors Report

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance Committee – Councilor Witham said the Committee met last on November 17 and stated Councilor Michaud was temporarily appointed to the Committee in Councilor Dumont's absence. The Committee discussed a recently failed culvert on Blackwater Road which needs replacement. The City received bids from Severino and SUR Construction for the culvert's replacement and unanimously decided to support the approval of the SUR bid for approximately \$50k which includes funds for contingency. The Committee also supported the financing method of utilizing ARPA funds and the remainder coming from a supplemental appropriation. Witham also noted that the Cemetery Complete Streets project is nearly complete and is set to come in under budget by approximately \$100k.

Public Works and Environment – Councilor Witham said the Committee last met on November 17 and Councilors Michaud and Pepin were temporarily appointed to the Committee due to absences. The

Committee briefly discussed the failed Blackwater Road Culvert and a slight widening of the curbing at the intersection of Cemetery and Maple Street. Witham said the refuge island at Cemetery and West High, which was originally designed as a raised island, is now being installed as a flat refuge due to plow and vehicle safety concerns. Councilor Witham also mentioned that a downed tree on Rocky Hill Road was left by Eversource and has since been removed. Witham mentioned that PFAS materials have been found during construction of the new Fire Station and more analysis is being done to determine how much can be removed or used on site.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

Hilltop Mental Health and Wellness – Councilor Austin said the Committee met last on November 23 and began planning for a summit in March in order to expand the number of people involved in conversations surrounding homelessness.

School Board – Councilor Austin said the School Board last met on November 23 and recognized Somersworth High School Football Coach Lambert and the team for their championship season. There were discussions regarding Covid booster clinics at Idlehurst Elementary which were successful seeing approximately 300-400 people in attendance. The School Board also heard a presentation by Somersworth Ready Together which, using United Way as an example, is geared toward young children.

Sustainability Committee – Councilor Paradis stated the Committee met last on November 3rd and unanimously voted to support Resolution No. 19-22.

Dover City Council Workshop on Homelessness – Councilor Witham attended the workshop and heard a recap from Dover City Manager Joyal on the Tri-City efforts to address homelessness and food insecurity. There were also discussions regarding Red's Good Vibes who donate food and take in donations to do so. They are adding a truck to the Willand Warming Center 1 day a week.

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, December 10, 2021

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for City Council Meeting on Monday, December 13, 2021

Unfinished Business (under Section 14 of Agenda)

Ordinances

A. Ordinance No. 4-22: City Council Meeting Schedule for 2022. Again, Mayor Dana S. Hilliard has proposed the following 2022 City Council regular meeting calendar dates. Although Juneteenth is not presently listed as a City Holiday, it will be addressed early in the New Year to consider formal recognition.

New Business (under Section 15 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. **Ordinance No. 5-22: Supplemental Appropriation for Emergency Repairs to a Culvert on Blackwater Road.** The Finance Committee met on November 17th and voted to support this Supplemental Appropriation. As required by City Charter, a Public Hearing should be scheduled for the next regular meeting on January 10, 2022.

Resolutions

- A. **Resolution No. 18-22: Proclamation Declaring January Diversity Month in the City of Somersworth.** City Council will need to consider waiving Council Rules to act on this Resolution this evening. Attached is a copy of the City Ordinance.
- B. **Resolution No. 19-22: City Council Vote to Oppose Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Order #20-092.** The Proposed Plan that the PUC is reviewing was placed into the Council's Google Dropbox in Folder "Presentations, Reports, Memos".

Other

- A. **Vote to Authorize the City Manager to Take all Necessary Action for the City to Participate in the New Hampshire Department of Justice Nationwide Settlement Agreement regarding Opioid Litigation Against the Three Largest Pharmaceutical Distributors.** I received a telephone call from Associate Attorney General James Boffetti asking the City to consider taking this action. If approved the City is agreeing NOT to seek separate legal action against these companies. The City will then be able to join the State of New Hampshire Settlement Agreement as are other Communities with population of 10,000 or more who have taken this action. The State will receive a portion of the \$21 Billion Dollar Settlement. As a participant, the City will be able to seek certain reimbursements from the Fund for expenses incurred related to opioid responses. The actual criteria for eligible expenses will need further clarity from the State Committee overseeing the Fund. Attached are documents I received from Attorney Boffetti.

