

Minutes of City Council Meeting Monday, December 11, 2023

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor 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 Witham asked that without objection, Mayor Hilliard be recognized in leading the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Hilliard led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE – OUR NATIVE ANCESTRAL AMERICANS

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Hilliard requested to revise the agenda to allow for the presentations under Communications to be presented at this time in order for the public to have an understanding of the votes regarding the Somersworth Community Power Aggregation Plan and the sale of the former National Guard Readiness Center. There was no objection from Council.

- A. Presentation by Henry Herndon, Director of Member Services from Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire

Mr. Herndon presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Council regarding the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire. Mr. Herndon explained that the Community Power Coalition will offer Somersworth residents and business owners an opportunity to have lower electric supply rates and more choices for their energy options.

Mr. Herndon spotlighted Lebanon, NH being one of the first cities to enroll in the program and during their first four months, they generated approximately \$1,000,000 in electric bill savings for their enrolled members. Mr. Herndon stated that there is a lot of value for communities that join the program and it is an exciting time for towns and cities to have more of a say in energy decisions and local planning and development of energy infrastructure in the years to come.

Mr. Herndon explained that the Community Power Coalition is a nonprofit organization that is subject to the Right-to-Know law and is governed by members of the towns and cities that participate in the program. As a result of the legislation signed by Governor Sununu in recent years, cities and towns can become default electricity providers for their residents and businesses by essentially pooling purchasing power across their electric accounts. He noted that the utility companies will always own the grid, deliver the power, and bill the customer, however, the energy supply portion of the bill is where the City will have more local control in how they buy that power.

Mr. Herndon explained that the program is completely voluntary to residents and business owners, and customers can opt-out and choose to go with Eversource or another third party at any time without fee or penalty. The program is self-funded through rate payers enrolled in the program and does not impose costs to taxpayers. Mr. Herndon summarized the goals and objectives outlined in the Somersworth Community Power Aggregation Plan including local control, lower costs, clean energy, and resilience and innovation. Additionally, the program would only launch if it is able to initially offer residential default rates that are lower than those offered by Eversource.

Mr. Herndon reviewed an example Eversource bill that detailed how a bill would appear to a participant that is enrolled in the Somersworth Community Power program. He also shared where the City stands in the process of approving and implementing the program. Following tonight's second public hearing, next steps would be for the City Council to adopt the Somersworth Electric Aggregation Plan which would then authorize the Council to enter into contracts in the future and the ability to launch the program. Mr. Herndon noted that the Public Utilities Commission will review the plan and they have up to 60 days to approve the plan after the Council approves and submits the plan.

Mr. Herndon confirmed that the plan includes language pertaining to customers enrolled in electric assistance programs and assured the Council that those customers will continue to receive their discount. He presented an outline of the Somersworth Aggregation Plan and he stated that more informational data would be available from the utility companies regarding the volume of electricity purchased through the program once the City is enrolled in the program. Mr. Herndon shared customer accounts and annual usage estimated numbers comparing utility default and competitive supply customers.

Mr. Herndon shared a map of Coalition members that are in the planning phase of implementing the program, and those communities that have approved the program, or have launched the program. He mentioned that the City of Somersworth is in a good position to launch their program by mid-2024 should the Council vote to move forward with the plan tonight. He also added that, of the communities that have launched the program to date, they represent roughly 85,000 customers which is larger in scale than Until and Liberty electric customers, thus the Coalition having a considerable scale in buying power across those communities and it continues to spread quickly across the State.

Mr. Herndon reviewed the Board of Director sharing that the Board members are volunteers who each bring individual expertise to the group such as serving in the State Legislature, regulators of the Public Utility Commission, and individuals that have been utility executives or founded energy companies. He continued by sharing information pertaining to staff and service providers.

Mr. Herndon presented what the program would look like from the customers perspective. He shared that 30 days prior to the program launch, customer notifications would be sent out to residents and business owners. He added that the City would also be required to host a public informational session within 15 days of the customer notifications being issued and that date would be provided on the customer notification letters, the notification generally creates a good turnout at the information session as it is mailed out to all electric customers. Mr. Herndon shared current electricity rates comparing Eversource to the Community Power Coalition rates per renewable energy content.

Councilor Austin inquired about the supply rate, he questioned if the supply rate will change and who is in charge of determining that. Mr. Herndon confirmed that the rates are set by the Board of Directors and currently, utility rates are set on a 6-month cycle by the utilities, therefore, the Coalition adjusts rates on that schedule to ensure they can offer a discounted rate relative to the utility rate. He added that another advantage that the Coalition has, is that they can purchase power supply freely in the market place month-to-month being that they do not have to follow the same restricted purchasing cycle as the utilities.

Councilor Vincent asked for clarification of the rates, because over the last couple of months he has been hearing that utility rates may be going down and he wonders if that means that the Coalition members will be stuck at a higher rate. Mr. Herndon responded that the motivation of the Coalition is to offer lower rates and that they would be setting their rates based on savings to the customers enrolled in the program.

Councilor Witham asked if this Council were to vote to approve the launch of the program, would a future Council be able to opt-out of the program if they decided that it is in the best interest of the City. Mr. Herndon confirmed that there would be termination language included within a Cost Sharing

Agreement and Member Services Contract that the Council can choose to adopt, he explained that would provide pathways for the City to opt-out as a member of the Coalition.

Councilor Gerding inquired about the fact that the City would not launch the program unless the rate set by the Coalition is lower than that set by the utility. Mr. Herndon confirmed that Councilor Gerding's statement is correct. Councilor Gerding also asked for Mr. Herndon to share information about the benefit and utilization of the reserve fund. Mr. Herndon stated that there is another decision that would come before the Council which includes certain policies that govern the Coalition, he referred to the three R's; risk, rates, reserves. He explained that the Risk Management Policy sets guardrails on how they purchase power in the energy market, the Rate Setting Policy identifies how the Board of Director's set rates, and lastly there is a Financial Reserves Policy. Mr. Herndon, speaking about the Financial Reserve Policy, stated that the Coalition adopted a budget of about \$50,000,000 in revenue this year, he noted that the majority goes towards the purchase of energy, a small amount goes towards the operating costs, and a portion gets deposited into the financial reserves to ensure rate stability and the ability to weather rate changes in the market as needed.

B. Presentation by Kenneth Scarpetti and Douglas Anderson of Hooksett, New Hampshire on Proposed National Guard Residential Development.

Mr. Scarpetti provided the Council and public with draft photos of the residential development that he and his partner Mr. Anderson are proposing. Mr. Scarpetti confirmed that their goal is to preserve as much greenspace as possible while developing a quality residential development that is cohesive with the surrounding homes. He stated that the proposed condominium homes would not exceed more than 2-bedroom homes that are two stories in height as well as the property not having more than 24-units onsite. Mr. Scarpetti noted that an accurate survey of the site will be conducted and the Little League Baseball Field would be subdivided and remain as City-owned property. He assured the Council that they want to be good neighbors by working with the City Council, City Boards, and the neighbors of the property, he expressed great importance on making sure the homes fit within the Community rather than maxing out the property. Mr. Scarpetti shared that they intend to use local tradesmen and suppliers whenever possible during the development of the condominiums. He reviewed the site and he explained the buildings they wish to remove as well as noting the challenges and costs associated with the asbestos identified in both buildings.

Councilor Austin questioned if the developers were aware of a cost range for someone to live within one of the homes. Mr. Scarpetti confirmed that the units will differ in size which means that the costs would vary, however, he is unable at this time to provide an estimate due to the number of variables that come along with surveying and engineering of the site, as well as knowing the full extent of asbestos to be removed.

