



Minutes of City Council Meeting Monday, August 1, 2022

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 Pepin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING

Resolution No. 4-23 – To Discontinue the Sidewalk Improvement Capital Reserve Fund in Accordance with RSA 34:11-A;

There were no comments.

Mayor Dana S. Hilliard requested permission to take up agenda item 15 letter A. under Other without objection. Mayor Hilliard stated that Strafford County Commissioner George Maglaras, City of Dover Mayor Robert Carrier, and the City of Rochester Mayor Paul Callaghan were present to discuss the Warming Center.

Councilor Witham made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow guests to speak. The motion was seconded by Councilor Austin and passed by voice vote.

Mayor Dana S. Hilliard stated that this agreement is to revert back to the original agreement that will allow the warming center to open only when there are extreme weather conditions. Throughout the winter and early Spring, the Tri-City network of Mayors along with the City Managers and County Commissioners have been meeting regularly to develop a long-term sustainable plan to help the elevated ongoing issue of homelessness and housing insecurity. While Government cannot solve this problem on its own, it is part of the partnership and solution. The plan which has been developed is referred to as the three-legged stool, each leg has a role and is critical in supporting the structure of success.

- The first leg is to construct a state-of-the-art nursing home on County property. The nursing home would be 21st century modern facility being able to address the increasing needs of patients experiencing Alzheimer's and Dementia. It would allow each patient the privacy and dignity they deserve and allow the family to spend extended time and nights with their loved ones.
- The second leg would be to develop the current facility that would then be converted to deal with those experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. It would offer the services necessary to aid those in need with guidance to overcome a multitude of issues from mental

health to addiction. A critical part of the development of the first and second leg would be a return to the original agreement of the extreme warming center.

The facility would only be open during extreme weather events, deemed as life-threatening by the Tri-City Emergency Management Directors. The Hilltop City would continue to cover Emergency response by Police, EMS, and Fire. We would continue to review the operation each Spring throughout the development of leg one. Each year the Agreement would be reviewed by this Council before entering into another year.

Our partnerships have worked, and I am proud of what we have accomplished to date as a network of cities moving in the same direction to offer solutions to one of the most complex issues facing our society. Progress will continue to be made only by working together and continuing to strengthen the partnership. Tonight's plan will work and will address not only the needs of those experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity but will also offer state of the art care and dignity to those citizens who have spent their adulthood progressing our society and democracy forward.

Mayor Hilliard respectfully asked the Council to fully support and adopt the return to the original Agreement of the extreme warming center.

Strafford County Commissioner George Maglaras shared some facts concerning the Riverside Nursing Home and the growing percentage of Alzheimer's and Dementia patients. Commissioner Maglaras explained that Riverside was built 50 years ago and was never designed to handle the growing number of patients and their needs. Commissioner Maglaras also mentioned that the State of New Hampshire has 5 million dollars that is available to Cities and Towns to review and adjust zoning and planning to help address the housing shortage around the County and State. Commissioner Maglaras stated the County will be contributing \$10,000 towards operational costs.

Dover Mayor Robert Carrier spoke about when the warming center was first opened and how it saved people's lives because of the harsh weather conditions. Mayor Carrier explained that the Tri-City Mayors, City Managers, and the Strafford County Commissioners office have come together which has been beneficial to the Cities in dealing with the issues of homelessness, drug addiction, and people with mental health issues that are in need of help. Mayor Carrier mentioned that by beginning this 3-legged plan now will be a step towards solving the issues that the Cities are dealing with.

Rochester Mayor Paul Callaghan assured the City Council that the City of Rochester is committed financially and also mentioned that they have already made some adjustments to their zoning.

Councilor Vincent stated that Strafford County is leading the race of all Counties in being innovative with jails, prisoners, and many other areas.

Councilor Gerding mentioned that he would like to hear more about the 3-legged plan as it moves forward to be able to ask questions and be informed of the progress. Councilor Gerding inquired about the difference of the Warming Center Agreement this year compared to last year's

agreement. Mayor Hilliard stated that the original agreement between the Tri-Cities was to have an Emergency Warming Center to only be open during extreme weather, and that last year it was different for many reasons. The Warming Center last year was an experiment that did not work for many reasons but the organization that ran the center last year did not want to run it again. Mayor Hilliard further explained that the original Agreement did work and the reasons why. Mayor Hilliard also stated that this plan to open the warming center for extreme weather conditions is the short-term plan and it will help with moving forward with the 3-legged long-term plan.

Councilor Gerding inquired about who will be running the Emergency Warming Center, and Mayor Hilliard stated an RFP will be issued.

Councilor Gerding also inquired if the City of Dover and Rochester have approved the Emergency Warming Center Agreement. Rochester Mayor Callaghan stated that the City of Rochester is 100% committed and put aside \$50,000.00 for the center. Dover Mayor Carrier also stated that the City of Dover pledged \$50,000.00 and was waiting for the approval of Somersworth City Council to take a vote.

