

## Minutes of City Council Meeting Monday, April 3, 2023

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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, Gibson, Austin, Michaud, Witham, Gerding, Cameron and Messier.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilor Cameron led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **RECOGNITION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE – OUR NATIVE ANCESTRAL AMERICANS**

Mayor Hilliard read the Recognition of Indigenous People – Our Native Ancestral Americans

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **A. Ordinance 18-23 – Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget**

There were no comments

### **COMMENTS BY VISITORS**

Padraic O'Hare, 243 Green Street, commented on his application to fill the vacant At-large School Board Member position and hopes for the support of the City Council and mentioned having a daughter that attends the Somersworth High School. He thanked the Council for their time.

Krystle De. St. Croix, 16 Ron Wyn Drive, commented on her application to fill the vacant At-large School Board Member position noting that she has three daughters enrolled within the Somersworth School as well as two daughters that will be starting school within the next few years. She added that she has many friends and family that work and protect the City and is currently a Supervisor at Wentworth Douglas Hospital. Ms. St. Croix expressed her interest in the vacant seat and her wish to collaborate with the School Board in an effort to provide the students with the best education possible, she listed many different elected positions and administration that she hopes to collaborate with during her term if selected. Ms. St. Croix acknowledged the amount of time and dedication that is necessary if approved to fill the vacancy. She thanked the City Council for their consideration.

Scott Clark, 59 Franklin Street, commented that his family moved to Somersworth around 2011. He shared a story regarding his first interaction with a student of Somersworth years ago at a basketball court and mentioned that it caused concern when deciding whether to enroll his 3 children in the City's public Schools. Mr. Clark noted coaching for Somersworth sports over the last 7 years and having met a lot of great educators striving to create a positive environment for the kids. He commented on being in Concord earlier in the day to witness the acknowledgement of 10 of the City's High School scholar athletes. Mr. Clark wants to make sure that when the kids come back to the City to live or if they choose to be future leaders of the City, that they are proud members of the City. He stated that he feels that voting for someone to fill the vacant School Board seat who was not elected in the last election sends a bad message. He hopes that the Council will keep in mind that the position to be filled is an advocate and someone that the City wants to represent them.

Maggie Larson, Chair of the School Board, commented on the process of resignations and appointments of members to the School Board. She commented that she reviewed the last 5-6 years of resignations from the School Board and acknowledged that it goes through the City Council, she expressed appreciation for the work the Council does regarding the process. Ms. Larson commented on the timeline of the most recent School Board Member's resignation and the process that followed, stating she did not see due process followed and asked that she be notified, as the School Board Chair, before a notice for vacancy is posted. Ms. Larson read aloud Article VI – Code of Conduct for Public Official and Employees, 6.2. Purpose.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. Approve Minutes of the State of Address held on March 20, 2023
- B. Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting held on March 20, 2023

*Councilor Austin made a motion to accept the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gibson and passed 9-0 by voice vote.*

### **COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCILORS**

Councilor Austin commented on the State proposed budget and shared his concern of the Chair of the House Finance Committee introducing a budget amendment that removes all funds from the Education Trust Fund and places the funds into the General Fund. He explained that the Education Trust Fund monies are specifically allocated for Career Technical Education Program, Special Education Programs and School Building Aid. Councilor Austin stated that moving that money into the General Fund, allows those funds to be spent however the State sees fit moving forward and is estimated to cost the State Education System about \$450 million over the next two years. He added that the City cannot accept the downshifting of funds from the State especially when the City is required provide services that the State may not provide funding towards in the future requiring the City to cover the costs of said services. He encouraged all listening, to reach out to their legislature Representatives, especially those in the State House, to advocate against the amendment to remove funding from the Education Trust Fund.

Councilor Vincent commented that he is a State Representative and is hopeful that the Democrats come in strong and change the minds of those in favor of the State's proposed budget amendment pertaining to the Education Trust Fund. He commented on the budget timeline between the State and City and stated that the City is at a disadvantage and wishes there was a better process.

Councilor Witham stated that he "hates" the budget process and explained that tonight there is a second reading of the 2023-2024 budget which begins the process of multiple meetings to come. The Council will then debate all sorts of matters pertaining to the budget, Councilor Witham commented that at the end of the day it doesn't matter because the tax rate will be the tax rate and the impact on services will be what it is. He commented on Councilor Austin's statement of the State downshifting costs to the City. Councilor Witham commented on his dislike for the City Council's role in appointing a member to the School Board as spelled out in the City's Charter. He thanked Mr. Clark for sharing about the scholar athletes and mentioned that the Somersworth High School Baseball team got out on the field today and have their first home game next week.