Councilor Vincent inquired about the characteristics of the condominiums and questioned if they would be the same. Mr. Scarpetti pointed out their proposed designs of the condominiums and he noted that they are all going to have a similar craftsmen look to them and be cohesive, but their intent is that they will not look exactly the same.

PUBLIC HEARING

A. **Ordinance 5-24** – To Amend Chapter 4, Personnel Rules and Regulations, Section 6.4 Transfer Between Departments and Section 7.2 Overtime

There were no public comments.

- B. **Resolution 26-24** – A Vote to Adopt the Somersworth Community Power Aggregation Plan and Authorize the City Manager to Submit the Plan with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission

There were no public comments.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

There were no comments by visitors.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approve Minutes of the Nonpublic City Council Meeting held on November 9, 2023
- B. Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting held on November 13, 2023
- C. Approve Minutes of the Special City Council Meeting held on November 20, 2023

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

COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCILORS

Councilor Witham asked that Mayor Dana Hilliard join him at the podium. Councilor Witham shared that Mayor Hilliard has served the great City of Somersworth as mayor for 10 years and that he has chosen not to seek re-election as his own personally identified term limit. Councilor Witham spoke about Mayor Hilliard's commitment to the City which first began as a teacher within the School District and then as a member of the Council before becoming Mayor for the last decade. He stated that when you think of the City of Somersworth, you think of Mayor Dana Hilliard who has championed to make the Community a better place and he believes that the Mayor has accomplished that goal. Councilor Witham stated that Mayor Hilliard reached that goal by setting a tone and having a vision of how the Council would conduct their business within the Chambers and the importance of the word *teamwork*. Councilor Witham stated that the Mayor has taught him a lot and he added that he will be missed, along with his strong parliamentary presence and leadership within the Chambers.

Councilor Witham commented that Mayor Hilliard has been an advocate for education, public safety, road and sidewalk infrastructure, the City's dog park, and a new Wastewater Treatment Facility. He spoke about the Mayor's advocacy towards homelessness by working with the mayors of the Tri-City and as well as the Strafford County Commissioners, and the fact that this region is better because of the Mayor's continued efforts. Councilor Witham noted other important things that the Mayor has championed for including the Community's pride and culture, Citizen's Place, and continuing effort of inclusion to all. Councilor Witham stated that he believes that history will show that Mayor Hilliard has been one of the best Mayors of the City of Somersworth and he offered the Mayor a heartfelt thank you and congratulations.

Councilor Witham presented Mayor Hilliard with a chair on behalf of the City and the Council that has been engraved with the City Seal. Councilor Gerding presented Mayor Hilliard with a key to the City plaque.

Councilor Witham invited Rochester's Mayor, Paul Callahan, and Dover's Mayor, Bob Currier, to offer comments. Both Mayor's read prepared proclamations on behalf of their City's expressing gratitude and congratulations to Mayor Dana Hilliard on his tenure.

Chair of the Strafford County Commission, George Maglaras, stated that he appreciates Mayor Hilliard's friendship and kindness over a number of decades and that he has enjoyed working with him dealing with some of the most difficult social problems that our region faces. He wished Mayor Hilliard the best of luck and thanked him for his kindness to the City of Somersworth, County and State.

Mayor Hilliard thanked those that offered comments, he stated it has been an honor serving the City of Somersworth. He added that he is leaving the same way he came in, with a team. A team approach that we have modeled within the Tri-City area that shows what democracy is all about in a time where democracy is under assault and being questioned. Mayor Hilliard stated that it is the Tri-City and Strafford County areas that model democracy, not Washington. He commented that when we work as a team and shed party differences, that is when we can truly improve the communities that we love.

Councilor Pepin shared how he met Mayor Hilliard and his parents within the Community a number of years ago. Councilor Pepin recalled that Mayor Hilliard invited him to speak to his history class and shortly thereafter, he was promoted as the Vice Principal at the Somersworth High School and then Principal of the Somersworth Middle School where his wife worked. Councilor Pepin stated that she had nothing but great things to say about Mayor Hilliard then. Councilor Pepin thanked Mayor Hilliard personally for all that he has done for the Fire Department including putting into motion studies to determine if a new fire station was needed for the Community and he was grateful to see that project come to life. Councilor Pepin also mentioned the Veteran's Memorial Park that Mayor Hilliard advocated for and had developed off of Main Street. Councilor Pepin thanked Mayor Hilliard for the support he has given to him, he also commented that he has never known another Mayor to know the Robert's Rules of Order as well as Mayor Hilliard does, and he will be deeply missed.

Councilor Vincent commented that of any of the Councilors, he feels he has challenged the Mayor the most at times, and he added that at the end of the day they were able to remain friends. Councilor Vincent thanked Mayor Hilliard for all that he has done for the City over his years of service to the Community.

Councilor Gibson commented that he hates to see Mayor Hilliard's term end, and he feels that one of the most important things that the Mayor is able to do, is the way he is able to convert people from enemy to friend. Councilor Gibson shared that he had worked with the Mayor on the School Board for years and then again worked with him on the Council, and he stated that once he got to know Mayor Hilliard, he found a genuine respect for him.

Councilor Austin commented that he has always known Mayor Hilliard to be a man of vision and someone who has implemented changes for the better of the Community. He recalled the amount of effort and hard work that the Mayor exerted when the City was transitioning the Junior High School into the Middle School, along with a number of other important accomplishments at both the school and City level. Through Mayor Hilliard's vision and leadership, it has allowed Councilor Austin to progress from school level involvement to also being involved on a City-wide level which has been important to him during his time serving the City.

Councilor Michaud commented that the Mayor is the reason that he is on the Council, he stated that the positive image and Somersworth pride that Mayor Hilliard has created made him want to be a part of the Council as soon as the Ward 5 seat became available. Councilor Michaud thanked the Mayor for all that he has done for the City.

Councilor Gerding stated that the way that the City Council is, is because of Mayor Hilliard and the amount of teamwork that he has instilled in the Council. He commented that Mayor Hilliard is inclusive and a trailblazer for being the first openly gay mayor in the State of the New Hampshire, and Councilor Gerding stated that he is proud to soon follow him as the second openly gay mayor. He commented that Mayor Hilliard has always shown inclusivity, being open and proud which built a strong sense of culture and community that started within the schools and now rings true throughout the City of Somersworth. Councilor Gerding stated that Mayor Hilliard has been an educator to him, not only on the Council, but also taking a chance and hiring him as an educator within the School District years ago. He expressed his gratitude and he stated that he believes that all of the work that Mayor Hilliard has done for the City as an educator, City Councilor, and Mayor, has always been in a selfless manner for the better of the Community and its' citizens and to never forward his own personal agenda.

Councilor Cameron stated that her history with Mayor Hilliard goes back to when they were class advisors. She commented that it is hard to put into words how to thank Mayor Hilliard for all of his service and is proud to have been a part it over the last 8 years. She added that together the Council has confronted adversity head on and has made strides in economic development while keeping their values intact. Failures and successes, that due to the Mayor's leadership, have allowed the City to overcome and be proud Hilltoppers. She spoke about the team approach to government that Mayor Hilliard has instilled in the Community which has created a unique collaboration. Councilor Cameron stated that the City, through the guidance of the Mayor, has celebrated its' cultural background and history, and has consistently provided for our children's futures by investing in the schools. Councilor Cameron listed a number of City upgrades that the Mayor has guided the Council through including sidewalks and roads, the Ash Street Butterfly Park, and the City's Dog Park. She stated that Somersworth has become the best kept secret on the Seacoast and she also commented on the Community's value of the Mayor's favorite saying, *neighbor helping neighbor*. Councilor Cameron commented that Mayor Hilliard's legacy will live on long after we are gone, and she also spoke about his unwavering commitment to the City that is appreciated by the residents of Somersworth that have elected him for over a decade. Councilor Cameron expressed thanks for the Mayor always keeping the City on the move.