City Manager Belmore along with the Managers of Dover and Rochester are working on an RFP to send out to solicit proposal to oversee the operations of the Emergency Warming Center.

Councilor Pepin thanked all who have been involved with this presentation and will be in favor of this going back to the original agreement.

Councilor Austin agreed with Councilor Pepin but feels that there should be a conversation concerning the long-term plan. Dover Mayor Currier mentioned that some churches made the decision during COVID to scale down their assistance with shelter, clothing, and food donations because the volunteers were elderly and at risk, they have opened up communication with them again and is hoping they will be able to provide some additional services once again. Mayor Hilliard mentioned that this Agreement is on a yearly basis for review so the situation can be assessed.

Councilor Dumont expressed his enthusiasm that the Mayor's and Commissioner have formed a team to work together to come up with a long-term solution for the issues discussed this evening.

Deputy Mayor Witham mentioned that in the past couple years the warming center has helped save lives and although that is note-worthy it wasn't really solving the problem. He believes that the 3-legged plan is an attempt to address and help solve the many issues around the Tri-City area.

Councilor Messier stated he is in support of this and appreciates the forward thinking and innovative approach for solving the ongoing problems the communities are and will be facing.

Councilor Vincent stated that he would like to see the County take this over and then all of the communities can take advantage of the opportunity and contribute as well. Commissioner

Maglaras mentioned that the key component of this strategy is the construction of the new nursing home, and also explained the next steps they are taking to accomplish this vital leg of the stool.

Councilor Cameron mentioned her knowledge of the workers at Riverside and how they have managed the working conditions over the past couple years during COVID, and also mentioned that Red's Food Truck has been a valuable resource for free food for people in need.

Councilor Michaud also thanked the Tri-City Mayors and everyone involved that has put in the hard work and the continuing efforts to make this plan work.

Councilor Witham called for a vote to Authorize the City Manager to enter into an Agreement with the City of Dover and the City of Rochester to Operate an Emergency Cold Weather Warming Center at 30 Willand Drive in Somersworth from November 2022 through March 2023, to include an Agreement with a Third-Party Organization to Provide Services at the Warming Center. Deputy City Clerk Ramsey performed a roll call vote and all Councilors voted yes, 9-0

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

Shaun Shea of 32 Cote Street inquired about the basketball courts on Blackwater Road and the status of them.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting held on July 5, 2022

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

COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCILORS

Councilor Witham mentioned that the St. Laurent Park was discontinued years ago because it was on a superfund site, the courts that were there have been paved a few times but the Council has recently decided to remove the basketball hoops and also put some funds to improve the Noble Pines and Jules Bisson Basketball Courts.

Councilor Vincent expressed his displeasure with the work that was done on Cemetery Road by Wright-Pierce and would like the Council to consider requesting some type of compensation from Wright-Pierce.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND DISPOSAL THEREOF BY REFERENCE OR OTHERWISE

There were none.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Dana S. Hilliard stated that the bulk of his report was stated earlier during the conversation with the Mayor's and Commissioner and thanked the Council for their support as they continue to work together.

Under Nominations, Appointments, and Elections; in accordance with Council Rule 17 Appointments, the following are being brought forward this evening and placed in nomination;

Nominations being introduced for a Council Confirmation Vote:

Michael H. Turgeon as Ward 2 Supervisor of the Checklist with a term to expire December, 2023

Tammy Sneddon as a Selectmen for Ward 1 with a term to expire December, 2023

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

Also, under Nominations Appointments and Elections the following are being brought forward this evening for a confirmation vote;

Matthew Keiser as a Selectman for Ward 1 with a term to expire December, 2023

This respectfully concludes my August 1st, 2022 Mayors Report

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Councilor Witham stated the Finance Committee last met on July 26th at 4:30 and discussed Resolution 4-23 and the pros and cons for removing the Sidewalk Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. Councilor Witham mentioned that Councilor Dumont expressed concerns with re-directing funds to other City needs, but the Committee voted to move forward. Councilor Witham mentioned the Committee also discussed the Fire Station Training Tower, Councilor Witham mentioned a Federal grant for the tower in the amount of \$120,000.00 was approved. However, at this juncture of the project the projected cost for the tower is \$318,000.00 and the Committee felt that they should stay within budget so they voted not to continue with the tower. Councilor Witham stated that the Committee discussed the Solar Energy Exemption that Council had passed and the Committee decided to continue with the exemption as taxation on Solar Arrays that fed the grid would be subject to property taxes. Councilor Witham stated the next item discussed was removing the asphalt where the basketball courts were at the Superfund Site and because it is a superfund site the cost to remove the asphalt was estimated to be \$25,400.00 but that was on the low side and so the Committee decided not to remove the asphalt. Councilor Witham mentioned that Councilor Gerding questioned about municipalities ability to form Storm Water Utility Funds (rain tax) which has been discussed at the Council level before but there was no action taken at this time. Councilor Witham also mentioned that the Rocky Hill Culvert project has a contingency balance of \$51,000.00 and it was brought to their attention that the water line was not properly gated and new gate valves need to be installed. The amount for the installation is \$40,000.00 since this amount is within the contingency the City Manager will move forward with the gate valve installation. Councilor Witham stated that a Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Grant was received to address the intersection of High Street and Memorial Drive pedestrian crossing, the sidewalk from Franklin to Washington Street, and the gravel trail that goes in between the Middle and High School that only one bid came in for \$300,000.00 which was more than was budgeted and approved for construction under the grant, so it was decided to go to the State to see if they could contribute more grant funds toward the project.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