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

Informational Items

1. **CIP Fiscal Year 2023-2028.** In accordance with the City Charter, I hereby submit my proposed Capital Improvement Program for City Council consideration. I look forward to Council's direction for future review and discussion opportunities. We have added the FY 23/28 CIP to your google drive and also a bound hard copy is in your mailbox here in City Hall.
2. **Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget Preparation.** Attached is a Memorandum directing City Department Heads to begin their preliminary Budget requests for FY 2022/2023. I welcome any specific Council direction as I prepare the City Manager's Proposed Budget for submittal to the Mayor & Council by the Charter deadline of March 15, 2022.
3. **Former Breton's Cleaners Site.** The City received two (2) Development Proposals for the 1 Winter Street site. Director Scott Smith, Director Michelle Mears and I will be meeting with the Developers later this week to get a clear understanding of their proposals. The proposals will then move forward to a Council Standing Committee/s.
4. **Sanitary Landfill Superfund Site – Solar Array.** The City received six (6) Solar Array Proposals. Staff and I interviewed all six (6) Development Teams and we will be briefing the Finance Committee and Public Works & Environment Committee regarding the proposals, process, and recommendations from City Staff.

5. **Home Depot Grant.** I have authorized Staff to apply for a Home Depot Grant as part of a plan to expand and improve our Community Garden efforts. If approved, attached is a brief summary of the proposed project. We plan to add a shed and expand the garden footprint.

Attachments

1. **City Attorney Certification Three (3)**
2. **Department Head Reports**

Councilor Witham asked about items in the CIP needing a vote of Council. City Manager Belmore stated that typically when governing bodies vote on the CIP, they include funding right out of the gate. Somersworth City Council has approved the Planning Board to review the CIP and forward any recommendations they have to Council. After the screening process, the CIP is then provided to Council, with recommendations during budget deliberations. Items from the CIP are then plugged into the budget with the understanding that any proposed projects and funding can change based on what Council deems important.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

There were no nominations or appointments for this meeting.

LAY ON THE TABLE

There were no items on the table.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

- A. **Ordinance No. 4-22** – City Council Meeting Schedule for 2022

Councilor Pepin made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 4-22 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

- A. **Ordinance No. 5-22** – Supplemental Appropriation for Emergency Repairs to a Culvert on Blackwater Road

Ordinance No. 5-22 will remain in first read. Public Hearing scheduled at the call of the Chair.

RESOLUTIONS

- A. **Resolution No. 18-22** – Proclamation Declaring January Diversity Month in the City of Somersworth

Councilor Witham made a motion to waive Council Rules to allow for a second reading of Resolution No. 18-22. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 9-0. Clerk Slaven performed a second reading of Resolution No. 18-22.

The Vote to adopt Resolution No. 18-22 passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

B. **Resolution No. 19-22** – City Council Vote to Oppose Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Order #20-092

Councilor Paradis made a motion to waive Council Rules to allow for a second reading of Resolution No. 19-22. The motion was seconded by Councilor Austin and passed 9-0. Clerk Slaven performed a second reading of Resolution No. 19-22.

Councilor Paradis made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 19-22 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent.

Councilor Paradis gave a brief history of the energy incentive program and Order from the PUC while also mentioning the Sustainability Committee unanimously voted to support this Resolution.

Councilor Vincent said this roll back of energy efficiency practices is pathetic. He also mentioned that the State is willing to pay subsidies to oil companies and questioned why they would not do the same for this.

Councilor Witham said it makes no sense to get rid of this incentive program and added that the NH PUC has their priorities out of order.

Councilor Dumont stated his support for the Resolution, but added that the Resolution is perhaps not worth the ink on the paper since the agency it is directed to will probably not heed our advice.

Councilor Vincent mentioned how Massachusetts and Maine both have great energy incentive programs while New Hampshire continues to move backward toward oil. He added that it is a complicated issue, but that it is terrible, State Representatives keep attacking the well-being of the people.

Councilor Gerding said he doesn't see this as a partisan issue, rather the State's choice to downshift costs to local municipalities and their taxpayers. He noted his disappointment while expressing his lack of surprise.