Councilor Messier commented that he agrees with all of the comments said regarding Mayor Hilliard tonight. He thanked the Mayor for his commitment to the Community as a whole and for everything that he has done, including on a personal level. Councilor Messier wished him good luck in the future.

Mayor Hilliard thanked everyone for their kind words.

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 December 11th, 2023

Ten years ago, our greatest challenge was ourselves. While the history of Somersworth is rooted in overcoming adversity, as a collective citizenry, our history equally reflects an abandonment of continuing the final push each time, we almost reach the top of the summit.

The spirits of our ancestors from the First Nations, English, French Canadian, Irish and Greeks, continue to guide, push, and encourage from the world of the spirits. Yet, it is we who map the course of our destiny.

Over the last decade, we found the courage to confront the inner demons which have sabotaged the advancement of our collective success. We obtained community enlightenment when we realized that the ingredients to building a home we could all be proud of, is not becoming like someone else. Instead, it is holding steadfast to the values we know as the Hilltopper spirit. It is these values which have been the bedrock of our strength, our forward pathway, and future success.

Each gain, each failure, they are ours to create and ours to own.

So, we went forward, not as individuals seeking accolades or self-proclamation, but as a dedicated team willing to surrender the “I” in exchange for the “We”. Ready to claim wins for the team rather than for one’s personal scorecard. It was through this change in perspective and shift of paradigm that we discovered our potential while also discovering the determination we would harvest. The determination to overcome the obstacles and individuals who still see Somersworth as their personal playground. A playground of selfishness, egos, dishonesty, and self-motives. However, the strength of the flame of our determination to build a Somersworth for all would not fail victim to their tactics, instead we stepped forward.

With each step forward we strengthened, we created, we built.

We strengthened our local government by instating a team approach to governing. Through legislation we created the Joint Commission of the Council and School Board. Worked in sync with the City Manager and city employees and created a Mayor and Council built upon trust and collaboration.

We strengthened our greatest asset, our vast cultural diversity through celebrating each other and how our differences re-enforce the fabric which binds us all together. As a reflection of that strength, we saved a historical object rooted in the Hilltopper culture and history, the Ten Commandments monument. With the monument as its base, we created Citizens Place, the smallest section of land in the smallest city in the state. Since its creation, Citizens Place has proudly waved and displayed flags of our differences. Differences which model the creed of our nation of how we can and must all co-exist.

We strengthened our commitment to the next generation of Hilltoppers by investing in our schools, securing capital improvements, and making sure each of our students have the tools necessary to compete in a global economy.

We built by investing in Somersworth and its future. With over 10 million dollars in roads and sidewalks, upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, revitalization of all City parks and the creation of a new Veterans Memorial and Butterfly and Pollinator garden.

We built a strong dedicated force of first responders, giving them the 21st century equipment and pay they deserve. From fire apparatus, cruisers, a K9 unit, radios, and a new fire station. Our first responders are among some of the best equipped and trained, ensuring Somersworth remains safe.

We created a city, a community, and a home that all of us can be proud of. One that lives by the values of the Hilltopper spirit and reflects its motto of Proud Past, Bright Future.

Leadership is not about self, it is about others, and over the last ten years we have proven that we understand and are committed to instituting and protecting what makes Somersworth great.

Somersworth, my time as your mayor is quickly ending. As you are aware, as a proponent of term limits, I did not seek re-election. Instead, I modeled my values, the values that democracy is to be respected and that elective office is about service to others and not about self.

I entered this office with the same level of commitment and belief in Somersworth that I will exit with. Somersworth, our future, and success will continue to be rooted with the belief in ourselves and the dedication to our community and each other.

While many of our citizens will never surrender these values, be wary of those who wish to use Somersworth for their own narcissistic purposes. From businesses not committed to our community, to seeking and serving in office with a hidden agenda, or a pathway to clear and destroy all that we hold sacred as part of our identity. Somersworth, hold strong to who you are, continue to step forward and climb. When we reach the summit, enjoy the view. Look out at the vast horizon and acknowledge all who have guided us and sacrificed so we can reach that peak.

We are ten square miles of a Proud Past.

We are ten square miles of a Bright Future.

We are ten square miles of diversity with a citizenry dedicated to each other.

Somersworth, our demons have been conquered, we have re-strengthened ourselves with our belief in each other, and we will continue our path to success and greatness. Somersworth, we are more than a city, we are more than a community, we are truly a **home**.

Thank you for ten years of your belief and commitment to me as I served as your mayor.

Together, guided by the Hilltopper spirit, **let us continue our climb**.

God bless each and every one of you.

And God bless these ten square miles we call Somersworth.

This respectfully concludes my final Mayors Report.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Economic Development Committee - Councilor Austin reported that the Committee met on November 29th in conjunction with the Historic District Commission, and he noted that Councilor Witham was also in attendance. He stated that the meeting was scheduled as a workshop to discuss Ordinance 4-24 regarding the downsizing of the Historic District within the City of Somersworth. Councilor Austin stated that the meeting taught him a lot, he specifically noted the discussion around development within the District and their being an opportunity for property owners to apply for grants. He shared his concern that if the District shrinks in size, that some property owners may neglect upgrades to their buildings especially if they are removed from the District and they miss out on the grant opportunity. Councilor Austin also stated that throughout the discussions, that it became clear that there is some ambiguity pertaining to how the Historic District regulations and the form-based codes work together. The Committee is recommending that the future Council Administration consider creating a committee to review how said regulations and form-based codes work together for both new infill and current development within the Historic District. Councilor Austin reported that the Committee unanimously voted to recommend that the Council not adopt Ordinance 4-24.

Councilor Austin reported that a second meeting was held by the Economic Development Committee prior to tonight City Council meeting. The meeting was to review and discuss an application that was submitted by Wentworth Douglass Hospital pertaining to the replacement of existing signage at the Hilltop Family Practice facility located within the Somersworth Plaza. He added that the upgrade to the signs is to bring the practice up-to-date with Wentworth Douglass Hospitals partnership with Mass General Brigham. Councilor Austin noted that the signage will be replacements of the exact same sizes and the Economic Development Committee voted to approve the application.

Public Work's & Environment Committee – Councilor Witham reported that the Committee met on November 29th and first discussed Cole's Pond Road. He recalled that previous discussions determined that Cole's Pond Road is not a City right-of-way and therefore the Council agreed that the City would discontinue plowing of the roadway after notifying the residents who live along the road. He stated that the residents of Cole's Pond Road created an association to do maintenance on the private road which started when they had work done to improve the gravel road way. The association then sent a request to the City asking that they help pay for the improvements because of a small parcel of City-owned property located off of Cole's Pond Road. Councilor Witham stated that through the City Attorney, they confirmed that they City is not part of the association and there is no legal obligation for the City to contribute to the maintenance costs of the roadway. He added that further action for the Council will be to consider selling the City-owned property off of Cole's Pond Road because there is no value for the City to retain the property.

Councilor Witham reported that the Committee discussed the gas line being installed by Unitil which is connecting Blackwater Road to their new transmission substation in the Turcotte Pit off of Maple Street. He added that the Committee received an update that confirmed that the current sidewalk and road repair work in that area is temporary and that Unitil will be reconvening in the Spring to reconstruct the disturbed areas. Councilor Witham stated that they received an update regarding the CMAQ project pertaining to the traffic light signals along High Street and he mentioned that the project is about 80% complete and explained the final steps of closing up the project.