Councilor Pepin stated that the Fire Station Building Committee last met on July 22nd with Mayor Dana S. Hilliard appointing Councilor Michaud as an alternate to the Committee for this meeting. Councilor Pepin stated they approved the June 23rd meeting minutes and received a budget update. Councilor Pepin stated the original GMP was in the amount of \$7,824,000.00, and explained that there have been 7 change orders. Councilor Pepin stated that currently they are \$95,000.00 over budget, and not all calculations are included because they are waiting to see the cost for the removal of contaminated soil, and construction delays. Councilor Pepin talked about the training tower and why the projection of cost has raised over time being the reason why the Committee has decided not to recommend continuing with this part of the project.

Councilor Gerding stated the Eastern Monarch has recently been added to the endangered species list. Councilor Gerding also mentioned an app for your phone called I Naturalist that allows people in communities to take pictures of different species and tag the species and location.

Councilor Gerding also mentioned that the Somersworth Youth Connection Summer project just ended and they made some planter boxes that they filled with soil and planted seeds in to donate to local business. Councilor Gerding also mentioned that SYC will have a table at National Night Out.

Councilor Austin stated that the Hilltop Mental Health and Wellness Committee met last on July 13th and they discussed the refocus of the Committee and some goals were made to be completed by the end of the year.

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, July 29, 2022

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, August 1, 2022 City Council Meeting

Unfinished Business (under Section 14 of Agenda)

Resolutions

- A. Resolution No. 1-23:** To Authorize the City Manager to Sign an Agreement with the State of New Hampshire, Division of Historical Resources for the Installation of a Historical Marker and for the City to Agree to Provide Maintenance and Care of Said Marker. Again, Eric Chinburg Properties has agreed to pay \$1,200 of the cost of the marker; the State website indicates the markers cost between \$2,000 - \$2,300. Hilltop Fireworks has agreed to donate the needed funding balance.
- B. Resolution No. 4-23:** To Discontinue the Sidewalk Improvement Capital Reserve Fund in Accordance with RSA 34:11-A. Again, the possibility of taking this

action was raised by Councilor Witham during this past fiscal year as City Council appropriated \$100,000 in the present fiscal year that started July 1, 2022. The CIP for FY2023-2028 recommends adding an additional \$10,000 each year to this amount so that incrementally the amount for FY 2028 is \$150,000

New Business (under Section 15 of Agenda)

Resolutions

- A. Resolution No. 5-23: To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Grant Agreement with the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for a Wastewater Collection Asset Inventory and System Master Plan.** There is no City funding match for this Grant. I will be moving forward to the appropriate Council Committees to discuss selecting an engineering consultant firm to assist in completing the project. Attached is a copy of a portion of the Grant Agreement paperwork.
- B. Resolution No. 6-23: To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Grant Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development for a Community Facility Grant used for the Purchase of a Thermal Imaging Camera.** This purchase was included in this Fiscal Year's Budget. Respectfully, I would request Council consider waiving rules to approve this Grant. Attached is a copy of an email that notified the City of the Grant award.
- C. Resolution No. 7-23: To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into the Contribution Assurance Program (CAP) with Primex of Concord, NH for Property and Liability Insurance and Worker's Compensation Insurance.** This Primex CAP Program is for a 3-year extension, I want to point out that the City has been very satisfied with the services provided by Primex that not only includes coverage and an extensive series of safety & risk management prevention training. The training crosses all facets of municipal services and we have taken full advantage of it over the years; it has included Police, Fire, Highway training as well as Human Resources and Legal support. Attached are copies of these CAP programs which the City has previously been enrolled.

Other

- A. Vote to Authorize the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with the City of Dover and City of Rochester to Operate an Emergency Cold Weather Warming Center at 30 Willand Drive in Somersworth from November 2022 through March 2023, to include an Agreement with a Third Party Organization to Provide Services at the Warming Center.** The City of Dover and Rochester will provide funding for the Center. Somersworth's contribution will be the in-kind match of City services such as Police, Fire, EMS and Highway, as well as hosting the facility as non-taxable property. I will provide you with a copy of the draft RFP on Monday.
- B. City Council Vote to Set Effective Date on the Proposed Ward Boundaries Charter Amendments should voters approve these Amendments on the September 13, 2022 Special Municipal Election.**
Staff talked to NH Department of Justice staff regarding an effective date for these proposed Amendments, and suggest that language be inserted into the Amendment so it

is clear to the voters when it will be effective. They recommend an effective date after the November election, because they feel it will be confusing to the voters to change between the September and November election. It is my recommendation that we look at July 1, 2023 for the effective date, which is the start of the next Fiscal Year. City Attorney also agreed with this effective date option.