Councilor Gerding also thanked Mr. Clark for sharing news about the scholar athletes and congratulated the students. He commented on the State's budget and offered more context, he stated

that the comments by the other Councilors have been spot on about the State's budget and he is most concerned of the impact to Special Education funding. Councilor Gerding added that there is another piece to the State's budget that removes and changes the way that the City would receive Target Need Based Aid. He noted that these funds are received based on the level of poverty within cities and towns and the way that the State's proposed budget is structured, reduces these funds by 50% or \$1.4 million. Councilor Gerding stated that the State will vote on the proposed budget on Thursday, therefore, the Community has until then to reach out to their legislators to advocate for change.

Councilor Gibson stated that he agrees with much of what the Councilors before him commented. He spoke regarding the City's current process of appointing board members and the importance, in his opinion, to fill that position to ensure that there is the proper representation.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications.

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

There were no presentations of petitions and disposal thereof by reference or otherwise.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

### **Mayors Report for City Council Meeting April 4, 2023**

Democracy is the most complex system of governing known to humankind. It is a system which is in constant motion and evolution, when it becomes stagnant it falls victim to the very voices it is governed by. For democracy to work, we must honor its long path, its history. From its early emergence in ancient Greece, its experiment in the Roman civilization to its forward propelled motion in the United States.

Democracy will continue its steps forward as long as those who govern carry forth within their best capacities, to ensure with each session, with each term, with each election, that we have built upon the experiment to allow humans to govern themselves, to set their own course and destiny. Our democracy works upon the concept that those who enter governing were ones who were governed, and to leave governing returning to be governed again. It does not require degrees, accolades, or family lineage. Instead, it is built upon one's willingness to sacrifice. One's willingness to navigate uncharted waters, and one's willingness to work to advance something bigger than oneself.

The advancement of respect and political discourse begins with the commitment of each one of us. While at times our system can become trying on each of us, when we step back, breathe, regain our energy, and stand steadfast to the vision of improvements for all citizens, then we are truly together. While each of us have different ideals of how those goals should be achieved, each of us should continue to strive to find commonality among each other, and with that common ground build a city, state and nation we can all be proud of. Each of us steps off the path of advancement from time to time, off the path of civility, off the path of basic respect. However, tucked somewhere inside of the souls of those who view each other as political enemies is a vast amount of energy that

if combined could lead us all with pride, lead us all with hope and lead us all to creating something we can be proud of.

I look forward to continuing this journey as I complete my final term as your mayor. Look forward to working to improve our community and self-method of governing and look forward to finding commonality with all those who serve or have a voice of concern.

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

Under nominations, appointments and Elections; **In accordance with Council Rule 17 Appointments**, the following is being brought forward this evening for a confirmation vote;

A. Steve Goff, re-appointment to the Trustee of Trust Funds with a term to expire May 2026

Also under nominations, appointments and Elections; **In accordance with Council Rule 17 Appointments**, the following is being brought forward this evening and placed in nomination;

A. Elizabeth Nguyen as an alternate member of the Historic District Commission with a term to expire April 2026

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

Finally, under nominations, appointments and Elections; **In accordance with the City Charter the following are being brought forward to fill the School Board open seat; (Roll Call Vote Required by City Charter)**

A. The Following three (3) filings have been received:

- Thomas McCallion
- Krystle A. De St. Crouix
- Padraic O'Hare

**This respectfully concludes my April 3rd, 2023 Mayors Report**

### **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

*Public Safety Committee*- Councilor Pepin reported that the Committee met on March 22, 2023 and first received an update from Chief McLin regarding the Police Department staffing, patrol coverage and training. There was an update on the new unmarked police vehicle being utilized and working well for the department, he added that there is a request for a new police cruiser in the upcoming Capital Improvement Plan. The Chief informed the Committee that there is an upcoming training scheduled for officers pertaining to the body camaras which are expected to be in use by the end of May, and the remaining wellness uniforms and bullet proof vests are expected to arrive in the next week or two. Councilor Pepin reported on Paul Robidas' EMS update, he stated that there continues to be staffing challenges and offloading of patients into hospital emergency departments which is leading to increase

mutual aid at times. In an effort to retain and recruit staff, Stewart's Ambulance is in their final stages of becoming employee stock owned. Councilor Pepin reported on Chief Kramlinger's update on the Fire Department, he stated that there was discussion on possibility of reinstating multi-family apartment inspections recently but there can be multiple legal barriers in place making it nearly impossible without imminent danger allowing entry for inspections. He added that when the Fire Department responds to a 911 call and must enter into a structure, they are trained to observe their surroundings for any dangers and they also work closely with the City's Code Department as needed. Councilor Pepin reported that the Fire Chief gave a brief demonstration of thermal imaging tools and the Committee endorsed the purchase of the tools which is within the spending authority of the City Manager coming in at just over \$11,000. The new Pierce Pumper Engine 5 is currently in Massachusetts going through final inspections before being put into service.