The Committee discussed and made recommendations on the NH Route 108 Complete Streets project per the request of the NH DOT including the installation of a sidewalk, crosswalk options, landscaping and lighting. There was also discussion pertaining to the water meter replacements project which has begun and will continue, he noted that the firm conducting the replacements will reach out to property owners to schedule the replacements. Councilor Witham reported that the Committee also received an update about the Hamilton Street Water Tank and cyber security at the Water Treatment Facility. Parking in the Downtown area was also discussed, the Committee considered the option of pay and display parking, but ultimately, they agreed that the challenge is enforcing the parking time limits with a part-time parking enforcement officer.

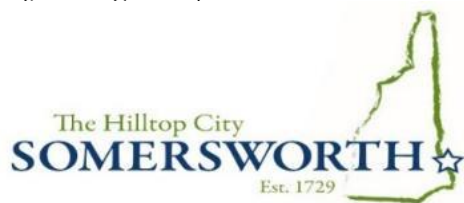
REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

Community Power Committee - Councilor Gerding reported that the Committee met on December 7th for the purpose of having the first of the two required public hearings on Resolution 26-24. He stated that Mr. Herndon went over the same PowerPoint presentation that was shared with the Council earlier and that there were no public comments regarding the Somersworth Community Power Aggregation Plan. Councilor Witham inquired about the need to suspend Council Rules in order to move forward with the process. Councilor Gerding asked that the Council consider suspending Council Rules to allow for a second reading of Resolution 26-24 so that timelines can be met allowing the City of Somersworth to launch their program in June of 2024.

Eyes on 30 Committee - Councilor Cameron reported the Committee met on December 6th and she invited her friend, Deb Clough, to share her work on developing the Don't Trash Dover program. Councilor Cameron stated that she has been interested in implementing a Don't Trash Somersworth program in the City and she will be meeting with Mrs. Clough after the first of the year to discuss what steps need to be taken to launch this program.

School Board – Councilor Austin reported that the Board met on November 28th and the Superintendent announced that the Nation Gypsum Corporation presented the Career Technical Center with a \$30,000 donation for their programs. He added that a committee has been established to determine the best way to utilize those funds.

City Manager's Report



Office of the City Manager

TO: Mayor Dana S. Hilliard and City Council Members

FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager

DATE: Friday, December 8, 2023

Unfinished Business (under Section 15 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. **Ordinance 4-24: To Amend Chapter 19, Zoning, Section 19.3.D District Boundaries and Section 19.14.C.3 District Boundaries. (Re: Historic District) (Referred to Economic Development Committee on 10/23/2023).** The Economic Development Committee met with members of the Historic District Commission on November 29th and after a lengthy discussion the Committee voted (3-0) not to recommend supporting these boundary changes.
- B. **Ordinance No. 5-24: To Amend Chapter 4, Personnel Rules and Regulations, Section 6.4 Transfer between Departments and Section 7.2 Overtime.** Again, the Government Operations Committee voted to recommend this Ordinance change.

Resolutions

- A. **Resolution No. 22-24: To Authorize the City Manager to Contract with Richardson Electric Company, Inc. of Seabrook, NH for the Replacement of Two Variable Frequency Drives at the Water Treatment Facility.** Again, Council approved \$100,000 in the Water Enterprise Fund to complete this project. I recommend we include contingency funding up to the approved Budget amount.
- B. **Resolution No. 24-24: To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Purchase and Sales Agreement with Kenneth Scarpetti and Douglas Anderson of Hooksett, New Hampshire, to Sell the Former National Guard Readiness Center Located at 15 Blackwater Road for Residential Development.** Attached is a copy of a letter from these developers that provides a summary of their plan. They will be in attendance should Councilors have any questions.

New Business (under Section 16 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. **Ordinance No. 6-24: City Council Meeting Schedule for 2024.** I respectfully request that Council consider waiving its' rules to provide a second reading and vote this evening.
- B. **Ordinance No. 7-24: Amend Chapter 13 Police Offenses, Section 3 Traffic Control.** The Traffic and Safety Committee met on September 9th and recommends this Ordinance change. This 2-hour parking was put into place back when General Electric was active. Therefore, the 2-hour limit is no longer needed in this area. If approved, the Lord's Court change will allow residents along the Road to park there during months when snow

plowing does not occur. I recommend a Public Hearing be scheduled for the January 8th City Council meeting.

Resolutions

- A. Resolution 25-24: To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Grant Agreement with the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority to Make Certain Building Structure and Site Improvements at the Somersworth Early Learning Center.** Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) will be the Grant Administrator for this project. Once approved, the Grant Agreement will need to go to Governor and Council. Since this process can take some significant time and the Council approved the Grant application after a public hearing, I respectfully suggest that Council consider waiving its' rules to provide a second reading and vote this evening. Attached is a copy of some of the Grant paperwork.
- B. Resolution 26-24: A Vote to Adopt the Somersworth Community Power Aggregation Plan and Authorize the City Manager to Submit the Plan with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission.** The Community Power Committee met on November 21st and the Committee recommended the Somersworth Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan move forward to the full Council. Two (2) Public Hearings are required to join the Community Power Coalition, the Committee held the first Hearing on December 7th. The Committee is respectfully requesting that Council consider waiving its' rules to provide a second reading and vote this evening so that we can be in position to join next year. There are also a couple of other steps needing completion with the City Council needing to vote again to launch the program. Attached is a copy of the Plan which will be sent to the Public Utilities Commission for approval. I have also attached a copy of our timeline in joining the Coalition of New Hampshire.
- C. Resolution No. 27-24: To Accept the Newly Constructed Sidewalk on Tri-City Road.** The Public Works & Environment Committee met on October 16th and voted to recommend accepting this Road once it was built to City standards. Attached is a Memorandum from City Engineer Amber Hall.

Other

- A. Vote to Appoint Finance Director Scott A. Smith as the City Representative to the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire and City Manager Robert M. Belmore as the City Alternate Representative to the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire.** This was supported by our Community Power Committee.
- B. Set Polling Hours for the January 23, 2024 Presidential Primary**

Informational Items

- A. CIP Fiscal Year 2025-2030.** In accordance with the City Charter, I hereby submit my proposed Capital Improvement Program for City Council consideration. I look forward to Council's direction for future review and discussion opportunities. We have added the FY

25/30 CIP to your google drive and also a hard bound copy is in your mailbox here at City Hall.

B. Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Preparation. Attached is a Memorandum directing City Department Heads to begin their preliminary Budget requests for FY 2024/2025. I welcome any specific Council direction as I prepare the City Manager's Proposed Budget for submittal to the Mayor & Council by the Charter deadline of March 15, 2024.

C. 2023 Tax Rate. Attached is a copy of the Tax Rate analysis provided by Finance Director Scott Smith (as previously sent to you via email). I suspect that all of you have received your tax bill as I have.

D. EPA Brownfields Grant Application – Former Prince's Garage. City staff has submitted a Grant application in the amount of \$727,800 Brownfields cleanup Grant for this property at 261 Main Street. Grant Awards will be announced by EPA in the Spring of 2024. As you may recall, this is a public-private partnership authorized by Council.

Attachments

- 1. Department Head Reports**
- 2. City Attorney Certifications:** Five (5)

City Manager Belmore added that former Fire Chief George Kramlinger, had resigned from the City and he wanted to public thank Mr. Kramlinger for his service to the Somersworth Community. Recruitment for a Fire Chief is commencing this week and former Rochester Fire Chief, Mark Dellner, will be serving as the interim Fire Chief over the next several months while the City works to hire a new Fire Chief.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTION

There were no Nominations, Appointments and Elections.