- C. City Council Vote to not accept a \$120,000. Community Project Funding Grant Award for the Construction of a Somersworth Fire Training Tower.** The Finance Committee and the Fire Station Building Committee met on July 26th to discuss this funding Grant. The Fire Station Building Committee voted to recommend the City not accept the Grant. The Finance Committee's consensus was to concur. The construction project's budget is tight and based on new estimates to incorporate a training tower, the City Council would need to approve an additional \$198,000 in addition to the \$120,000 Grant as the new estimate to construct a training tower is \$318,000. Attached is a copy of the estimate as well as the Grant award notice.
- City Manager Belmore informed the City Council that he did contact Congressman Pappas's office to see if we could use the funds for another City project and he was informed that the City could not.

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

Informational Items

- A. Rocky Hill Road Culvert Project.** Without objection, I will be moving forward to allow a 2nd day of night work to complete the necessary Project work. Presently, I discussed needed change orders with the Finance Committee at their July 26th meeting. At that time, Staff believed we could move forward and stay within the approved Budget. Unfortunately, the new estimate with change orders is \$451,431 which is over the approximate \$448,000 approved Budget. Again, without objection, I will move forward with this required work and request that the Finance Committee meet to discuss needed additional funding.

- Wickson Construction will excavate the two valves to investigate material, manufacturer, depth, size, etc. This will happen during the day. One valve will be exposed at a time. Traffic will remain open on Wells Street. Traffic control will be utilized. This excavation is tentatively proposed on Tuesday August 2. The traffic control plan will be reviewed and approved by the police department. Emergency response vehicles including police, fire and EMS will have access to Rocky Hill Road and Wells Street during this operation.
- Once the valves are exposed and the repair/replacement method is confirmed, the planned work for valve replacement is tentatively scheduled for Thursday August 4.
- The water treatment plant is tentatively planned to be shut down at **10pm on Thursday August 4 for approximately 8 hours** to complete the two valve replacements/repairs. Work will be completed overnight to minimize impact to residents due to water shut off. This shut off will affect 40 properties on Wells Street and Rocky Hill Road between Winter Street and Otis Road, they will have no water during this shut down period.
- Once this work is complete and the valves are operational, Wickson Construction will schedule the water main replacement work under the Rocky Hill Road culvert. This work will also occur overnight as planned.

- Staff will have an emergency response plan for the water plant and distribution system prepared in advance of this work in the event needed.
- Public Works and Water Division personnel will be on site during the operation.

B. Dual Utility Poles. As requested, attached is a copy of a status report from Director Mike Bobinsky regarding the elimination of duplicate utility poles throughout the City.

Attachments

1. City Attorney Certifications - Three (3)
2. Department Head Monthly Reports

Point of Order called by Councilor Vincent requested to inquire about the thermal imaging cameras the Fire Department are getting are the most up to date SCBA Thermal Imaging Mask.

Councilor Witham made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow Fire Chief Kramlinger to speak on the question. The motion was seconded by Councilor Austin and passed by voice vote.

Councilor Vincent asked Fire Chief Kramlinger if this is the latest updated thermal imaging devices.. Chief Kramlinger stated that it will be a hand held camera however when it is time to replace the Department's SCBAs then they can move to acquire face masks with the thermal imaging camera built into the units. **NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTION**

Nominations being introduced for a Council Confirmation Vote:

- A. Michael H. Turgeon as Ward 2 Supervisor of the Checklist with a term to expire December, 2023
- B. Tammy Sneddon as a Selectmen for Ward 1 with a term to expire December, 2023

Nominations for a Council Confirmation Vote:

- A. Matthew Keiser as a Selectmen for Ward 1 with a term to expire December, 2023

Councilor Witham made a motion to suspend Council rules to allow the Confirmation of all Nominees this evening. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed by roll call vote.

Councilor Witham made a motion to Confirm all Nominees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed by voice vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

- A. **Resolution No. 1-23** – To Authorize the City Manager to Sign an Agreement with the State of New Hampshire, Division of Historical Resources for the Installation of a Historical Marker and for the City to Agree to Provide Maintenance and Care of Said Marker

Councilor Gerding made a motion to approve Resolution 1-23. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed by roll call vote 9-0.

- B. **Resolution No. 4-23** – To Discontinue the Sidewalk Improvement Capital Reserve Fund in Accordance with RSA 34:11-A

Councilor Witham made a motion to approve Resolution 4-23. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron.

Discussion:

Councilor Messier expressed his concern for ending this Capital Reserve Fund because he feels it may be cut during the budget.