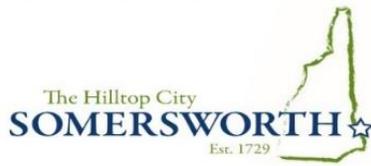
## **REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER**

Councilor Vincent reported on the County Delegation meeting and stated that the County budget was approved by about \$38 million. He added that the budget passed by the Democrats while the Republicans did not pass it due to a question of hiring an architect for approximately \$68,000 to build a new senior care facility to replace the old and inadequate facility.

Councilor Austin reported attending two School Board meetings in the month of March, the first meeting there was a presentation of the new Somersworth High School-Based Health Clinic that has partnered with Greater Seacoast Health, he noted that this is the first program of its kind in the State of New Hampshire and is an outstanding program and is work well done by those involved to bring it to the City. Councilor Pepin reported that a new policy was passed that mandates School Boards have an active High School non-voting member on their board, he added that it is not new to the City of Somersworth as the School Board has always been inclusive to hearing from the students and public.

Councilor Pepin reported on the Fire Station Building Committee meeting held on March 22 at the Fire Station. The Committee discussed the contaminated soil that had been moved to a location off of Maple Street, City Manager Belmore informed the Committee that he had a Zoom meeting with NH DES who had concerns with the moving of the soil without prior permission. Manager Belmore stated that we are unable to move anymore contaminated soil unless NH DES approves it. Councilor Pepin stated that the City received quotes to transport and dispose of the contaminated soil of around \$1,000,000. The City will continue to work with NH DES on the proper way to remove the remaining contaminates from the Fire Station site and the future disposal. The Committee took a tour of the new Fire Station site and discussed removal of trees in front of the station as there is concern of site obstruction and turning radius when Fire Engines leave and return to the Station. Additionally, the Committee discussed the locations of the "Somersworth Fire Station" sign, flag pole and call box. The Committee received an update on the project's budget and were informed that the expected completion date is in July. Committee members were given a tour of the new Fire Station and Councilor Pepin hopes that when there is an open house scheduled, that public will join for a tour.

Councilor Cameron reported on the Eyes on 30 Commission meeting held on March 29<sup>th</sup>. She went over the attainable goals that the Commission identified pertaining to the first three goals; What Defines us as a City, Sustainability, and Preserving Team Approach/Government Approach. The next scheduled Eyes on 30 Commission meeting is April 26<sup>th</sup>.



***Office of the City Manager***

**TO:** Mayor Dana S. Hilliard and City Council Members  
**FROM:** Robert M. Belmore, City Manager  
**DATE:** Friday, March 31, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** City Manager's Report for Monday, April 3, 2023 City Council Meeting

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6:00 p.m.  
*City Manager & School Superintendent Present FY 2023/2024 Proposed Budget*  
7:00 p.m.  
*Fiscal Year 23/24 Proposed Budget Public Hearing*

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*Unfinished Business (under Section 15 of Agenda)*

**Ordinance**

- A. **Ordinance No. 18-23: Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget.**

**Resolutions**

- A. **Resolution No. 38-23: To Authorize the City to Participate in the State of New Hampshire's Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative Program.** Again, the Government Operations Committee voted to recommend the adoption of this Resolution.
- B. **Resolution No. 39-23: To Authorize the City Manager to Contract with Superior Sealcoat, Inc. of Wilmington, MA for Crack Sealing on Selected City Streets.** Again, the accepted Staff's recommendation to award the contract to Superior Sealcoat, Inc. of Wilmington, MA.
- C. **Resolution No. 40-23: To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Grant Agreement with the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for a Lead Service Line Inventory, Sampling Plan and Replacement Plan Grant.** Again, the Public Works & Environment Committee voted to support this Resolution.
- D. **Resolution No. 41-23: To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Grant Agreement with the State of New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs for a Housing Opportunity Grant through the InvestNH Municipal Planning and Zoning**

**Grant Program.** Again, as authorized, Michelle Mears Director of Planning & Community Development applied for a \$25,000 Planning Grant to address a Housing chapter component of our City's Master Plan. We also applied for a Regulatory Housing Audit to examine all our Zoning, Subdivision Regulations, and Ordinances to consider changes related to Housing. This Grant application will be for \$50,000. Both Grants do not require any City matching funds.

*New Business (under Section 16 of Agenda)*

**Resolutions**

- A. Resolution No 42-23: 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.** The City was notified from the State of NH, Division of Historical Resources, that they approved the City's request to place a State Historical Marker at the Forest Glade Cemetery. The State website indicates the Markers cost between \$2,000-\$2,300. Attached is the Agreement paperwork.