LAY ON THE TABLE

There were no items under Lay on the Table.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

- A. **Ordinance 4-24** – To Amend Chapter 19, Zoning, Section 19.3.D District Boundaries and Section 19.14.C.3 District Boundaries (Re: Historic District) (Referred to Economic Development Committee on 10/23/2023)

Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Ordinance 4-24.

Councilor Austin made a motion to not adopt Ordinance 4-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gibson.

Discussion:

Councilor Gibson stated that he feels that before any decision can be made regarding the Historic District size, the City needs to conduct a comprehensive review of the District and include the residents of the District, Historic District Commission and City staff as needed. He thanked Councilor Witham for putting the Ordinance in front of the Council to be discussed.

Councilor Gerding stated that he agrees with Councilor Gibson. He attended the workshop with the Economic Development Committee and Historic District Commission members and he feels that the discussion and ideas shared is indicative of the fact that the Council cannot be inactive on the topic. Councilor Gerding added that he does not believe that Ordinance 4-24 is the answer to the problems that are being heard, and he also added that as the mayor-elect, he plans to establish a committee to study the Historic District and potential changes to the regulations to allow the Commission to operate more smoothly.

Councilor Witham stated that things came to light due to the 85 Elm Street project pertaining to the process that takes place through the Historic District Commission, Planning Board and Site Review Technical Committee. He stated that it brought attention to people's perception that the Historic District "gets in the way" and is subjective in nature. Councilor Witham stated that his gut tells him that reducing the size of the District is still the right thing to do, however, after he attended the joint workshop, his brain is telling him something different. He commented that he looks forward to what mayor-elect is hoping to do regarding taking a deeper dive into the Commission's regulations.

Councilor Pepin stated that during urban renewal in the 1960's, that most historic buildings were torn down. He shared that it bothers him to see that the City is trying to bring in new development that will upgrade our Community, but the process to do so seems difficult. Councilor Pepin added that he does feel that some buildings need to be preserved, however, there can be changes made that makes it more feasible for the City to see growth within the Downtown area. He commented that he will vote down the Ordinance but wants to see the City move forward with discussions.

Councilor Michaud commented that residents have made comments to him that he is backing down to the Historic District Commission, he confirmed those statements to be inaccurate and he stated that he is looking to find a compromise between the City and the Commission, but he still feels there is a need to reduce the District's size. Councilor Michaud wants to be sure that open communication between the Commission and Council remains, he stated that if there is no forward movement on the discussion of the District's size and regulations, he will have no issue bringing back the proposal regarding shrinking the size of the District.

Councilor Vincent stated that the Ordinance is "not ready for prime time". He hopes that the process can be reviewed from a full picture perspective and perhaps find a way to move some renovations along timelier.

Councilor Gibson stated that he previously lived within the Historic District and he had to deal with the Ordinances that govern the District. He commented that using developers as a way to rationalize changes to the Historic District is not something that he would ever fall back on. Councilor Gibson noted that he is not impressed with the developers of the 85 Elm Street project, however, he does know that development is important and new infill needs to have all considerations taken. He added that he does not want to lose the characteristic of the Community in order to advance development. Councilor Gibson stated that cost is another way that some are trying to rationalize District regulations, and he believes that there are a number of low-cost ways that a developer could present the character of old mill buildings.

Councilor Austin stated that during the Economic Development Committee workshop with the Historic District Commission, cost was not mentioned as a discussion point. He stated that the Commission is willing to work with property owners that want to make renovations by having more flexible guidelines than the Commission previously had. Councilor Austin added that having a Historic

District Commission in some form is a benefit to the City and he also thanked Councilor Witham for bringing the topic to the forefront for discussions in the upcoming year.

The motion passed 8-1 by roll call vote. Councilor Messier opposed.

- B. **Ordinance 5-24** – To Amend Chapter 4, Personnel Rules and Regulations, Section 6.4 Transfer Between Departments and Section 7.2 Overtime

Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Ordinance 5-24.

Councilor Pepin made a motion to adopt Ordinance 5-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 8-0 by roll call vote. Councilor Gerding was temporarily excused from the roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS

- A. **Resolution 22-24** – To Authorize the City Manager to Contract with Richardson Electric Company, Inc. of Seabrook, New Hampshire for the Replacement of Two Variable Frequency Drives at the Water Treatment Facility

Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Resolution 22-24.

Councilor Witham made a motion to adopt Resolution 22-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gibson and passed 8-0 by roll call vote. Councilor Gerding was temporarily excused from the roll call vote.

- B. **Resolution 24-24** – To Authorize the City Manager to enter into a Purchase and Sales Agreement with Kenneth Scarpetti and Douglas Anderson of Hooksett, New Hampshire, to sell the Former National Guard Readiness Center Located at 15 Blackwater Road for Residential Development

Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Resolution 24-24.

Councilor Witham made a motion to adopt Resolution 24-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier.

Discussion:

Councilor Witham stated that he supports the Resolution and he thinks that the plan that has been presented to the Council fits the neighborhood as he recalled the Council considering a number of options for the property such as commercial or utilizing the site for the City. Councilor Witham reminded the Council that the process started with a Commission that honed in on something very similar to what is being presented tonight, however, he feels that the journey that led to this decision was important. He confirmed he plans to support Resolution 24-24.

Councilor Vincent stated that he envisioned a pool and indoor ice-skating rink for the property, however, he will support the Resolution because he believes the developers will improve the area and Community.

The motion passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

A. **Ordinance 6-24** – City Council Meeting Schedule for 2024

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Ordinance 6-24.

Councilor Witham made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow Ordinance 6-24 be read by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 9-0 by voice vote.

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Ordinance 6-24 by title only.

Councilor Witham made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow for a second reading of Ordinance 6-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier and passed 9-0 by voice vote.

Councilor Gibson made a motion to adopt Ordinance 6-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

B. **Ordinance 7-24** – Amend Chapter 13 Police Offenses, Section 3 Traffic Control

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Ordinance 7-24.

Ordinance 7-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.

RESOLUTIONS

Councilor Witham made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow for Resolutions 25-24, 26-24 and 27-24 to be read by title only and to also allow for a second reading of said Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gerding and passed 9-0 by voice vote.

Without objection from the Council, Mayor Hilliard stated that the first reading of each Resolution will suffice as the second reading. There was no objection from Council.

A. **Resolution 25-24** – To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Grant Agreement with the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority to Make Certain Building Structure and Site Improvements at the Somersworth Early Learning Center

Clerk LaPanne performed a first and second reading of Resolution 25-24 by title only.

Councilor Witham made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

B. **Resolution 26-24** – A Vote to Adopt the Somersworth Community Power Aggregation Plan and Authorize the City Manager to Submit the Plan with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission

Clerk LaPanne performed a first and second reading of Resolution 26-24 by title only.

Councilor Witham made a motion to adopt Resolution 26-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent.

Discussion:

Councilor Witham gave a shoutout to Henry Herndon from the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire, he has been extremely helpful in guiding the Committee locally as well as being there to answer questions openly.

The motion passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

C. **Resolution 27-24** – To Accept the Newly Constructed Sidewalk and Curbing on Tri-City Road

Clerk LaPanne performed a first and second reading of Resolution 27-24 by title only.

