



## Minutes of City Council Meeting Monday, May 16, 2022

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### **ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor, Dana S. Hilliard and, upon roll call, the following Council members were present: Pepin, Vincent, Dumont, Austin, Michaud, Witham, Gerding, Cameron, and Messier.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilor Cameron led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Hilliard asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence in observance of the one million mark of people who have passed due to Covid-19 and also those who lost their lives during the recent racially motivated shooting in Buffalo, New York.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

There were no public hearings.

### **COMMENTS BY VISITORS**

There were no opening comments from visitors.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. Approve Minutes of the City Council Workshop Meeting held on May 2, 2022
- B. Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting held on May 2, 2022

*Councilor Austin made a motion to approve all items in the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed by voice vote.*

### **COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCILORS**

There were no opening comments by City Councilors.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Presentation of Financial Statements for year ending June 30, 2021 by Plodzik & Sanderson

Mike Campo, a Director at Plodzik & Sanderson, explained he is part of an independent certified public accounting firm tasked with reviewing the previous year's financial statements and ensuring the information it contains is reliable. Mr. Campo gave an overview of the financial statements and said Somersworth has once again received an unmodified opinion after his firm's analysis. Mr. Campo pointed to a page that breaks down the performance of the general fund and explained that unassigned fund balance to start was \$6.1 million and ended the year with \$8.2 million and that the City brought

in approximately \$1.3 million in revenue over what was budgeted. He also explained that the City was \$1.5 million under estimated appropriations for the year.

Councilor Witham noted the high amount of revenue over the estimate for motor vehicle permit fees and inquired if this was in part due to conservative budgeting. Mr. Campo explained since the buying market compared to lease market is so volatile, it is difficult to budget for these types of revenue and the high numbers seen are not uncommon. Councilor Witham also noted the expected higher delinquency rates for tax payments that did not materialize. Mr. Campo agreed saying his colleagues also expected the same and did not see this as a wide spread issue.

Councilor Vincent inquired about the large number from building permits. Mr. Campo stated he has seen a lot more people doing home projects requiring permits and also noted it is important to compare the last 3-5 years to see where budget to actual has trended. He added it is prudent to be conservative with budgeting some of the user-based services. Councilor Dumont mentioned rising inflation and interest rates and speculated on a possible future recession and that his worry is that now is the time we may start seeing more bankruptcies and delinquencies. Mr. Campo replied that he works with the City's finance department who calculates an amount for doubtful accounts.

### **PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND DISPOSAL THEREOF BY REFERENCE OR OTHERWISE**

There were none.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

#### **Mayors Report for City Council Meeting May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

A recent Op-Ed the Commissioner of Education has prompted this response from the Mayor's office;

The protector and advancement of our Republic lies within our public school system. It is the great equalizer where the values of our democracy as outlined within our Declaration of Independence and Constitution are not only promoted, but installed upon the next generation who will carry the torch towards our nation's fulfillment of its creed that all are created equal **“that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”**

#### **- United States Declaration of Independence**

Each morning when the students arrive, they are entering a place of hope; hope to receive the support to achieve their dreams, hope to be honored and celebrated for who they are. The hope of our nation is embedded in the teachings and in the understanding of our successes and failures as a society. Through understanding we continue to inch forward in achieving our universal dreams of becoming a nation where all are protected, valued, and celebrated.

The recent troubling guest commentary by the Commissioner of Education Frank Edelblut not only contradicts the goal of our public school system but is an attack upon the foundational pillars of our nation and the advancement of equality. However, I am not surprised by the rhetoric outlined within his commentary, for it matches his actions and goals throughout his tenure, the dismantling of the

institution which has ensured the equality and advancement of our state and nation since its founding, our public school system. The commissioner utilized the same scare tactics and diatribe which has justified the practices of inequality throughout the history of our young nation. As Edelblut himself stated “Fortunately, parents can choose to turn off Disney”. The commissioner’s goal as outlined would not stop at a simple action of a choice of what television program to turn off. The goal would be to return to the days when it was common practice throughout our nation to choose who we valued as citizens, who was invited to the banquet of liberty and equality and who was left out or as he stated, “turned off”.

It is Edleblut’s goal to create a public school system that does not continue our step forward to equality, but allows a return of openly justifying the denial of rights to groups of citizens based upon the justification of “family values”.

Luckily, these practices fall against the fabric of the Hilltop City.