*City Manager's Items (under section 12 of Agenda)*

**Informational Items**

- A. Former Police Station RFP.** The City did not receive any bids for the purchase of this real estate. Council had placed a minimum bid on this property in the amount of \$200,000.
- B. Application for Congressionally Designated Spending (CDS) Funding Library ADA Improvements and Expansion.** Attached is a copy of the application I authorized to seek \$500,000 in CDS funding through Senator Shaheen's office. This is the maximum amount allowed to request for this particular project through the CDS program.

**Attachments**

- 1. City Attorney Certifications: One (1)**

**Reminder:**

- **Community Support Organizations & City Budget Review** - Saturday, April 8 at 8:30 a.m.
- **Special Budget Meeting of Council** - Monday, April 10 at 6:00 p.m.

*Mayor Hilliard excused himself from the meeting and requested Councilor Witham act as Deputy Mayor during the Nominations, Appointments and Elections.*

## **NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTION**

In accordance with Council Rules 17 Appointments, the following is being brought forward for a confirmation vote:

- B. Steve Goff, re-appointment to the Trustee of Trust Funds with a term to expire May 2026

*Councilor Austin motioned to re-appoint Steve Goff to the Trustee of Trust Funds. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 9-0 by voice vote.*

In accordance with Council Rules 17 Appointments, the following is being brought forward and placed in nomination:

- B. Elizabeth Nguyen as an alternate member of the Historic District Commission with a term to expire April 2026

In accordance with Council Rules 17, the nomination will remain open until the next regular scheduled City Council meeting.

City Council Vote to fill the Vacancy of an At-Large School Board Member until the next Municipal Election (Roll Call Vote Required by City Charter)

- A. The Following three (3) filings have been received:

- Thomas McCallion
- Krystle A. De St. Crouix
- Padraic O'Hare

**Councilor Austin shared his appreciation for the three applicants and noted that it is important for Community members to take an active role on Boards and Commissions within the City. He stated that from his perspective, the composition of the School Board is important and needs to have diversity, represent all aspects of the Community and also balance experience with inexperience. Councilor Austin mentioned that many of the current School Board Members are finishing up their 1<sup>st</sup> term and with all due respect, he prefers to fill the vacancy with someone who has experience and therefore is in support of Thomas McCallion.**

**Councilor Gerding commented on the process of appointing School Board members to the Board and agrees that the City Council may not be the appropriate board to make that decision and wishes that the nominees could be voted on by the public as is usually done through elections. He noted not receiving any input from the Community regarding their wishes of the vote prior to the meeting, he did thank those that spoke during public comments regarding the nominations. Councilor Gerding stated that because of the lack of input, he felt he should base his vote on experience with someone that he knows which is Thomas McCallion adding that he knows that Mr. McCallion has done great work on the School Board, he trusts him and believes in decisions that he has made in the past. He does not want to discourage the applicants from applying or running for future positions, and encourages anyone wanting to run for a position on the School Board or City Council do so and file in September.**

Councilor Vincent commented that he is involved with many things at both the State and Local level, but admittedly doesn't have much involvement with the School. He stated that he did look into the applicants and outreached for input, additionally, he looks to Councilor Austin as the School Board Guru after his many years of experience and spoke to him about the candidates. Councilor Vincent commented that he was unsure of his final vote but does think that when in doubt, go for someone with the experience.

Councilor Pepin commented that the City usually only receives one application to fill vacancies such as this and commended the applicants for their interest. He noted being a City Council representative who sat on the School Board and other School Commissions and served with Thomas McCallion on those Boards. He recalls him working hard and spending a lot of time on those boards and he doesn't know the other two applicants. Councilor Pepin knows that Mr. McCallion will do a good job and knows that he cares for the City, Community, Students, etc. and stated his vote, for that reason, will be for Thomas McCallion.

Councilor Gibson stated that he is in favor of Mr. McCallion because he knows him and seen him work on the School Board. With also not knowing who the other applicants are, he does not want to discourage them from applying or running for future positions. He commented that if people are dissatisfied with the process of filling vacancies, he suggests that they look to pushing change for the City's Charter.

Councilor Cameron commented that she appreciates the applicants who applied for the School Board vacancy. She encouraged applicants to not give up and noted her experience of having to run three times before being elected to the City Council.

Councilor Michaud thanked the applicants, he stated that he would be basing his vote off of his personal experience and wished that he had been contacted by the applicants prior to the vote. He shared that five years ago today, a vacancy occurred in the Ward 5 Councilor seat, and he submitted an application to fill the seat and contacted each of the Councilors at that time to share his interest in the vacancy. Councilor Michaud stated that he knows Thomas McCallion and knows that he is passionate and did a great job previously representing Ward 5.

Councilor Witham commented that he also prefers that the appointment process lies within the voters but stated that the way the City Charter is written, is to fill the seat in case of a vacancy prior to elections. He stated that he too, looked into the current composition of the School Board's experience. He reached out to each of the three candidates prior to the Council meeting and noted having great conversations with each and acknowledged that he believes each would do a great job representing the Schools and City. Councilor Witham is leaning on the experience matter and is therefore, in support of Thomas McCallion as well.