Councilor Austin stated he does understand the concerns but feels that this Council will stand by the commitment of repairing sidewalks.

Councilor Witham as well understands the reservations but the intent is to put the funds all in one place to be able to repair sidewalks in a robust way like they have done with recent road repairs.

The motion passed by roll call vote 7-2-0 Councilors Dumont and Messier opposing.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

- A. **Resolution 5-23** – To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Grant Agreement with the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for a Wastewater Collection Asset Inventory and System Master Plan

Resolution No. 5-23 will remain in first reading until call of the Chair.

- B. **Resolution 6-23** – To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Grant Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development for a Community Facility Grant to be Used for the Purchase of a Thermal Imaging Camera

Councilor Pepin made a motion to waive Council Rules to allow for a second reading of Resolution No. 6-23. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed by voice vote. Clerk Ramsey performed a seconded reading of Resolution No. 6-23.

Councilor Pepin made a motion to adopt Resolution 6-23. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent.

Discussion:

Councilor Austin inquired with the City Manager the budgeted amount for the purchase of the camera. City Manager Belmore stated the Council appropriated \$11,308.00.

Councilor Vincent stated that the Thermal Imaging Camera's saves lives and is worth it and requested the Council vote yes.

Councilor Messier inquired where the funds in the amount of \$3,900.00 are going to. City Manager Belmore stated that those funds will stay in the Fire Department Budget.

Resolution 6-23 passed by roll call vote 9-0.

- C. **Resolution 7-23** – To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into the Contribution Assurance Program with Primex of Concord, NH for Property and Liability Insurance and Workers Compensation Insurance

Councilor Witham recused himself and he left the Council Chambers.

Councilor Gerding made a motion to waive Council Rules to allow for a second reading of Resolution No. 7-23. The motion was seconded by Councilor Austin and passed by voice vote. Clerk Ramsey performed a seconded reading of Resolution No. 7-23.

Councilor Messier made a motion to adopt Resolution 7-23. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gerding.

Discussion:

Councilor Vincent mentioned that insurance is going up all across the board but inquired with City Manager Belmore if Primex is the best insurance company for the City financially for the services received. City Manager Belmore stated they have not gone out for bid, but he is recommending to continue with Primex and believes it is in the best interest of the City to continue using Primex. Councilor Vincent inquired if there are other companies out there that handle municipal insurance. Manager Belmore stated that there may be one or two other companies out there, however he was not certain. Councilor Vincent questioned why the City wouldn't want to pursue the bidding process.

Councilor Messier inquired about any complaints or issue with Primex or their services. City Manager Belmore stated that there has not been any complaints or issues with coverage.

Councilor Pepin mentioned New Hampshire Municipal Association did insurance, and City Manager Belmore stated yes but they have since stopped offering Property and Liability and Worker's Compensation insurance.

Councilor Austin mentioned that Primex is the premier carrier and feels that going with a smaller carrier could make the rates fluctuate and the coverage may not be the same.

Councilor Dumont stated he believes that doing due diligence is the way to go and that they have an obligation to do that. Councilor Dumont also mentioned that by receiving this offer to extend coverage for another 3 years with the rate increase cap makes him wonder if there are other companies with other options available.

Councilor Vincent mentioned that he does not have anything against Primex, but is just asking to get another number.

Councilor Austin requested clarification without objection. Councilor Austin asked if Resolution 7-23 did not pass that it does not mean the City would lose coverage or mean that the City did not want to do business with Primex. Mayor Hilliard confirmed that the original agreement for insurance will still be in effect.

Councilor Vincent inquired about when the current contract ends and if we are on a time constraint. City Manager Belmore stated that we would not lose coverage, and that if this is voted down this evening it would not be accepting the agreement to the cap.

Resolution 7-23 passed 6-2, Councilors Vincent and Dumont opposed, and Councilor Witham was recused.

OTHER

- A. Vote to Authorize the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with the City of Dover and the City of Rochester to Operate an Emergency Cold Weather Warming Center at 30 Willand Drive in Somersworth from November 2022 through March 2023, to include an Agreement with a Third Party Organization to Provide Services at the Warming Center

The Vote for this item was taken earlier after the public hearing.

- B. City Council Vote to Set Effective Date on the Proposed Ward Boundaries Charter Amendments should voters approve these Amendments on the September 13, 2022 Special Municipal Election

Councilor Austin made a motion to set the Effective Date of July 1, 2023 for the Proposed Ward Boundaries Charter Amendment. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed by voice vote.

Councilor Gerding stated he is in favor of this date because it will not change voters polling place in the middle of the election process this year. Councilor Gerding requested to see if it would be possible to inform the voters who will be changing polling places aware that their polling place will be different.

The motion for setting the Effective Date of July 1, 2023 for the Proposed Ward Boundaries Charter Amendment passed by voice vote.