Councilor Austin made a motion to adopt Resolution 27-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

OTHER

- A. Vote to Appoint Finance Director Scott A. Smith as the City Representative to the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire and City Manager Robert M. Belmore as the City Alternate Representative to the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire

The vote to appoint Finance Director Scott A. Smith as the City Representative to the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire and City Manager Robert M. Belmore as the City Alternate Representative to the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire passed 9-0 by voice vote.

- B. Set Polling Hours for the January 23, 2024 Presidential Primary

Councilor Witham made a motion to set polling hours for the January 23, 2024 Presidential Primary as 7:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilor Austin and passed 9-0 by voice vote.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

There were not closing comments by visitors.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Austin offered the following comments:

Mayor Hilliard, honorable members of the City Council, and residents of the City of Somersworth –

Thank you. To my fellow citizens, I am honored and grateful to have served our City as your elected representative, first on the Somersworth School Board and, most recently, on the Somersworth City Council, for a total of 14 years. Your confidence in my experience and leadership over that time is something I will cherish and carry with me for a very long time.

To the Mayor and my fellow Councilors, it has been a real privilege to serve with such an outstanding group of community leaders to accomplish many significant projects and to assist in making decisions that support our vision for the community in so many ways. I truly believe that, together, we have made a difference.

Thank you to the City Manager and his staff of expert, dedicated people who provide much of the insight and information we need to make our decisions possible. Our city staff is second to none, and your work is sincerely appreciated.

I grew up in a family that valued public service. My mother was a teachers' aide for many years, and my father served on the Board of Selectmen in Berwick for quite some time. Being a member of the local Boy Scout troop there, as well as belonging to a number of other civic organizations as I grew

up, I developed a deep understanding of what civic duty was, and it continues to be a very important part of who I am as a person.

Living in Somersworth for the last 32 years, I have participated in many different organizations that have contributed directly to the City of Somersworth in one way or another. Whether it was my leadership roles in the PTA for 20 years, president of our Parish Council, Chair of the School Board, or as a City Councilor, I have always been guided by my personal belief in the importance of Integrity. Regardless of the role I have been in, I spent the time necessary to study all sides of the issues, listened more than talked, and always chose to act in an honest, transparent and collaborative manner. My end goal has consistently been to make the very best, informed decisions I can in the best interest of the City of Somersworth.

One of the many accomplishments I am most proud of is the way our city governance, the City Council and the School Board, works as a team. When I was first elected to the School Board, there was a culture of distrust between the two elected bodies, and accomplishments were difficult to come by. In my role as School Board Chair, I had the opportunity to work closely with Mayor Hillard as he began to break down the barriers that existed, building relationships based on trust and understanding; always with the goal of moving the two groups to work more collaboratively together. As a result, a Joint Resolution was passed by both bodies to create the Joint Commission of the City Council and School Board, permanently keeping this collaboration in place. At the Joint Commission, discussions occur among representatives of both bodies to increase knowledge and understanding of issues as well as to allow the Joint Commission to recommend actions to each body with a common understanding of those recommendations. In particular, passing the annual operating budget moved to a shared discussion item inasmuch as we came to understand that the city as a whole has “one bucket of money” that needs to be allocated for the benefit of all. In my experience, this collaborative model is unique to Somersworth, and I am proud to have played a significant role in making that happen.

My work on the City Council has been no less fulfilling. We have made dramatic improvements to the way we manage our resources related to infrastructure, provided significant funding to address long-standing capital improvements in our schools, established budgets to meet the needs of the city (even in some very difficult years), and have created relationships with our neighboring communities and Strafford County to address issues that are larger than Somersworth itself. None of this could have occurred without both the spirit and intentional practice of collaboration, cooperation and transparency. I am proud to have been an active participant in many of these discussions and decisions.

As I leave this seat for Ward 4 to the next City Councilor, I would urge all elected officials to operate with the abject transparency and cooperation that has been so successful over the last 10 years. We have seen the destruction that can be caused when there are hidden agendas and actions taken that serve only the personal interest or the interests of only a small group of people. It is vital, for Somersworth to continue to move forward, that we continue to discuss our concerns openly,

honestly, and passionately, hearing all sides and then coming to decisions that are truly in the best interests of all. Anything less moves us backward.

What's next for me? I intend to continue to pay attention to the work being done by our elected officials and will speak out on occasion when it may be beneficial. As with all of us, the future can be uncertain. It will be up to our new mayor and city council to determine over the next 2 years whether the city will continue to make progress toward its vision as expressed by the Eyes on 30 Committee and the Master Plan, will continue to encourage business and residential development in a sustainable and purposeful way, and will foster a governance model that is collaborative and not divisive. I wish you all well as you continue to keep Somersworth "On the Move".

Mayor Hilliard asked that Councilor Austin join him at the podium.

Mayor Hilliard stated that at the conclusion of the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin was confronted by the biggest philanthropist in Philadelphia and Mayor Hilliard paraphrased the famous quote, *So, what is it, a monarchy or a republic.* And Mr. Franklin responded *it's a republic if you can keep it.* Mayor Hilliard commented that the quote has echoed throughout our history and is modeled by gentleman such as Don Austin. He continued, it is modeled by service through the heart by sacrificing family, time and self for no glory or accolades but simply for the service and love. Love for the Community, State, Country and love to the republic. Mayor Hilliard thanked Councilor Austin for modeling the republic and for his service to the City of Somersworth, he thanked him for serving openly, honestly and with the pure intention of making everything he encounters better. Mayor Hilliard thanked Councilor Austin for everything that he has given to this Community. The City gifted Councilor Austin with a chair that is engraved with the City seal and Councilor Austin's name.

Councilor Pepin commented that he dislikes December after a local election because bonds are formed between Councilors. He stated that the Mayor leaving will impact the Council's atmosphere, he added that he knows the mayor-elect will do a great job but still feels the loss. Councilor Pepin expressed that not having Councilor Austin on the Council is also a loss to the City. He stated that his comments are not to take away from the new Councilor coming in, but when someone has so much dedication and vision for the City, it is a shame to see them go. He spoke about Councilor Austin's time spent serving on the School Board as the Chair while Councilor Pepin was the Council Representative of the Board. Councilor Pepin commented that Councilor Austin will be missed by not only the Councilors, but also the citizens of Somersworth.

Councilor Vincent commented that he met Councilor Austin several years ago when he coached his son on the football team, he added that he didn't know him then, however, he got to know him as a fellow Council member. Councilor Vincent stated that Councilor Austin will be extremely missed and that he has been a good servant to the City. He hopes it is not the end and that he will come back. Councilor Vincent wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councilor Gibson commented that he served alongside Councilor Austin on the School Board and he had nothing but respect for him then, and then that respect was reenforced as they served together as members of the City Council. Councilor Gibson stated that there are few people he can point to that have made decisions based on the community at large rather than what they want and he feels that is how Councilor Austin has served his time. He added that he will miss Councilor Austin and he hopes that he will come back. As the year comes to an end, Councilor Gibson thanked all of the City staff

that have served within the City of Somersworth's departments, he added that he believes they are "the best of the best". He extended thanks to the City Councilors and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councilor Michaud commented that he really got to know Councilor Austin by sitting next to him on the Council, he commented that he has jokingly referred to Councilor Austin as his "right-hand man" but thinking about it, he knows that is true through all of the support and knowledge he has given to him. Councilor Michaud stated that he appreciates the friendship that Councilor Austin has given him over the years and stated that he will be greatly missed on the Council, but that he will see him at a number of church and City events. Councilor Michaud also stated that he will miss Mayor Hilliard and he is anxious to see what is next for him and wishes him the best. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councilor Witham commented that Councilor Austin exemplifies what it means to be a City Councilor by doing his homework, investing in the process and being in touch with the Community. He stated that Councilor Austin is a calming presence in the Chambers and that his demeanor, knowledge and thoughtfulness has provided him with the pause and calmness. He also mentioned that there have been a number of times where he has entered the Chambers with specific conviction on a topic and has had his mind changed, he recalls many of those moments have been because of Councilor Austin. Councilor Witham thanked Councilor Austin for his service to the City. Councilor Witham also gave a shoutout to the former Fire Chief, George Kramlinger, adding that he developed a deep appreciation for the Chief and he spoke to some of his accomplishments including being hired during the COVID pandemic and guiding the Department through that, by being proactive and invested from start to finish of the new \$9,000,000 fire station, and by changing the training culture of the Fire Department. Councilor Witham also stated that he knows the interim Fire Chief, Mark Dellner, and he is confident that he will provide a steady leadership during the transition. Councilor Witham listed a few wish list items that he requested City staff to address in the new year.