Councilor Witham, as Deputy Mayor, clarified that the City Clerk will call the roll and each Councilor will name the candidate that they are voting for.

The City Council unanimously voted for Thomas McCallion to fill the vacancy of the At-Large School Board Member seat 9-0 by roll call vote.

### LAY ON THE TABLE

No items Lay on the Table.

Deputy Mayor Witham called the Council to a two-minute recess at 8:08 p.m.

Mayor Hilliard returned the Council from recess at 8:10 p.m.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### ORDINANCES

#### A. **Ordinance 18-23** – Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget

*Councilor Witham made a motion to table Ordinance 18-23. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.*

*Mayor Hilliard explained to the public that this is usually the procedural process with the budget, adding that the Council gives it two readings and places it on the table. He stated that there is a meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> to review the budget in depth by the City Council as well as a follow-up Special Budget Meeting scheduled on Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. The budget is removed from the table during the Monday meeting and debated at that time. Mayor Hilliard stated that the City has until June 30<sup>th</sup> to adopt a budget, and should a budget not be adopted by the deadline, by law, the City Manager's proposed budget would go into effect July 1<sup>st</sup>.*

### RESOLUTIONS

#### A. **Resolution 38-23** – To Authorize the City to Participate in the State of New Hampshire's Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative Program

*Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Resolution 38-23.*

*Councilor Austin made a motion to adopt Resolution 38-23 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michaud.*

#### *Discussion:*

*Councilor Austin commented that he believes that this is an important piece of legislation and an important first step for the City to participate in the Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative. He stated that it was a topic that was discussed by the Hilltop Mental Health and Wellness Commission and that it is nice this action item completed. He commented that he fully intends to support this mission.*

*The motion passed 9-0 by roll call vote.*

#### B. **Resolution 39-23** – To Authorize the City Manager to Contract with Superior Sealcoat, Inc. of Wilmington, MA. for Crack Sealing on Selected Streets

*Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Resolution 39-23.*

*Councilor Vincent made a motion to adopt Resolution 39-23 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.*

- C. **Resolution 40-23** – To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Grant Agreement with the State Of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for a Lead Service Line Inventory, Sampling Plan and Replacement Plan Grant

*Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Resolution 40-23.*

*Councilor Witham made a motion to adopt Resolution 40-23 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.*

- D. **Resolution 41-23** – To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Grant Agreement with the State of New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs for a Housing Opportunity Grant Through the InvestNH Municipal Planning and Zoning Grant Program

*Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Resolution 41-23.*

*Councilor Pepin made a motion to adopt Resolution 41-23 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gerding and passed 8-0 by roll call vote. Councilor Vincent was excused from the vote.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

- A. **Resolution 42-23** – 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

*Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 42-23.*

*Resolution 42-23 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.*

*Councilor Witham requested that his name be added to Resolution 42-23 as a sponsor. There was no objection.*

## **COMMENTS BY VISITORS**

Kari Clark, At-Large School Board Member, commented on being disappointed with the City Council and would like to speak to the Council as a parent and not a Board member. She stated that as a parent a couple of years ago, she felt unheard. Ms. Clark stated that, in her opinion, she feels that the Council is blinded and not open. She stated that she would work hard with Mr. McCallion and continue to work hard for the schools but she is shocked, adding that she appreciates the Council's perspective.

*Councilor Vincent excused himself from the City Council Meeting.*

Matt Caffelle, 45 Otis Road, congratulated Mr. McCallion. Mr. Caffelle stated that he lost during the election to Mark Richardson by about 16 votes and did not apply for the vacant seat. He explained the reason he didn't apply for the vacancy and noted removing one of his children from the school system and the possibility of removing another one of his children. Mr. Caffelle strongly urged the Councilors to speak to their constituents and make themselves more aware with what is going on within the schools. He commented on speaking during the last School Board meeting and that he has

been receiving anonymous letters congratulating him and asking that he continue to speak about what is happening. Mr. Caffelle believes that the school system is the fabric of what keeps families in the Community and hopes that Councilors will do the research.

Barbara Wentworth, Ward 2 School Board Member, thanked the Councilors for the time in the process of the City's budget. She congratulated Mr. McCallion and thanked Ms. De St. Croix and Mr. O'Hare for putting in applications for the vacant School Board seat. Ms. Wentworth shared her concern of the timeline starting with Mark Richardson's resignation and leading up to the posting of the position.

Thomas McCallion, 389 Main Street, commented that he can see the frustration from many. He acknowledged working with many of the Councilors and having respect for both them and the public audience, he understands the hard work that it takes to sit as a member of the Council or board. Mr. McCallion commented on the issues at the State level regarding funding and the need for the City to focus on the bigger issues. He thanked the Council for their votes and will do everything he can to make the right decisions.