In 1729, the parish of Somersworth was founded, beginning the two hundred- and ninety-three-year journey which has established Somersworth as a modern-day city. Throughout our history, we have been defined by the citizens who have built this community and the vastly diverse backgrounds they have brought with them. From the early English settlers to members of the Indonesians community, each group sought refuge in a community where they would be protected, accepted and celebrated.

Today, two hundred and ninety three years after our founding, we are guided by the principles outlined in the Declaration of Independence and re-affirmed in the United States Constitution; that all **citizens** are created equal, that each of us have been endowed by the **creator** with certain **unalienable rights**, and that despite our comfort level and misunderstandings of each other, we will continue to build upon the progression of the generation of Americans who came before us, to create a society where **all** will be **validated** and **protected**. These values are reaffirmed within our public school system.

Like the City of Somersworth, The New Hampshire public school system must stand strong against Edleblut’s advice and instead continue its practices based upon the guiding universal truths outlined within the principles of our nation. The struggles and challenges of America to achieve its creed, is a struggle worth fighting for. It is our struggle, mirrored in our history which reminds us of the Americans who were denied the rights and liberties we were promised. Americans who were excluded from the table of liberty because of race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, creed, national origin or handicap. Each of us shares a common bond with those who have been denied the promise of America, we belong to one of their groups, and through the evolution of our society reinforced by the teachings within our public school system, most of us have escaped the pain, suffering and horrors of intolerance and discrimination.

For some of us, in 2022 the injustice and daily encounters with hate continue. For some of us, the fear of harm or death upon our loved ones or ourselves is a reality of the nation and world we live in. I, myself have come to terms with the fact that out of our 50 United States, there may be some I can never visit, simply out of the fear of repression, intolerance, and violence as a gay man.

How has Edelblut's words affected the students within the public school system he has been entrusted upon to offer hope? Should they now be taught that some of them should be denied a seat at the banquet of liberty for who they are?

Despite his words, as Hilltoppers we will continue forward, with the same faith and hope which won this nation its independence. We continue to work towards building a city, state, and nation where all will be celebrated, accepted and treated with the dignity each person deserves. These are the values which need to continue to be openly taught and supported within our public school system. A public school system that is committed to the values of our nation, not the agenda of a return to the America outlined within some of the darkest pages of our history books.

Each day within the Somersworth school system, our "**Proud Past, Bright Future**" are celebrated through the acknowledgement that we are all linked together by a common thread, the thread of our humanity. While this thread will differ in the languages we speak, the customs we practice and the faith we hold, or choose not to, in the Hilltop City we are all united by the common bond of our sisterhood and brotherhood. While each of us are different, we are all Hilltoppers, Americans and humans. It is through this understanding of our differences that Somersworth has emerged as **NH's Welcoming City**. A city which has and will continue to open its arms for all, and protect all who are dedicated to the values of equality and human dignity. A city that will remain committed to passing on these values to each young Hilltopper who walks through the hallways of our schools.

In the Hilltop City, **NH's Welcoming City** we rise above the level of just tolerating each other. Here we strive to create a community where differences are welcomed. We have long abandoned the practices of drawing invisible lines, or creating a society where individuals are deemed with value as long as they remain within their corners, their neighborhood or ghetto's, silent or in the "closet". It seems it is Edelblut's goal is to revert our public school system into an institution that openly embraces these practices of hate and division.

In our 10 square mile community, we instead embrace that our home is and always has been composed of; English, Irish, Greek, French and Indonesian. We are home to those of faith; Catholics, Protestants, Jews and Muslims and those whose faith does not encompass a god, but the faith in the progression of humanity. Each believer and non-believer sharing in the bond of their commitment to continue keeping Somersworth **"On the Move"**. This commitment is reflected in the daily practices of the guardians of our values, our public-school educators.

We are a city of straight's, gays and transgender, a city of police, fire and first responders, a city of lawyers, doctors and service workers, a city of tradespeople and military. All, with hopes and dreams for ourselves, family and children. We are united by the common vision of creating a community, state and nation with "liberty and justice for all". Are these the values that the Edelblut sees as a threat to the family? Are these the values which should be forcibly removed from the teachings within our school system, the values which have not only advanced our community, but our state and nation?

While the Commissioner Edleblut and I will continue to greatly disagree on the purpose of our public school system and the values which will help our nation achieve its creed, I do wish to thank him for his recent commentary. Edleblut's article helped to foster attention that the journey towards achieving equality, freedom and justice for all citizens has not ended, and that those who subscribe to denying

inalienable and constitutional rights to citizens are still among us in 2022. In order for us to become a nation where all are created equal, we must overcome some of the barriers that test our upbringing, faiths or individual comfort levels.