The Vote to Adopt Resolution No. 19-22 passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

OTHER

- A. Vote to Authorize the City Manager to Take all Necessary Action for the City to Participate in the New Hampshire Department of Justice Nationwide Settlement Agreement regarding Opioid Litigation Against the Three Largest Pharmaceutical Distributors

The Vote to Authorize the City Manager passed 9-0.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

There were no closing comments by visitors.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Witham stated that we do not need to be in the current situation with Covid that we find ourselves in. Everyone has been impacted and we need to do better. He questioned whether mandates are necessary, but just hopes people do the right thing and get vaccinated. Witham shared concerns

of poor lighting and shopping carts being abandoned on the roads leading to the warming center on Willand Drive. He thanked Councilor Paradis for her spirited debates the last two years adding that when her views did not always fall in line with his, debates were able to take place respectfully. Witham gifted her a wheel chock as a symbolic gesture in hopes she does not roll backwards. Councilor Witham ended his comments speaking about hope and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilor Gerding stated shop with a cop was a great event and it was very fun getting to help wrap presents. Regarding Covid, he said it is upsetting to be where we are. He encouraged people to get vaccinated and get their boosters. He also thanked Crystal Paradis for her time on Council and said he was sad to see her go.

Councilor Cameron mentioned Red's Good Vibes and said she has had wonderful interactions with them. She said it was a love of dogs between her and Councilor Paradis that brought them together and helped form the new dog park. She wished Councilor Paradis well in her future endeavors and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilor Paradis thanked everyone for their kind comments and said she appreciated her experiences as a Councilor. She said Covid is infuriating and cringes when she hears New Hampshire is the worst State in the Country when it comes to number of cases per capita, though she appreciates the first responders and public health workers fighting to bring the numbers down. Paradis thanked Mayor Hilliard to updating Covid guidelines and said the least we can do is wear masks, but encouraged everyone to get vaccinated. She also noted the dim streets surrounding the warming center and said the center is providing high visibility hoodies to those coming in. Councilor Paradis stated that while she will no longer sit on City Council, she plans to continue to volunteer for various programs in the City.

Councilor Pepin wished Councilor Paradis well and thanked her for her service on Council and Committees. Regarding electrical power, Pepin said we need to be sure to look at what the grids can handle. This needs a national analysis. He said the Covid situation has us moving backwards and said he questions mandates, but believes in vaccines. Pepin encouraged people to install a blue light in their homes to support police.

Councilor Vincent said it was nice to be back from a cross-country trip with his wife. Vincent commented on part of Cemetery Road being too narrow. He said the shop with a cop event was great and encouraged business owners in the City to support their Community. He thanked Crystal for her service on Council and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilor Dumont said that regarding Covid, we need to follow the science, though is skeptical of the scientific interpretations coming from the media. He said we are still wearing masks now because people are not doing what they are asked to be doing and we have a legitimate right to be angry about that. Dumont commented on how easy big box stores are making it for shoplifters since they do not typically prosecute people caught doing so. Dumont also seconded Councilor Pepin's remarks about putting a blue light up in front of your home in support of police. Regarding electrical power, Dumont said electric cars may work in Los Angeles, but our power grid cannot handle an abundance. He hopes elected officials get off their high horse and do what is right regarding power. Councilor Dumont said it was very nice working with Councilor Paradis and added that she has a work ethic to be modeled after. He ended his comments by wishing Somersworth a very Merry Christmas.

Councilor Austin thanked Councilor Paradis for her service adding that he is sure we have not heard the last of her. Austin said that the Covid situation we have found ourselves in is a result of a significant portion of our population not getting vaccinated and this is quickly becoming an endemic, rather than pandemic. We will most likely always have to live with Covid, but urged people to continue to protect themselves, wear a mask, and get vaccinated. Councilor Austin said that while Christmas has become

too commercialized, it is a great time of year to be thankful and find time for family and friends. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilor Michaud said vaccines have been proved to work as have the boosters. He agrees Christmas is too commercialized, but there are plenty of fun traditions people have with family and friends. He wished Somersworth a Merry Christmas.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Gerding made a motion to adjourn the City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Slaven, City Clerk



City of Somersworth – Ordinance

Ordinance No: **4-22**

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022

November 15, 2021

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT, in accordance with Chapter 3.7 of the City Charter which provides that the City Council’s “regular meetings shall be held on the first and third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise designated by Ordinance...” and Chapter 6, City Officials, Section 6.8.2 of the City Ordinances which also provides that the “City Council shall meet in regular session on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise agreed on by a majority of the members of the Council” that the City Council Meeting schedule for 2022 shall be as follows:

- Monday, January 10th and Monday, January 24th
- Monday, February 7th and Tuesday, February 22nd
- Monday, March 7th and Monday March 21st
- Monday, April 4th and Monday, April 18th
- Monday, May 2nd and Monday, May 16th
- Monday, June 6th and Tuesday, June 21st
- Tuesday, July 5th
- Monday, August 1st
- Tuesday, September 6th and Monday September 26th
- Monday, October 3rd and Monday, October 17th
- Monday, November 14th
- Monday, December 12th

This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

Authorization

Sponsored by:

Approved:

City of Somersworth – Ordinance 4-22

History

First Read Date:	11/15/2021	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	12/13/2021		

Discussion

11/15/2021

Councilor Witham made a motion to waive Council Rules to allow a first reading of Ordinance No. 4-22 by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Austin and passed 7-0. Clerk Slaven performed a first reading of Ordinance No. 4-22 by title only. The Ordinance will remain in first read until call of the Chair.

12/13/2021

Councilor Pepin made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 4-22 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	X	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent	X	
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont	X	
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin	X	
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham	X	
At Large Councilor	Gerding	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Paradis	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On 12/13/2021	Ordinance 4-22	PASSED	FAILED



City of Somersworth – Ordinance

Ordinance No: **5-22**

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO A CULVERT ON BLACKWATER ROAD

December 13, 2021

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 21-22 is amended as follows:

Appropriate \$50,000 (Fifty Thousand dollars), with \$23,538 (Twenty-Three Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Eight dollars) coming from the General Fund unassigned fund balance and \$26,462 (Twenty-Six Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Two dollars) coming from funding provided by the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, to the Capital Outlay section of the General Fund Budget as follows;

Original Budget	Amendment	Revised Budget
\$ 78,475	\$ 50,000	\$ 128,475

Approved as to Funding:

Scott A. Smith
Director of Finance and Administration

Recorded by:

Jonathan Slaven
City Clerk

Background:

This Ordinance appropriates funding for emergency repairs to a collapsed culvert on Blackwater Road located near the Blackwater Road Pump Station. The \$26,462 (Twenty-Six Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Two dollars) is the balance of funds available from the first payment received through the American Rescue Plan Act, with \$23,538 (Twenty-Three Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Eight dollars) coming from the General Fund unassigned fund balance for a total project cost of \$50,000 (Fifty Thousand dollars).

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.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Authorization

Sponsored by:

David A. Witham
Donald Austin
Martin Pepin
Matt Gerding
Richard Michaud

Approved:

City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Ordinance 5-22

History


First Read Date:	12/13/2021	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:	01/10/2022	Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	01/10/2022		

Discussion

12/13/2021

Ordinance No. 5-22 will remain in first read. Public Hearing scheduled at the call of the Chair.

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	Ordinance 5-22	PASSED	FAILED

	<p style="text-align: center;">City of Somersworth – Resolution</p> <p>Resolution No: 18-22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PROCLAMATION DECLARING JANUARY DIVERSITY MONTH IN THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH</p>
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December 13, 2021

WHEREAS, January 15, 2022 will mark the 93rd birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, the “dream” of equal treatment, is the foundation of human rights and democratic values; and

WHEREAS, our nation has worked towards the goal of fulfillment of this commitment for over 245 years;
and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth has become a model of a community which embraces and promotes its diversity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth is committed to the values of equality and liberty stated in the Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, New Hampshire State Constitution and City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us that freedom, liberty and equality must be protected for all citizens and that “from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire, let freedom ring.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Somersworth encourages all residents, including community groups, schools and institutions to continue to work toward fulfilling Dr. King’s dream of the elimination of all barriers to the fulfillment of equal opportunities and human rights; and

The City of Somersworth calls upon all citizens to reflect during this month on the message of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and commit themselves throughout the year to join the fight for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and disadvantage and to ensure that everyone has the right to live in conditions of dignity, respect and peace; and

The Somersworth Mayor and City Council hereby declare that January, 2022 be Diversity and Equality Month in the City of Somersworth and that the City of Somersworth along with all of its citizens hereby recommits itself to the fulfillment of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “Dream.”