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

Councilor Pepin stated that Councilor Vincent excused himself from the meeting because he was not feeling well. He commented on the School Board members comments regarding timelines, he noted that he receives the City Council agenda and supporting documents the Friday prior to scheduled meetings and isn't aware of when items are received. He expressed significant concern of what seems like a fracture between the School Board and the City Council and worries about the negative impact it may have on the students or education. Councilor Pepin recognized Fire Chief Kramlinger, he shared that there was a 911 call that required mutual aid at a time when the Chief was scheduled to leave the State for a final inspection of the new Pierce Pumper Engine, and due to the complications of the call, the Chief made the decision to stay back and take care of the patient and situation.

Councilor Gibson gave praise to the Fire Chief as well. He stated that he served on the School Board for almost 15 years and felt that he was open-minded during his terms until moving to another Ward and having to resign. He added that with his years of experience on the School Board, he felt that by becoming a member of the City Council, he would find common ground. Councilor Gibson feels that he is viewed as old, closed-minded and hiding things from the people of the City and doesn't believe that is the case. He stated that if anyone had an issue with the way a School Board Member resigned, that does not lie within the City Council and feels that the City did what they were suppose to do. He suggested that perhaps a meeting is necessary between the School Board and City Council to determine what is going on and to follow due process.

Councilor Austin commented on the passing of a long-time servant, Dana Rivers, who served on the School Board and their many Committees. He added that Mr. Rivers was a servant to the Community by offering neighbors rides to Boston for medical treatments and other things of that nature. He added that Mr. River's was a caring individual who cared about the Community of Somersworth and could not have done more for the Somersworth School District.

***Mayor Hilliard asked that the Council stand for a moment of silence in remembrance of Dana Rivers.***

Councilor Austin congratulated Officer Colton Deschenes on achieving his Master Police Officer designation stating that it is quite an accomplishment and the highest level that can be obtained by a Police Officer with the department.

Councilor Michaud thanked the applicants for having interest in the vacant School Board seat, all of which are worthy of filling the position. He commented on the filing period in September for anyone interested in running for elected positions within the City. Councilor Michaud addressed the articles that were published in the Foster's Daily Democrat that he felt had a negative tone towards the SAU Administration, he added receiving calls and emails regarding the newspaper publishings and many viewed them as political. He hopes that differences can be resolved. Community Gardens are opening soon, the garden stewards will be assigning plots next Monday and will accept applications until then for those interested.

Councilor Witham commented on the passing of Dana Rivers and recalled his longevity with the School Board and remembers most that Mr. Rivers was very well read and researched on many topics which he used towards his advantage on making decisions. Councilor Witham shared a story regarding his son attending a private school for 6 years and the decision that led his family in transitioning him into the Somersworth School System. He spoke to his involvement within the Community and noted that he does not receive many calls or emails and therefore, he wasn't aware of any issues between the School Board or administration. He encouraged anyone with issues to reach out to him as he would love to hear from them.

Councilor Gerding commented on lack of information and feels that a large number of conflicts is due to missing information and he feels that he is missing information with regards to the School Board discussions. He added the he has not been contacted by anyone but did in fact reach out to the School Board Chair for information after the last City Council meeting that he was absent from. Councilor Gerding stated that with many relationships, they go both ways. He encouraged anyone to reach out to him on his cell phone at 603-568-0268 or by email at [mgerding@somersworthnh.gov](mailto:mgerding@somersworthnh.gov). He noted having names that he had written down of people that he will be contacting to help him in gathering information he feels that he may be missing.

Councilor Cameron congratulated the scholar athletes and noted her son being a recipient years ago, she also congratulated Officer Colton Deschenes on his accomplishments. She gave a shoutout to Director Michael Bobinsky and his staff for the starting of clean-up to the City's dog park.

Councilor Messier commented that he has no problems with the School Board and with having not received any calls or emails, he is unsure where the perception of acrimony has come from. He commented on the Health Clinic being a great thing for the City's schools. He mentioned his lack of surprise with not having received any bids on the former Police Station. Councilor Messier commented on the new Fire Station update regarding the installation of a callbox as reported out by the Chair of the Fire Station Building Commission and questioned its cost.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kristen LaPanne, City Clerk



City of Somersworth – Ordinance

Ordinance No: 18-23

**FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET**

March 20, 2023

THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH ORDAINS THAT BUDGETS FOR THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH FOR THE 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR SHALL BE:

**DEPARTMENT**

**GENERAL FUND**

**BUDGET**

Elected Leadership	\$231,220
City Management	569,803
Finance and Administration	1,817,558
Development Services	1,037,072
Police	4,829,459
Fire	2,563,621
Public Works	3,540,198
Other Expenses	1,445,616
Capital Outlay	192,750
Intergovt Assessments - County	3,049,883
School Department	29,109,022