If we strip our public schools of the ability to embrace open dialog as Edleblut suggests, and ban the context of their teaching, we return to the practices and justification of exclusion, discrimination and the use of age-old rhetoric to justify actions which divide, hinder, and destroy the promise of America.

In the 10 square mile community known as Somersworth, we will continue *“On the Move”* as *NH’s Hilltop Welcoming City*. We will continue to learn from each other, to acknowledge and celebrate our differences and to build a community where all who are committed to the values of democracy. We will embrace each other as neighbors, brothers and sisters. We will continue to work towards seeking and finding common ground, by uniting on the issues which will progress our community while practicing respect, dignity and civility to each other. These are the values which reflect our community, our state, our nation, these are the values which will continue to be the foundation of our schools. The theme this year for the Somersworth school district is **“One”; One faculty, One student body, One family, One community, One district**. I invite the Commissioner Edelblute to follow the Hilltoppers lead of creating public schools and a community where all are valued, respect and celebrated for who they are, where all are viewed as **“One”**.

- This past Friday we took time to pause and honor all of those who have answered the final call during Law Enforcement Memorial Day;

In times of crisis, you are there

In times of desperation, you are there

In times of emergency, you are there

You offer hope.

You are the reflection of order, stability, justice, democracy, and peace.

When others are running away, you are running to.

You answer each call with commitment, determination, and valor, unaware of when you arrive what will meet you. Unaware if this call might be your last. Yet, with the oath that represents the badge you wear, you carry forward. Forward to serve the people, the community, the state and nation you love.

Each May we take time to pause, take time to reflect, take time to say thank you. Thank you to the men and women who have dedicated their lives and careers so that the hopes and dreams of others may be achieved. Each May we gather, gather to honor those whom are part of the brother and sisterhood of law enforcement who still stand amongst us, and those who are with us today in spirit after answering their final call.

A grateful Hilltop City says thank you. Thank you for each and every day that you recommit yourself to the values of your profession. Those values of neighbor helping neighbor, the values of putting others before oneself and the values of life, liberty and justice for all.

A grateful Hilltop City remembers, remembers our departed brother Donald Kowalski who left us on September 4, 1979 at the young age of 24. Officer Kowalski, you will forever be remembered by our great city and your dedication to protecting its “Proud Past” while ensuring its “Bright Future”.

It is with the same unwavering commitment that each member of our Somersworth Department exhibits each day as they carry forth on their mission to “Serve and Protect” that I stand with you. Know that the Mayor’s Office, City Manager, City Council and all members of our community stand by you with pride each day as you continue to keep the home we love and all citizens safe.

May the guiding hand of the supreme chief, God, protect you each day as you fulfill your mission.

May those who have departed us forever be honored through your actions of ensuring freedom, liberty and justice for all. As a community let us continue, officers and citizens, to continue to bring our city motto to life each day, “Proud Past”, “Bright Future”.

The rose and shield flag proudly waves at Citizens Places in honor of our brave and dedicated Hilltopper law enforcement officers.

- **EMS Week**

- During the month of May we take time to thank the brave men and women who serve our community as EMS officers. Each year through the Mayor’s office I have the honor of recognizing our EMS local professionals by proclaiming a week in their honor. In 1973, President Gerald Ford authorized EMS Week to celebrate all the EMS professionals and the role they play in protecting our communities. Here in the Hilltop City, we continue to be blessed and served by the members of Stewart’s Ambulance, who are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Each year over 36 million people received treatment from EMS providers, our 10 square mile community is grateful for the contributions of Stewart’s Ambulance in keeping each Hilltopper safe at some of their most critical moments.

Throughout EMS week, we say thank you to the members of the Stewart’s Ambulance team, for your unweaving dedication to the Hilltop City and your commitment to continue your lifesaving practices. In honor of Stewart’s Ambulance dedication, I have proclaimed May 16 -23<sup>rd</sup> as Stewart’s Ambulance week in the City of Somersworth. The EMS flag will be raised at Citizens Place tomorrow at 4:30

- May is a busy month as we honor Police, EMS and our unsung hero’s Public Work employees. From ensuring our infrastructure continues to meet the needs of our community to maintaining safe drinking water and an efficient wastewater system, each day our public works employees show up and deliver. This week we say thank you as we celebrate Nation Public Works week. Thank you for your dedication on those long evenings when we are asleep, and you are removing snow. Thank you for those hot days, when we are in AC and you are making road improvements. Thank you for your dedication for keep Somersworth “On the Move”. I invite the Director of Public Works to come forward for a Proclamation.