- C. City Council Vote to not accept a \$120,000. Community Project Funding Grant Award for the Construction of a Somersworth Fire Training Tower

Mayor Dana S. Hilliard called for a vote to not accept a \$120,000. Community Project Funding Grant Award for the Construction of a Somersworth Fire Training Tower. The City Council voted by voice vote not to accept the Community Project Funding Grant Award.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

There were no closing comments by visitors.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Pepin thanked everyone involved in the warming center and hopes that someday people will have a consistent place to go to on a regular basis. Councilor Pepin also expressed his concerns on the troubling things that are happening around the country today with crime and the way the justice system is handling criminals, inflation, and various other issues. Councilor Pepin would like people to not pick political sides but vote for the person who has similar interests that you believe in.

Councilor Vincent wanted to express that he hopes Councilor Witham takes no offense from his comments about Primex and hopes there are no hard feelings and that he would have asked those type of questions concerning any company. Councilor Vincent also wanted to mention that he works for the people and that is why he asks the questions. Councilor Vincent also mentioned that Mr. Chinburg is contributing to the purchase of the historical marker and he would like to mention that Hilltop Fireworks will also contribute as well. Councilor Vincent would also like to encourage other businesses to help the City as well. Councilor Vincent also mentioned that he is upset with Cemetery Road because he is on the Committee and feels that this project did was not a success and so he feels that he failed the City.

Councilor Dumont mentioned that St. Ignatius Parish held their annual picnic with 7 Elvis impersonators present, and missed the Indonesian Community this year. Councilor Dumont also was made aware that the homeless are gathering behind Market Basket and at Willand Pond. Councilor Dumont looked through the information in the booklet of information about the parks around the City the Council received and noticed the pictures must have been taken early in the Spring because the plants are smaller and he hopes that the parks are full now with Monarch attracting plants, and mentioned that he has several milkweed plants coming up from a plant he had last year. He also mentioned that he feels the City is blessed to have the Monarch's all over the City. Councilor Dumont complimented Director Bobinsky because Malley Farm looks great and the Community Gardens are impeccable. Lastly Councilor Dumont stated that this is the last time he will be addressing the Council in full because his home has sold and is moving.

Councilor Austin stated it has been his pleasure serving on the Council with Councilor Dumont.

Councilor Michaud thanked Councilor Dumont for all that he has done for the City. Councilor Michaud also mentioned that National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday August 2nd and hopes that many will attend.

Councilor Witham also thanked Councilor Dumont for all his years of service to the City of Somersworth.

Councilor Gerding also thanked Councilor Dumont for his hard work as well and promises to give him a packet of Milkweed seeds to plant. Councilor Gerding also mentioned that the Public Utilities Commission passed rules to allow Municipal Energy Co-Op's to form their own utilities in effort to lower energy costs. Councilor Gerding also mentioned that he attended the State Grant presentation and wanted to mention that again. The Indonesian Annual Festival is being held on September 10th.

Councilor Cameron thanked Councilor Dumont for introducing her to the volunteer and political aspect of the community and wish you well. Councilor Cameron also enjoyed the St. Ignatius picnic as a guest and enjoys helping as well. She also is looking forward to National Night Out.


Councilor Messier thanked Councilor Dumont for his service to the Community, and also the panel of Mayors and the Commissioner for initiating the long-term plan that addresses multiple issues. Councilor Messier also mentioned he has concerns about the water shut down and having a plan in case something happens while dealing with old piping, that perhaps we exercise the emergency line from Dover. Councilor Messier also expressed his concern with the wasting of water when watering a lawn, the taxation of storm water should be thought about because of EPA regulations that may affect the way the water would have to be treated. Councilor Messier requested to consider the quality of the trash bags when the discussion of raising prices on the bags comes up again. Councilor Messier also suggested to be prepared for budget time and being prepared for the increase of expenses.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Dumont 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 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ammy Ramsey, Deputy City Clerk

	City of Somersworth – Resolution
	Resolution No: 1-23 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A HISTORICAL MARKER AND FOR THE CITY TO AGREE TO PROVIDE MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF SAID MARKER

July 5, 2022

WHEREAS, pursuant to New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated 236:44, as inserted by Chapter 422, Laws of 1983, and by New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated 227-C:4, X., pursuant to Chapter 345, Laws of 1985, authority was granted to the Division of Historical Resources / State Historic Preservation Office to enter into cooperative arrangements with cities, towns, and local historical organizations or societies for the erection of markers, for the purpose of indicating the occurrence of historical events, within the rights of way of Class IV and V highways; and

WHEREAS, said RSA 236:44 requires that the Division of Historical Resources / State Historic Preservation Office's authority to enter into such agreements is conditioned upon the city, town, or local historical organization or society agreeing to the subsequent maintenance and care of said markers; and

WHEREAS, the City desires a historical marker be placed near the former Hilltop School which has been placed on the National Registry of Historic Places, and will describe the School's distinction as the first public High School in the State of New Hampshire;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to sign an agreement with the State of New Hampshire, Division of Historical Resources to pay for the full cost of a historical marker by means of funds donated to or appropriated by the City, and for the installation of a historical marker and for the City to agree to provide maintenance and care of said historical marker.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by:</i> Dana S. Hilliard <i>Councilors:</i> Nancie Cameron Matt Gerding Denis Messier	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

Richard R. Michaud Martin Pepin Kenneth Vincent David A. Witham	
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City of Somersworth – Resolution 1-23

History			
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First Read Date:	7/5/2023	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	8/1/2022		

Discussion

7/5/2022


Councilor Vincent would like to be an additional sponsor.