**TOTAL GENERAL FUND**

**48,386,202**

**ENTERPRISE FUNDS**

Wastewater Department	4,183,996
Water Department	3,236,505
Solid Waste	647,260

**TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS**

**8,067,761**

**SPECIAL REVENUE FUND**

Cable Fund	74,313
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**TOTAL FY 2023-2024 APPROPRIATION**

**\$56,528,276**

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsor by Request:</i> Mayor Dana S. Hilliard	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Ordinance 18-23

**History**

First Read Date:	3/20/2023	Tabled:	4/3/2023
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	4/3/2023		

**Discussion**

3/20/2023

*Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Ordinance 18-23.*

*Ordinance 18-23 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.*

*A Public Hearing is scheduled for the next regular scheduled City Council meeting.*

4/3/2023

*Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Ordinance 18-23.*

*Councilor Witham made a motion to table Ordinance 18-23. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.*

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	<b>X</b>	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent	<b>X</b>	
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson	<b>X</b>	
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin	<b>X</b>	
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud	<b>X</b>	
At Large Councilor	Witham	<b>X</b>	
At Large Councilor	Gerding	<b>X</b>	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	<b>X</b>	
At Large Councilor	Messier	<b>X</b>	
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>		<b>9</b>	
On 4/3/2023      Ordinance 18-23		<b>PASSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>



City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: **38-23**

**TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE’S RECOVERY FRIENDLY WORKPLACE INITIATIVE PROGRAM**

March 20, 2023

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth is a welcoming City where the contributions of all are valued and celebrated; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to a healthy, safe and stigma-free work environment; and

WHEREAS, the City supports the State of New Hampshire Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative which promotes individual wellness by encouraging an environment in which employers, employees and community members can collaborate to create a positive change and eliminate barriers for those impacted by substance use disorder and mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, the Government Operations Committee met with SOS representatives and recommend that the City implement the Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the New Hampshire Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative provides employers with resources and support needed to foster a supportive environment that encourages the success of their employees and Community impacted by substance use disorder and mental health issues;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City will now begin participating in the State of New Hampshire’s Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative Program, and furthermore the City Manager is authorized to take any other actions related to this program determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Authorization	
<p><i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i>            Richard Michaud            Matthew Gerding            Donald Austin            Nancie Cameron</p>	
<p><i>Approved:</i>            City Attorney</p>	

**City of Somersworth – Resolution 38-23**

<b>History</b>			
First Read Date:	3/20/2023	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	4/3/2023		

**Discussion**

3/20/2023

*Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 38-23.*

*Resolution 38-23 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.*

4/3/2023

**Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading on Resolution 38-23.**

**Councilor Austin made a motion to adopt Resolution 38-23 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michaud and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.**

<b>Voting Record</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	<b>X</b>	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent	<b>X</b>	
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson	<b>X</b>	
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin	<b>X</b>	
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud	<b>X</b>	
At Large Councilor	Witham	<b>X</b>	
At Large Councilor	Gerding	<b>X</b>	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	<b>X</b>	
At Large Councilor	Messier	<b>X</b>	
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>		<b>9</b>	
On 4/3/2023 Resolution 38-23		<b>PASSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>



City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: 39-23

**TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH SUPERIOR SEALCOAT, INC. OF WILMINGTON, MA. FOR CRACK SEALING ON SELECTED CITY STREETS**

March 20, 2023

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution 20-23 on January 9, 2023, authorizing the City Manager to prepare and request bids from qualified contractors for crack sealing on the following City streets:

- Maple Street (Blackwater Road to Linden Street)
- Hillside Street (Winter Street to Maple Street)
- Washington Street (High Street to Main Street)
- Kilda Street (Route 108 to Cecile Street)
- Cecile Street (Blackwater Road to Kilda Street)
- Blackwater Road (Dover Line to High Street)
- Salmon Falls Road (Eddy Bridge to Rochester Line)
- High Street (section between Stackpole Road and Commercial Drive); and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee reviewed the results of the bids received with City staff and recommends contracting with Superior Sealcoat, Inc. of Wilmington, MA. for a cost not to exceed \$54,778 (Fifty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Eight dollars);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to contract with Superior Sealcoat, Inc. of Wilmington, MA. for crack sealing on the aforementioned City streets for a cost not to exceed \$54,778 (Fifty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Eight dollars) and to take any other action associated with this project determined to be in the best interest of the City.