- Congratulations to the ICC who celebrated their 5<sup>th</sup> year anniversary on Saturday at the Indonesian Cultural Center. I enjoyed attending the event and reaffirming our city strong commitment to cultural diversity.

## **12 Nominations, Appointments and Elections:**

- Under nominations, appointments and Elections; **In accordance with Council Rule 17 Appointments**, the follow are being brought forward this evening and placed in nomination;
  - Jeremy Degler for Appointment as a Member of the Conservation Commission with a Term to Expire May, 2025
  - Doug Bryar for Appointment as an Alternate Member of the Conservation Commission with a Term to Expire May, 2025
  - Rita Casey for Appointment as a Supervisor of the Checklist in Ward One with a Term to Expire May, 2027

In accordance with **Council Rule 17** the nominations will remain open until the next regular scheduled meeting.

## **This respectfully concludes my May 16th, 2022 Mayors Report**

### **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

There were no reports of Standing Committees.

### **REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER**

*School Board* – Councilor Austin stated he attending the latest School Board meeting where the Superintendent reported an uptick in Covid cases from both students and staff. A group continues to meet on a regular basis to monitor. A discussion was held regarding summer programs and developed an approach called the summer academy following the district-wide theme of ONE where the elementary and middle schools will work closer together.

#### **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, May 13, 2022

**SUBJECT:** City Manager's Report for Monday, May 16, 2022 City Council Meeting

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**6:00 p.m. Council Workshop**  
**Re: National Guard Reuse Commission Report: SRPC Staff and Zoom with Consultants**

Attached is a copy of the PowerPoint Presentation provided to the Reuse Commission that will be the basis of the workshop's discussion. A Memorandum that provides some very preliminary costs to run the facility with recreation programming is also attached.

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### *New Business (under Section 15 of Agenda)*

#### **Ordinance**

- A. Ordinance No. 11-22: To Amend Chapter 4, Personnel Rules and Regulations Compensation Schedule.** The Government Operations Committee met on April 6<sup>th</sup> and voted to recommend this Ordinance amendment to the full Council. If adopted, this action would provide non-union staff with a 2½% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to their wages. Please note that the Water/Wastewater Union would receive the same increase as their Collective Bargaining Agreement has a “me too” clause so that any changes to COLA wage adjustments given to Non-union employees would carry over to these Union employees. There are 33 non-union employees and 13 Water/WW employees that would receive the wage adjustment.

I recommend a Public Hearing be scheduled for the next regular Council meeting on Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.

*Mayor Hilliard scheduled the Public Hearing for the next scheduled City Council meeting without objection.*

#### **Resolution**

- A. Resolution No. 38-22: City of Somersworth “Eyes on 30” Initiative.** The Mayor has already announced the appointment of Councilors Nancie Cameron, Chair and Rick Michaud to serve on this Committee.
- B. Resolution No. 39-22: To Allow the City of Somersworth to Provide Water Service to a Property Located on Kelwyn Drive in Rollinsford, New Hampshire.** The Public Works & Environment Committee met on March 21<sup>st</sup> and voted to support this Resolution. The property owner has provided the City with legal escrowed funds that will cover petitioning the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for approval. *Manager Belmore stated that the City currently services water for 12 homes in this area and the lot in question is the last developable lot. He added that the Somersworth/Rollinsford City and Town lines bifurcate this area making it difficult to separate the homes and seek an intermunicipal agreement.*
- C. Resolution No. 40-22: City Council to Decommission the Basketball Courts on Blackwater Road and to Close Them to the Public.** This was discussed during the Planning Board CIP review as well as at a Recreation Committee meeting. Attached is a copy of the CIP project that shows the proposed repairs with the preliminary amount of \$50,000 to complete rehabilitation of these Courts. Also, attached is a copy of a Workplan from our Sanitary Landfill Superfund Site engineers, Geosyntec, to remove the Courts' asphalt and other associated costs that would most likely be required. Their estimated total with a 10% contingency is \$91,300. We might be able to provide some in-kind highway assistance to peel back some of the contracted work, however, it would involve some significant effort and might also require additional considerations after US EPA and NH



DES review. If we leave the asphalt in place, I would have highway take out the basketball posts and boards.

**Other**

**A. Vote to Release the Covenants Pertaining to the Community Revitalization Tax Relief Program, Chapter 31 (NH RSA-79-E) Granted for the following properties:**

1. 44 Market Street (to Gunwale Properties in 2013)
2. 67-73 High Street (to Somedowntown LLC in 2015)
3. 123 Main Street (to Khaleej Real Estate LLC in 2019)

Attached are copies of the information provided by our contracted Assessing Staff.