Councilor Gerding thanked Councilor Austin for his service and he specifically noted his strong advocacy for an increase in educational funding which is proving to have paid off with the recent knowledge of increased funds for the City's schools from the State. He stated that Councilor Austin has spent countless hours serving the City and its schools, and he hopes that Councilor Austin recognizes the impact he had that has and will continue to benefit the City as well as for the State of New Hampshire. Councilor Gerding also expressed his appreciations for Councilor Austin serving as the Economic Development Committee as the Chair, he acknowledged his effort in making sure that the Community continued to grow in the right way with his dedication and shepherding of a number of development projects. Councilor Gerding encouraged Councilor Austin to not be a stranger to the City and he hopes that he will continue to engage in the needs of the Community.

Councilor Cameron thanked Councilor Austin for all that he has done and she echoed all of the comments made by her fellow Council members pertaining to him. She added that he has been a soulful presence to the Community and she hopes that he will continue to be around. Councilor Cameron commented about the Berwick/Somersworth parade and she stated that she has received nothing but compliments from many that attended the event. She also stated that the Shop with a Cop event went really well and she thanked Chief McLin for all the work that he does. She again thanked Mayor Hilliard and she wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilor Messier thanked Councilor Austin, he stated that there is no sense in repeating the comments that have already been said, and he wished him good luck. He stated that the CMAQ project work gives him hope on his early morning travels, and he also added that he was impressed with the amount of participation from other cities, towns, counties and State law enforcements involvement that came out

to help support the City of Somersworth's Shop with a Cop event. He feels that it is important for law enforcement agencies to engage with youth in an effort to educate children on public safety and police are not meant to be feared. Councilor Messier wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.


Mayor Hilliard offered his parting thoughts. He stated that in 11 months, the Nation will elect a United States President, and some of those that are within the political realm believe that this Presidential Primary is perhaps the most important election in the history of the County. He is proud that the City of Somersworth has been the model of a democracy such that the Council members can have a heated debate, and yet leave the room hugging and not holding grudges against those with a differing opinion. He stated he is proud of the teamwork that the Council has shown over the last 10 years and he encouraged the Council continue that moving forward. Mayor Hilliard mentioned the comment made by Councilor Gerding regarding being the first and second openly gay mayors elected within the State of New Hampshire and the fact that it continues to prove that the Community is truly about equality. That people are able to live and not be judged except by one's content of their character, and the acceptance in the City's diverse history such as our ancestors, languages, worshipping different Gods and the ability to form as one, and that strength lives within the Councilors. Mayor Hilliard stated that it has been an honor to serve the Councilors and the Community.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Witham made a motion to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michaud and passed motion passed 9-0 by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen LaPanne, City Clerk

	City of Somersworth – Ordinance
	<p>Ordinance No: 4-24</p> <p>TO AMEND CHAPTER 19, ZONING, SECTION 19.3.D DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND SECTION 19.14.C.3 DISTRICT BOUNDARIES</p>

October 23, 2023

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the Ordinances of the City of Somersworth, as amended, be further amended as follows:

Amend Chapter 19, Section 19.3.D District Boundaries by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

19.3.D. DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

19.3.D.6. Hilltop Historic District.

19.3.D.6.a. Property Map 10. From the corner of Grand and Noble Streets proceed SW down the W side of Grand to Hamilton Street. SE down S side of Hamilton to the NW corner of Lot 123. Follow the border of Lot 123 to the southernmost corner of Lot 123. Proceed SW along the westernmost boundary of Lot 121 to High Street. Cross High Street to the junction of Lots 116/117. SW on the boundary of Lot 116 to Lot 115. SE on the border of Lots 115 and 116 to High Street. N across High Street to the SE corner of Lot 62 (See Property Map 11).

19.3.D.6.b. Property Map 11. From the NW corner of Lot 155 (See Property Map 10) across the intersection of Constitutional Way and High Street to the SE corner of Lot 62. W and N on the boundary of Lot 62 to Lord's Court on the boundary of Lots 62,63 and 63A to the junction of Lot 63A/64. NW on the S boundary of Lot 64 to the boundary of Lot 64/61. NE on the boundary of Lots 64 and 61 across the NW boundaries of Lots 64 through 69. Cross Beacon Street to the junction of Lots 77/80. NE on the NE boundary of Lots 77 and 78 to Prospect Street. Cross Prospect Street to the SE corner of Lot 90. NW on the NW boundary of Lots 90, 93 and 95B to the junction of Lots 95/95B. NW on the NW border of Lot 95B to the junction of Lots 95B/96/97. NW on the boundary of Lots 96 and 97 to Linden Street. NE on the Linden Street boundary of Lot 96 to the NE corner of Lot 96. SE on the boundary of Lot 96 to the junction of Lots 96/95. NE across Market Street to the Salmon Falls River. W by NH side of Salmon Falls River to junction with Property Map 12 (See Property Map 12).

19.3.D.6.c. Cross Winter Street to the junction of Lots 23/24. S on the boundary of Lots 30 and 31 to Maple Street. Cross Maple Street to the junction of Lots 5/10 on Property Map 13 (See Property Map 13).

19.3.D.6.d. Property Map 13. Commencing at the junction of Lots 5/10, S to the SE boundary of Lot 5. W along the S boundaries of Lots 5,6,7 and 8 to Rochester Street. Cross Rochester Street to the junction of Lots 16/17. NW along Lot 17 and Rochester Street to the junction of Lots 17/18. From the NW corner of Lot 17, SE to Lot 16 SW along Lots 18 and 18A to Lot

15. From the NW corner of Lot 16, NW to Maple Street and SW along Maple Street to the NE corner of Lot 20. SE along Lot 15 to Lot 40. NE to the NW corner of Lot 13. SE to the junction of Lots 12/13 and NE along Lots 12 and 13 to Noble Street. SE along Noble Street to the corner of Grand Street (See Property Map 10).

19.3.D.7. Industrial and Commercial Historic District.

19.3.D.7.a. Property Map 10 Main Street and B&M Railroad property onto Lot 190 and 190A to the Salmon Falls River. Proceed N by NW on the shoreline of the Salmon Falls River (See Property Map 11).