Resolution No. 1-23 will remain in first reading until call of the Chair.

8/1/2022

Councilor Gerding made a motion to approve Resolution 1-23. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed by roll call vote 9-0.

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	Messier	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0

	City of Somersworth – Resolution		
	Resolution No:	4-23	
TO DISCONTINUE THE SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH RSA 34:11-A			
On 8/1/2022	Resolution 1-23	PASSED	FAILED

July 5, 2022

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution 18-11 on March 21, 2011, to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of construction, reconstruction, or rehabilitation of City sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth's 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Plan includes a recommendation to fund sidewalk improvements through the annual operating budget each year; and

WHEREAS the adopted Fiscal Year 2023 budget contains an appropriation for sidewalk improvements as recommended in the Capital Improvement Plan; and

WHEREAS funding sidewalk improvements through the annual operating budget makes the use of the Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund unnecessary; and

WHEREAS, RSA 34:11-a grants the City Council the authority to discontinue a Capital Reserve Fund and direct the Trustees of Trust Funds to pay all the moneys in said fund to the City Treasury;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the Sidewalk Improvement Capital Reserve Fund shall be discontinued in accordance with RSA 34-11-a and direct the Trustees of Trust Funds to pay all the moneys in said fund to the City Treasury.

Note: RSA 34-11-a requires a Public Hearing, and the Public Notice for the Public Hearing must include a statement distinctly stating the reason(s) for which such Reserve is to be discontinued.

Authorization

<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> David A. Witham Donald Austin Martin P. Dumont Matt Gerding	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney
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City of Somersworth – Resolution 4-23

History

First Read Date:	7/5/2022	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	8/1/2022		

Discussion

7/5/2022

Resolution No. 4-23 will remain in first reading until call of the Chair.

8/1/2022

Councilor Witham made a motion to approve Resolution 4-23. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron.

Discussion:


Councilor Messier expressed his concern for ending this Capital Reserve Fund because he feels it may be cut during the budget.

Councilor Austin stated he does understand the concerns but feels that this Council will stand by the commitment of repairing sidewalks.

Councilor Witham as well understands the reservations but the intent is to put the funds all in one place to be able to repair sidewalks in a robust way like they have done with recent road repairs.

The motion passed by roll call vote 7-2-0 Councilors Dumont and Messier opposing.

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	

	City of Somersworth – Resolution		
	Resolution No: 5-23 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FOR A WASTEWATER COLLECTION ASSET INVENTORY AND SYSTEM MASTER PLAN		
At Large Councilor	Messier		X
TOTAL VOTES:		7	2
On 8/1/2022	Resolution 4-23	PASSED	FAILED

August 1, 2022

WHEREAS, City staff has solicited proposals for a sewer system collection assessment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth has received notification of the establishment of a 2023 Asset Management Planning Grant Program to support the development of an updated wastewater collection inventory and system master plan that can be used in conjunction with the sewer system collection assessment; and

WHEREAS, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has awarded the City a 100% grant of \$60,000 (Sixty Thousand Dollars), to be used to support the planning and development of an updated sewer collection asset inventory assessment, and

WHEREAS, the project will result in a condition analysis of all sewer collection assets and estimated remaining useful life, a level of service and priority ranking of asset condition, and an evaluation of the City's sewer collection system evaluation,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to execute any documents and agreements necessary for the grant's acceptance and execution, and take any and all other such actions relative to this grant project's completion determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> Donald Austin Nancie Cameron Martin P. Dumont Matt Gerding	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

Denis Messier Richard R. Michaud Martin Pepin Kenneth Vincent David A. Witham	
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City of Somersworth – Resolution 5-23

History


First Read Date:	8/1/2022	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

Discussion

8/1/2022

Resolution No. 5-23 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		

	City of Somersworth – Resolution		
	Resolution No: 6-23 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR A COMMUNITY FACILITY GRANT TO BE USED FOR THE PURCHASE OF A THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA		
TOTAL VOTES:			
<div>On</div> <div>Resolution 5-23</div> <div>PASSED</div> <div>FAILED</div>			

August 1, 2022

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2023 adopted budget includes an appropriation for the purchase of a thermal imaging camera for the Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth has applied for a community facility grant through the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development to assist in the purchase of the thermal imaging camera; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth has received notification of a Grant Award in the amount of \$3,900 (Three Thousand Nine Hundred dollars); and