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

**Informational Items**

1. **NH Highway Safety Traffic Enforcement Grants.** As has been past practice, I have authorized Chief McLin to apply for several Highway Safety Grant opportunities. If received, these Grants do not require any City matching funds. Attached is a copy of his Memorandum that lists the specific purpose and amounts which includes Speed Enforcement and Distracted Driving Enforcement funding.
2. **Presentation of Financial Statements for year ending June 30, 2021 by Plodzik & Sanderson.** The Annual Financial Report is in your City Hall mailbox.

**Attachments**

1. Department Head Reports
2. City Attorney Certifications – Four (4)

*Manager Belmore stated he was trying to schedule a tour of the Fire Station being constructed for next Monday, May 23 at 5:00 p.m.*

**NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTION**

**Nominations being introduced for a Council Confirmation Vote:**

- A. Jeremy Degler for Appointment as a Member of the Conservation Commission with a Term to Expire May, 2025
- B. Doug Bryar for Appointment as an Alternate Member of the Conservation Commission with a Term to Expire May, 2025

***The above nominations will remain open until the next scheduled Council meeting.***

- C. Rita Casey for Appointment as a Supervisor of the Checklist in Ward One with a Term to Expire May, 2027

***Councilor Witham made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow action upon item C. The motion was seconded by Councilor Austin and passed by Voice Vote.***

***Councilor Witham made a motion to approve the Appointment of Rita Casey. The motion was seconded by Councilor Austin and passed by Voice Vote.***

Manager Belmore explained the City is currently looking for additional help for elections in all five Wards. Mayor Hilliard added that it is a great way to serve the City and a foundational element of our democratic society.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ORDINANCES**

- A. **Ordinance No. 11-22** – To Amend Chapter 4, Personnel Rules and Regulations Compensation Schedule

*Councilor Witham made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow for a first reading of Ordinance No. 11-22 by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed by voice vote. Clerk Slaven performed a first reading of Ordinance No. 11-22 by title only.*

*Ordinance No. 11-22 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair. Public Hearing scheduled for the next City Council meeting.*

### **RESOLUTIONS**

- A. **Resolution No. 38-22** – City of Somersworth “Eyes on 30” Initiative

*Resolution No. 38-22 will remain in first reading until call of the Chair.*

- B. **Resolution No. 39-22** – To Allow the City of Somersworth to Provide Water Service to a Property Located on Kelwyn Drive in Rollinsford, New Hampshire

*Resolution No. 39-22 will remain in first reading until call of the Chair.*

- C. **Resolution No. 40-22** – City Council to Decommission the Basketball Courts on Blackwater Road and to Close them to the Public

*Resolution No. 40-22 will remain in first reading until call of the Chair.*

### **OTHER**

- A. Vote to Release the Covenants Pertaining to the Community Revitalization Tax Relief Program, Chapter 31 (NH RSA 79-E) granted for the following properties:

1. 44 Market Street (to Gunwale Properties in 2013)
2. 67-73 High Street (to Somedowntown LLC in 2015)
3. 123 Main Street (to Khaleej Real Estate LLC in 2019)

Councilor Witham inquired about the release of program being because of the end of the programs term and asked if the City has released the covenants pertaining to this program before. Manager Belmore explained that the applicants are at the end of their term and these are the first to be released as a matter of housekeeping. He added that being approved for this program will not allow the applicant to avoid taxes, rather it freezes the assessed value for a period of time. Councilor Vincent asked for a point of clarification regarding the program term being 10 years for 44 Market Street.

*Councilor Witham made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow Finance Director Scott Smith to answer questions. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed by voice vote.*

Director Smith stated that his recollection was that development got delayed and the project was granted an extension so the term for relief was 7 years. Councilor Dumont requested an updated list of properties who are currently in the 79E program in Somersworth.

*The vote to release the covenants passed by voice vote.*

### **COMMENTS BY VISITORS**

There were no closing comments by visitors.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

*Councilor Pepin* gave a shout out to the Somersworth's emergency services department, including the help they receive from our Public Works Department. He stated he typically praises the PD because they receive the most negative attention and the blue lights, he promotes is a way to give them the respect they deserve. Regarding the National Guard site, he stated it is difficult to maintain what we have now and is not sure if we would be able to maintain it the way we need to. As for a restaurant or retail, he stated he isn't sure it fits in with the neighborhood. He stated housing is not a bad option, but wants quality housing.