Authorization	
<p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Mayor Dana S. Hilliard</p> <p><i>Councilors:</i> David A. Witham Donald Austin Richard R. Michaud Nancie Cameron Kenneth S. Vincent Martin Pepin Martin P. Dumont, Sr. Matthew Gerding Crystal Paradis</p>	<p><i>Approved:</i> City Attorney</p>

City of Somersworth – Resolution 18-22

History

First Read Date:	12/13/2021	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	12/13/2021		


Discussion

12/13/2021

Councilor Witham made a motion to waive Council Rules to allow for a second reading of Resolution No. 18-22. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 9-0. Clerk Slaven performed a second reading of Resolution No. 18-22.

The Vote to adopt Resolution No. 18-22 passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	X	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent	X	
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont	X	
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin	X	
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham	X	
At Large Councilor	Gerding	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Paradis	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On	12/13/2021 Resolution 18-22	PASSED	FAILED

	City of Somersworth – Resolution	
	Resolution No: 19-22	CITY COUNCIL VOTE TO OPPOSE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (PUC) ORDER #20-092

December 13, 2021

WHEREAS, energy efficiency is the most cost-effective way for us to meet our energy needs; saving a kilowatt hour by investing in better lighting, heating, or processes typically costs around half as much as building new power plants to supply rising demand; and investing in efficiency keeps electricity rates low for all Granite Staters, even those that don't take part in the incentive programs; and

WHEREAS, Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Order 20-092 directly contradicts the focus on energy efficiency in Governor Sununu's 2018 update to the 10-year energy strategy; and the order significantly and negatively impacts small businesses that offer energy efficiency services in NH, and municipalities like the City of Somersworth, who just last month saved over \$122,000 through the Energy Efficiency program; and

WHEREAS, this order rolls back years of progress on energy efficiency, ignoring the State of New Hampshire, energy savings goals and capping and reducing budgets; and there is already overwhelming evidence in the record that the settlement agreement in this docket is just and reasonable, serves the public interest, and is cost-effective; and

WHEREAS, the Commission's efforts to ignore the well-established record of cost-effective energy efficiency programs in this docket is blatantly dismissive; and this order strips away opportunities for the Granite State's most vulnerable populations to take advantage of energy efficiency programs at little to no cost, and energy efficiency programs protect lives, keep homes warm, reduce energy bills and saves municipalities like the City of Somersworth thousands of dollars that would otherwise be paid for by Somersworth property taxes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Somersworth strongly opposes Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Order #20-092 and urges immediate reversal of this order by the PUC, and a return to the settlement agreement agreed upon by industry and statewide stakeholders, which would reinstate public interest and ensure more energy efficient progress and cost savings for Granite Staters and Hilltoppers.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilor:</i> Crystal Paradis	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Resolution 19-22

History

First Read Date:	12/13/2021	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	12/13/2021		

Discussion

12/13/2021

Councilor Paradis made a motion to waive Council Rules to allow for a second reading of Resolution No. 19-22. The motion was seconded by Councilor Austin and passed 9-0. Clerk Slaven performed a second reading of Resolution No. 19-22.

Councilor Paradis made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 19-22 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent.

Councilor Paradis gave a brief history of the energy incentive program and Order from the PUC while also mentioning the Sustainability Committee unanimously voted to support this Resolution.

Councilor Vincent said this roll back of energy efficiency practices is pathetic. He also mentioned that the State is willing to pay subsidies to oil and questioned why they would not do the same for this.

Councilor Witham said it makes no sense to get rid of this incentive program and added that the NH PUC has their priorities out of order.

Councilor Dumont stated his support for the Resolution, but added that the Resolution is perhaps not worth the ink on the paper since the agency it is directed to does not heed our advice.

Councilor Vincent mentioned how Massachusetts and Maine both have great energy incentive programs while New Hampshire continues to move backward toward oil. He added that it is a complicated issue, but that it is terrible Representatives keep attacking the well-being of the people.

Councilor Gerding said he doesn't see this as a partisan issue, rather the State's choice to downshift costs to local municipalities and their taxpayers. He noted his disappointment while expressing his lack of surprise.

The Vote to Adopt Resolution No. 19-22 passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	X	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent	X	
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont	X	
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin	X	
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham	X	
At Large Councilor	Gerding	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Paradis	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On 12/13/2021	Resolution 19-22	PASSED	FAILED