EXPLANATION OF TOTAL PROJECT GRANT BREAKDOWN:

USDA Grant Award	=	\$ 3,900
City Match	=	\$ 7,408
Total Project Cost	=	\$11,308

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to execute any documents and agreements necessary for the grant's execution, and take any and all other such actions relative to this grant determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> Nancie Cameron Martin P. Dumont Matt Gerding	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

Denis Messier Richard R. Michaud Martin Pepin Kenneth Vincent David A. Witham	
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City of Somersworth – Resolution 6-23

History

First Read Date:	8/1/2022	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	8/1/2022		

Discussion

8/1/2022

Councilor Pepin made a motion to waive Council Rules to allow for a second reading of Resolution No. 6-23. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed by voice vote. Clerk Ramsey performed a seconded reading of Resolution No. 6-23.

Councilor Pepin made a motion to adopt Resolution 6-23. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent.

Discussion:


Councilor Austin inquired with the City Manager the budgeted amount for the purchase of the camera. City Manager Belmore stated the Council appropriated \$11,308.00.

Councilor Vincent stated that the Thermal Imaging Camera's saves lives and is worth it and requested the Council vote yes.

Councilor Messier inquired where the funds in the amount of \$3,900.00 are going to. City Manager Belmore stated that those funds will stay in the Fire Department Budget.

Resolution 6-23 passed by roll call vote 9-0.

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	Messier	X	

	City of Somersworth – Resolution		
	Resolution No: 7-23 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO THE CONTRIBUTION ASSURANCE PROGRAM WITH PRIMEX OF CONCORD, NH FOR PROPERTY AND LIABILITY INSURANCE AND WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE		
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On 8/1/2022	Resolution 6-23	PASSED	FAILED

August 1, 2022

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth contracts with PRIMEX of Concord, NH to provide property and liability insurance coverage and workers compensation insurance; and

WHEREAS, PRIMEX offers a contribution assurance program whereby if the City agrees to extend the contract for coverage for an additional 3 (three) years, PRIMEX will agree that any annual rate increase for Worker’s Compensation will not exceed 6%, and any increase for Property and Liability will not exceed 9%;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to enter into the contribution assurance program with PRIMEX of Concord, NH for property and liability insurance and workers compensation insurance and extend our contract for coverage for an additional three years.

Authorization

Sponsored by Request:
Mayor Dana S. Hilliard

Approved:
City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Resolution 7-23**History**

First Read Date:	8/1/2022	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	8/1/2022		

Discussion

8/1/2022

*Councilor Witham recused himself and he left the Council Chambers.
Councilor Gerding made a motion to waive Council Rules to allow for a second reading of Resolution No. 7-23. The motion was seconded by Councilor Austin and passed by voice vote.
Clerk Ramsey performed a seconded reading of Resolution No. 7-23.
Councilor Messier made a motion to adopt Resolution 7-23. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gerding.*

Discussion:

Councilor Vincent mentioned that insurance is going up all across the board but inquired with City Manager Belmore if Primex is the best insurance company for the City financially for the services received. City Manager Belmore stated they have not gone out for bid, but he is recommending to continue with Primex and believes it is in the best interest of the City to continue using Primex. Councilor Vincent inquired if there are other companies out there that handle municipal insurance. Manager Belmore stated that there may be one or two other companies out there, however he was not certain. Councilor Vincent questioned why the City wouldn't want to pursue the bidding process.

Councilor Messier inquired about any complaints or issue with Primex or their services. City Manager Belmore stated that there has not been any complaints or issues with coverage.

Councilor Pepin mentioned New Hampshire Municipal Association did insurance, and City Manager Belmore stated yes but they have since stopped offering Property and Liability and Worker's Compensation insurance.

Councilor Austin mentioned that Primex is the premier carrier and feels that going with a smaller carrier could make the rates fluctuate and the coverage may not be the same.

Councilor Dumont stated he believes that doing due diligence is the way to go and that they have an obligation to do that. Councilor Dumont also mentioned that by receiving this offer to extend coverage for another 3 years with the rate increase cap makes him wonder if there are other companies with other options available.

Councilor Vincent mentioned that he does not have anything against Primex, but is just asking to get another number.

Councilor Austin requested clarification without objection. Councilor Austin asked if Resolution 7-23 did not pass that it does not mean the City would lose coverage or mean that the City did not want to do business with Primex. Mayor Hilliard confirmed that the original agreement for insurance will still be in effect.

Councilor Vincent inquired about when the current contract ends and if we are on a time constraint. City Manager Belmore stated that we would not lose coverage, and that if this is voted down this evening it would not be accepting the agreement to the cap.

Resolution 7-23 passed 6-2, Councilors Vincent and Dumont opposed, and Councilor Witham was recused.

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	RECUSED	
At Large Councilor	Gerding	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Messier	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		6	2
On 8/1/2022	Resolution 7-23	PASSED	FAILED