*Councilor Vincent* welcomed back Councilor Dumont.

*Councilor Dumont* stated he agrees with Councilor Pepin's comments regarding the plans for the National Guard site. He said whatever we decide to do, we need to ensure our needs are being met. He suggested considering pickle ball courts on the site. Councilor Dumont thanked Councilor Pepin and Council for providing funding to COAST Bus.

*Councilor Austin* welcomed Councilor Dumont back and congratulated Little Indonesia's first formal anniversary. He also recognized veterans leading up to Memorial Day which will occur prior to the next scheduled City Council meeting stating that he does not take the freedoms we have in this country for granted. Councilor Austin also acknowledged Mayor Hilliard's comments regarding the state of education in New Hampshire stating that Commissioner of Education Frank Edleblut is supposed to be the representative of public education in this state and has done nothing but take it in the opposite direction and is not an advocate for public education. He stated it is time for someone else to take the role of Commissioner and hopes the Governor recognizes this education commission is doing more harm to public education than ever.

*Councilor Michaud* welcomed back Councilor Dumont and sent condolences to the family of Jannette Lapoint Lefebvre Gould.

*Councilor Witham* stated that the decision on what to do with the former National Guard site is not an easy one. The idea of a Rec center came to mind first, but gave him hesitation after considering the high cost to operate and maintain. He also questioned whether people would actually use the facility noting the decline in participation in organized sports. Councilor Witham agreed that a commercial use may not be a good fit for that location and the housing option would be the best financially for the City, but that comes with the cost of displacing a little league field. He also spoke regarding the

Noble Pines Park observing a lot of trash by the skate park because there is no can as well as an electrical box that needs repair. Councilor Witham also noted the program to allow banners on the fence for fundraising seems to be received positively.

*Councilor Gerding* thanked Mayor Hilliard for his comments on public education and noted that the current Education Commissioner, Frank Edleblut is single-handedly dismantling public education by championing bills that strip funding, while pushing a more privatized education agenda. He stated that the politicization of education is hurtful to students. Councilor Gerding also noted that the price to remove the asphalt on the basketball courts off of Blackwater Road was very high and wondered if it could be covered. Regarding the former National Guard site, he too thought a community center would be best, though the cost caused him to reconsider. He stated the School Department has invested a lot recently in programming similar to those seen in Recreation and Community Centers and that the Somersworth Youth Connection does a lot of the same programs. He added that a business is not the best fit for the location and is currently leaning towards housing because the need is there and is the most beneficial financially for the City. Councilor Gerding also mentioned that May 21<sup>st</sup> is the household waste day at the Turnkey Landfill in Rochester from 8:30-12:30.

*Councilor Cameron* welcomed back Councilor Dumont. She stated she is conflicted between the idea of a Recreation Center and housing at the National Guard site. She saw the Rec center as a place the Recreation Supervisor could work from and a place Recreation program could use during rain events. She added that she would like to see some more ideas for a Rec Center fleshed out.

*Councilor Messier* stated he supports the Rec Center proposal for the National Guard site. He added that his vision for the property is more of a community center to be used by people both young and old. He added that the issue of declining sports participation is a separate issue. Councilor Messier also noted the absence of Somersworth sports scores being published.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*Councilor Cameron made a motion to adjourn the City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michaud and passed by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jonathan Slaven, City Clerk





## City of Somersworth – Ordinance

Ordinance No: **11-22**

### **TO AMEND CHAPTER 4, PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS COMPENSATION SCHEDULE**

May 16, 2022

THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH ORDAINS THAT, the Ordinances of the City of Somersworth, as amended, be further amended as follows:

Amend Chapter 4 by deleting the Compensation Schedule in its entirety and replacing it with the following Compensation Schedule:

**Personnel Rules and Regulations  
FY2022-2023 Compensation Schedule  
(2.5% Increase effective July 1, 2022)**

GRADE	HIRE	1	2	3	4	5
6 A	25,417.60	26,499.20	27,497.60	28,620.80	29,764.80	30,908.80
H	12.22	12.74	13.22	13.76	14.31	14.86
7 A	26,644.80	27,643.20	28,870.40	30,014.40	31,116.80	31,491.20
H	12.81	13.29	13.88	14.43	14.96	15.14
8 A	27,996.80	29,078.40	30,222.40	31,491.20	32,780.80	34,091.20
H	13.46	13.98	14.53	15.14	15.76	16.39
9 A	29,411.20	30,576.00	31,803.20	33,092.80	34,382.40	35,838.40
H	14.14	14.70	15.29	15.91	16.53	17.23
10 A	30,846.40	32,073.60	33,300.80	34,715.20	36,025.60	37,585.60
H	14.83	15.42	16.01	16.69	17.32	18.07
11 A	32,427.20	33,737.60	35,006.40	36,420.80	37,918.40	39,436.80
H	15.59	16.22	16.83	17.51	18.23	18.96
12 A	34,070.40	35,422.40	36,774.40	38,272.00	39,707.20	41,288.00
H	16.38	17.03	17.68	18.40	19.09	19.85
13 A	35,776.00	37,169.60	38,708.80	40,289.60	41,849.60	43,596.80
H	17.20	17.87	18.61	19.37	20.12	20.96
14 A	37,481.60	38,958.40	40,518.40	42,224.00	43,888.00	45,614.40
H	18.02	18.73	19.48	20.30	21.10	21.93
15 A	39,436.80	41,038.40	42,660.80	44,324.80	46,009.60	47,819.20
H	18.96	19.73	20.51	21.31	22.12	22.99
16 A	41,308.80	42,952.00	44,678.40	46,654.40	48,380.80	50,398.40
H	19.86	20.65	21.48	22.43	23.26	24.23
17 A	43,451.20	45,219.20	48,256.00	48,880.00	50,814.40	52,832.00
H	20.89	21.74	23.20	23.50	24.43	25.40
18 A	45,614.40	47,444.80	49,254.40	51,313.60	53,372.80	55,598.40
H	21.93	22.81	23.68	24.67	25.66	26.73
19 A	47,819.20	49,795.20	51,833.60	53,976.00	56,056.00	58,344.00
H	22.99	23.94	24.92	25.95	26.95	28.05
20 A	50,377.60	52,416.00	54,392.00	56,596.80	58,843.20	61,131.20
H	24.22	25.20	26.15	27.21	28.29	29.39

21	A	52,832.00	54,912.00	57,200.00	59,425.60	61,817.60	64,209.60
	H	25.40	26.40	27.50	28.57	29.72	30.87
22	A	55,556.80	57,699.20	60,028.80	62,296.00	64,937.60	67,516.80
	H	26.71	27.74	28.86	29.95	31.22	32.46
<b>GRADE</b>		<b>HIRE</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
23	A	58,281.60	60,632.00	62,920.00	65,540.80	68,140.80	70,886.40
	H	28.02	29.15	30.25	31.51	32.76	34.08
24	A	61,131.20	63,606.40	66,123.20	68,806.40	71,489.60	74,380.80
	H	29.39	30.58	31.79	33.08	34.37	35.76
25	A	64,209.60	66,872.00	69,451.20	72,342.40	75,296.00	78,249.60
	H	30.87	32.15	33.39	34.78	36.20	37.62
26	A	67,496.00	70,657.60	72,841.60	75,795.20	78,956.80	81,931.20
	H	32.45	33.97	35.02	36.44	37.96	39.39
27	A	70,720.00	73,715.20	76,585.60	79,747.20	82,950.40	86,153.60
	H	34.00	35.44	36.82	38.34	39.88	41.42
28	A	74,297.60	77,313.60	80,246.40	83,512.00	86,944.00	90,376.00
	H	35.72	37.17	38.58	40.15	41.80	43.45
29	A	78,000.00	81,161.60	84,323.20	87,672.00	91,353.60	94,931.20
	H	37.50	39.02	40.54	42.15	43.92	45.64

**(2.5% increase of minimum and maximum effective July 1, 2022)**

25	A	65,735.90	83,787.02
30	A	83,460.02	101,755.98
31	A	91,174.82	110,932.01
32	A	92,028.64	112,123.67
33	A	96,694.09	117,581.98
34	A	101,573.01	123,558.65
35	A	106,665.41	129,687.81
36	A	112,032.20	136,182.86
37	A	117,521.01	142,891.37

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> Richard R. Michaud Donald Austin Matt Gerding David A. Witham	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

## City of Somersworth – Ordinance 11-22

### History

First Read Date:	05/16/2022	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

### Discussion

05/16/2022

*Councilor Witham made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow for a first reading of Ordinance No. 11-22 by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed by Voice Vote. Clerk Slaven performed a first reading of Ordinance No. 11-22 by title only.*

*Ordinance No. 11-22 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair. Public Hearing scheduled for the next 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	Messier		
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			<b>0</b>
On / /2022	Ordinance 11-22	PASSED	FAILED