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

City of Somersworth – Resolution 39-23

<b>History</b>			
First Read Date:	3/20/2023	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	4/3/2023		

<b>Discussion</b>
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3/20/2023

*Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 39-23.*

*Resolution 39-23 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.*

4/3/2023

**Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading on Resolution 39-23.**

**Councilor Vincent made a motion to adopt Resolution 39-23 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.**

<b>Voting Record</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	X	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent	X	
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson	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	
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>		<b>9</b>	
<b>On 4/3/2023</b>	<b>Resolution 39-23</b>	<b>PASSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>

	<b>City of Somersworth – Resolution</b>
	Resolution No: <b>40-23</b> <b>TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FOR A LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY, SAMPLING PLAN AND REPLACEMENT PLAN GRANT</b>

March 20, 2023

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth has received notification of the establishment of a 2023 Lead Service Line Inventory, Sampling Plan and Replacement Plan Grant Program through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; and

WHEREAS, with the assistance of the City’s Consultant Engineer, the City applied for a grant through the program to conduct a lead service line inventory and water system improvement project; and

WHEREAS, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has awarded the City a 100% Grant in the amount of \$50,000 (Fifty Thousand Dollars), to be used to conduct a lead service line inventory and develop a replacement plan for any lead service lines should they exist;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to enter into a Grant agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for a Lead Service Line Inventory, Sampling Plan and Replacement Grant and 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> David A. Witham Denis Messier Martin Pepin Kenneth S. Vincent	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

**City of Somersworth – Resolution 40-23**

History			
First Read Date:	3/20/2023	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	4/3/2023		

<b>Discussion</b>
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3/20/2023

*Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 40-23.*

*Resolution 40-23 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.*

4/3/2023

**Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading on Resolution 40-23.**

**Councilor Witham made a motion to adopt Resolution 40-23 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.**

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	X	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent	X	
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson	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	
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>
On 4/3/2023	Resolution 40-23	<b>PASSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>

	<b>City of Somersworth – Resolution</b>
	Resolution No: <b>41-23</b> <b>TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS FOR A HOUSING OPPORTUNITY GRANT THROUGH THE INVESTNH MUNICIPAL PLANNING AND ZONING GRANT PROGRAM</b>

March 20, 2023

WHEREAS, the State of New Hampshire created the InvestNH Initiative utilizing ARPA State Fiscal Recovery funds to provide grants to municipalities to analyze and update their land use regulations to help increase housing opportunities; and

WHEREAS, City Staff applied for two phases of the Housing Opportunity Planning Grant. Phase 1: Needs Analysis and Planning; and Phase 2: Regulatory Audit; and

WHEREAS, the City will prepare a Housing Chapter for the City’s Master Plan and have a comprehensive audit of the Somersworth land use policies that will identify policy barriers to housing, and recommend changes that would increase capacity; and

WHEREAS, the City has received notification by the InvestNH Steering Committee that the City has received a 100% Grant award in the amount of \$75,000 (Seventy-Five Thousand dollars) for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Housing Opportunity Planning Grant;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to enter into a Grant agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs for a Housing Opportunity Planning Grant in the amount of \$75,000 (Seventy-Five Thousand dollars) and 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;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is authorized to contract with a consultant, chosen from the State’s List of Qualified Consultants, and to expend these State Grant Funds in the Award amount of \$75,000 (Seventy-Five Thousand dollars).

<b>Authorization</b>	
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<i>Sponsored by:</i> Mayor Dana S. Hilliard Councilor David A. Witham	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

<b>City of Somersworth – Resolution 41-23</b>
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History		City of Somersworth – Resolution	
F		Resolution No: 3/20/2023 42-23	Tabled:
P		<del>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</del>	
S		4/3/2023	
Discussion			

3/20/2023

*Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 41-23.*

*Resolution 41-23 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.*

4/3/2023

**Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading on Resolution 41-23.**

**Councilor Witham made a motion to adopt Resolution 41-23 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.**

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	X	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent	EXCUSED	
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson	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	
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>		<b>8</b>	
On 4/3/2023	Resolution 41-23	<b>PASSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>

April 3, 2023

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.,

**City of Somersworth – Resolution 42-23**

<b>History</b>			
First Read Date:	4/3/2023	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

**Discussion**

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 Forest Glade Cemetery which was established in 1851 and has been placed on the National Registry of Historic Places;

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 including installation of a historical marker and for the City to agree to provide maintenance and care of said historical marker.

<b>Authorization</b>	
<i>Sponsored by:</i> Mayor Dana S. Hilliard  <i>Councilors:</i> Kenneth S. Vincent Donald Austin Matthew Gerding Richard R. Michaud Nancie Cameron Denis Messier Martin Pepin David A. Witham	<i>Approved:</i>  City Attorney

4/3/2023

*Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 42-23.*

*Resolution 42-23 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.*

*Councilor Witham requested that his name be added to Resolution 42-23 as a sponsor. There was no objection.*

<b>Voting Record</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson		
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</b>	<b>Resolution 42-23</b>	<b>PASSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>