## City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: **38-22**

### **CITY OF SOMERSWORTH “EYES ON 30” INITIATIVE**

May 16, 2022

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council shall form an “Eyes on 30” Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Committee will build upon the success of the Vision 2020 Committee’s work and ensure Somersworth will have well defined objectives and goals to keep the Hilltop City “On the Move”, while celebrating its “Proud Past” and planning for its “Bright Future”; and

WHEREAS, be it further resolved that the Committee shall be comprised of the following members:

- Mayor’s designee;
- Two members of the City Council appointed by the Mayor;
- One School Board member appointed by the Chair of the School Board;
- City Manager or designee/alternate;
- Superintendent or designee/alternate;
- One sitting Planning Board member appointed by the Chair of the Planning Board;
- Two members of the Community at Large appointed by the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, members of the Committee shall be appointed for a two-year term; and

WHEREAS, the date of dissolution of said Committee will be January 1, 2030; and

WHEREAS, be it further resolved that the Committee shall:

- Develop ways to promote the “Eyes on 30” Initiative; and
- Develop objectives and goals as well as a timeline for their completion; and
- Report to the City Council a minimum of twice per year on the progress of the “Eyes on 30” Initiative beginning in 2023;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH that the City Council will support and foster the Somersworth “EYE’S ON 30” Initiative by adopting the following guiding principles: to translate strategic goals into practical plans that are responsive to Community values; enhance on-going City revitalization plans; examine continued efforts for economic growth; maintain excellence in our public educational system and our delivery of municipal services; and enhance our quality of life for all stakeholders to enjoy.

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

## City of Somersworth – Resolution 38-22


<b>History</b>			
First Read Date:	05/16/2022	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

<b>Discussion</b>
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05/16/2022

*Resolution No. 38-22 will remain in first reading until call of the Chair.*

<b>Voting Record</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
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	Messier		
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			
<b>On Resolution 38-22</b>		<b>PASSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>

	<b>City of Somersworth – Resolution</b>
	Resolution No: <b>39-22</b> <b>TO ALLOW THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH TO PROVIDE WATER SERVICE TO A PROPERTY LOCATED ON KELWYN DRIVE IN ROLLINSFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>

May 16, 2022

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth has been providing water service to residential properties located on Kelwyn Drive in Rollinsford for many years; and

WHEREAS, there is one buildable lot left in the Kelwyn Drive subdivision at tax map lot 5-20, that has requested water service from the City of Somersworth; and

WHEREAS, City staff reviewed the water system in this area and it would be too onerous to separate the Rollinsford section from the Somersworth section in this area to appropriately accommodate an intermunicipal agreement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth intends to file a Petition with the Public Utilities Commission pursuant to RSA 362:4, III-a and RSA 374:22 to extend water service to this lot, the cost of which will be at the property owner's expense;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH that the City Council approves the extension of water services to lot 5-20 located on Kelwyn Drive in Rollinsford and the City Manager is authorized to petition the Public Utilities Commission in order to provide water services to this property.

<b>Authorization</b>	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> David A. Witham Denis Messier Kenneth Vincent Martin Pepin	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

May 16, 2022

## City of Somersworth – Resolution 39-22

### History


First Read Date:	05/16/2022	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

### Discussion

05/16/2022

*Resolution No. 39-22 will remain in first reading until 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	Messier		
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			
On Resolution 39-22		PASSED	FAILED

	City of Somersworth – Resolution	
	Resolution No:	<b>40-22</b> <b>CITY COUNCIL TO DECOMMISSION THE BASKETBALL COURTS ON BLACKWATER ROAD AND TO CLOSE THEM TO THE PUBLIC</b>

May 16, 2022

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth has basketball courts located adjacent to Blackwater Road that are available for public use; and

WHEREAS, the basketball courts are located on and/or adjacent to the Somersworth Sanitary Landfill Superfund Site; and

WHEREAS, the basketball courts are in disrepair and based on their location the City Council believes that it is in the best interest of the City to decommission the basketball courts and not encourage public use of this area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH that the basketball courts are decommissioned and will no longer be open to the public, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH that the City Manager is authorized to remove the basketball hoops, backboards, and poles and to take any other actions necessary to secure this area.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> Nancie Cameron Richard Michaud Martin Pepin Kenneth Vincent David A. Witham Denis Messier Nancie Cameron	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

## City of Somersworth – Resolution 40-22

### History

First Read Date:	5/16/2022	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

### Discussion

05/16/2022

*Resolution No. 40-22 will remain in first reading until 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	Messier		
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			
On Resolution 40-22		PASSED	FAILED