19.3.D.7.b. Property Map 11. Follow shoreline of Salmon Falls River NW around Lot 189 to junction with B&M Railroad property. Proceed NW on B&M Railroad property line to a point directly in line with the boundary of Lots 182 and 183. Proceed SW on the boundary of Lots 182/183 to the W corner of Lot 183 (Market Street). Proceed NW across Market Street to the N Corner of Lot 96. S on Lot 96 to the junction of Lots 96/97, SE on the boundary of Lots 96/97, 25B/97; to the SE corner of Lot 25B. Continue 63 feet SE on the boundary of Lots 95/98 and 95/99. NE 124 feet on the boundary of Lots 95/99; then SE on the boundary of Lot 95 to the NW corner of Lot 91. Proceed SE on the boundary of Lot 91 to the NW corner of Lot 90. SE on the boundary of Lot 90 to Prospect Street. SW across Prospect Street to the NW corner of Lot 78. SW on the boundary of Lots 78/79 and 77/79 to the SE corner of Lot 77 (Beacon Street). Continue SW across Beacon Street to the N corner of Lot 69. Proceed SW on the W boundaries of Lots 69 through 62 to Highland Street. Proceed SE on the boundary of Lot 62 to High Street, continue across High Street to the W corner of Lot 218 (Constitutional Way boundary) to the S point of Lot 218. Proceed NE on the boundary of Lots 218, 217, 216, 215, 214 and 168C to the junction of Lots 168C/214/ 212. Proceed NW on the boundary of Lot 214 to High Street then NE on High Street to the intersection of High Street and Main Street (N corner of Lot 210). Proceed SE across Main Street to the Main Street junction of Lots 202/203. NE on the boundary of Lots 202/203 to the NE corner of Lot 202 (junction with B&M Railroad property). Proceed SE on the boundary of B&M Railroad property and Lots 203, 204 and 205 to the SE corner of Lot 205. SE to the SW corner of Lot 205 (Main Street) See Property Map 10.⁸

Amend Chapter 19, Section 19.14.C.3 District Boundaries by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

The location and boundaries of both the “Hilltop Historic District” and the “Industrial and Commercial Historic District” are hereby established as shown on a map entitled "Historic Districts, City of Somersworth, New Hampshire, October 2023", and as amended, which is hereby declared to be part of this ordinance.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> David A. Witham	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Ordinance 4-24

History

First Read Date:	10/23/2023	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:	11/13/2023	Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	12/11/2023		

Discussion

10/23/2023

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Ordinance 4-24.

Ordinance 4-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.

11/13/2023

There was no action taken pertaining to Ordinance 4-24. Ordinance 4-24 will remain under agenda item Unfinished Business until it has been reported out by the Economic Development Committee.

12/11/2023

Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Ordinance 4-24.

Councilor Austin made a motion to not adopt Ordinance 4-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gibson.

Discussion:

Councilor Gibson stated that he feels that before any decision can be made regarding the Historic District size, the City needs to conduct a comprehensive review of the District and include the residents of the District, Historic District Commission and City staff as needed. He thanked Councilor Witham for putting the Ordinance in front of the Council to be discussed.

Councilor Gerding stated that he agrees with Councilor Gibson. He attended the workshop with the Economic Development Committee and Historic District Commission members and he feels that the discussion and ideas shared is indicative of the fact that the Council cannot be inactive on the topic. Councilor Gerding added that he does not believe that Ordinance 4-24 is the answer to the problems that are being heard, and he also added that as the mayor-elect, he plans to establish a committee to study the Historic District and potential changes to the regulations to allow the Commission to operate more smoothly.

Councilor Witham stated that things came to light due to the 85 Elm Street project pertaining to the process that takes place through the Historic District Commission, Planning Board and Site Review Technical Committee. He stated that it brought attention to people's perception that the Historic District "gets in the way" and is subjective in nature. Councilor Witham stated that his gut tells him that reducing the size of the District is still the right thing to do, however, after he attended the joint workshop, his brain is telling him something different. He commented that he looks forward to what mayor-elect is hoping to do regarding taking a deeper dive into the Commission's regulations.

Councilor Pepin stated that during urban renewal in the 1960's, that most historic buildings were torn down. He shared that it bothers him to see that the City is trying to bring in new development that will

upgrade our Community, but the process to do so seems difficult. Councilor Pepin added that he does feel that some buildings need to be preserved, however, there can be changes made that makes it more feasible for the City to see growth within the Downtown area. He commented that he will vote down the Ordinance but wants to see the City move forward with discussions.

Councilor Michaud commented that residents have made comments to him that he is backing down to the Historic District Commission, he confirmed those statements to be inaccurate and he stated that he is looking to find a compromise between the City and the Commission, but he still feels there is a need to reduce the District's size. Councilor Michaud wants to be sure that open communication between the Commission and Council remains, he stated that if there is no forward movement on the discussion of the District's size and regulations, he will have no issue bringing back the proposal regarding shrinking the size of the District.

Councilor Vincent stated that the Ordinance is "not ready for prime time". He hopes that the process can be reviewed from a full picture perspective and perhaps find a way to move some renovations along timelier.

Councilor Gibson stated that he previously lived within the Historic District and he had to deal with the Ordinances that govern the District. He commented that using developers as a way to rationalize changes to the Historic District is not something that he would ever fall back on. Councilor Gibson noted that he is not impressed with the developers of the 85 Elm Street project, however, he does know that development is important and new infill needs to have all considerations taken. He added that he does not want to lose the characteristic of the Community in order to advance development. Councilor Gibson stated that cost is another way that some are trying to rationalize District regulations, and he believes that there are a number of low-cost ways that a developer could present the character of old mill buildings.

Councilor Austin stated that during the Economic Development Committee workshop with the Historic District Commission, cost was not mentioned as a discussion point. He stated that the Commission is willing to work with property owners that want to make renovations by having more flexible guidelines than the Commission previously had. Councilor Austin added that having a Historic District Commission in some form is a benefit to the City and he also thanked Councilor Witham for bringing the topic to the forefront for discussions in the upcoming year.

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
TOTAL VOTES:		8	1


On 12/11/2023

Ordinance 4-24

PASSED

FAILED

The motion passed 8-1 by roll call vote. Councilor Messier opposed.

	City of Somersworth – Ordinance
	Ordinance No: 5-24 TO AMEND CHAPTER 4, PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTION 6.4 TRANSFER BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS AND SECTION 7.2 OVERTIME

November 13, 2023

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

Amend Chapter 4 by editing sections 6.4 Transfer Between Departments and 7.2 Overtime as follows:

6.4 Transfer Between Departments

If an employee, possessing the qualifications necessary to fill a vacant position in the City, wishes to transfer from their current department to another department, they shall be afforded the opportunity to apply and be considered for the position.

7.2 Overtime

Overtime will be paid to employees not exempt from the FLSA at the overtime rate of one and one-half times the adjusted base rate of pay for time worked in excess of eight (8) hours per day and of forty (40) hours per week. Overtime within a class will be offered on an equal basis wherever possible. Overtime shall be approved by the appropriate Department Head in advance unless it is required due to an emergency.

At the discretion of the Department Head, compensatory time off may be granted rather than overtime pay. If compensatory time is granted the maximum balance allowed will be 60 hours. The General Foreman will be allowed a balance equal to the current compensatory maximum allowed in the AFSCME Council 93 Local #863 CBA. If an employee works more than 40 hours in a week, compensatory time off not taken during the same pay period accumulates at the rate of one-and-one-half times the time actually worked. Compensatory time off only applies to time to be taken in a pay period after the period when the overtime is worked. The FLSA has detailed rules regarding granting and accumulating compensatory time which must be fully understood by the employee and department head before being granted. In case of conflict between these rules and the FLSA, the FLSA will be followed.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> Richard Michaud Matt Gerding Donald Austin	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Ordinance 5-24

History

First Read Date:	11/13/2023	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:	12/11/2023	Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	12/11/2023		

Discussion

11/13/2023

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Ordinance 5-24.


Ordinance 5-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.

12/11/2023

Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading on Ordinance 5-24.

Councilor Pepin made a motion to adopt Ordinance 5-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 8-0 by roll call vote. Councilor Gerding was temporarily excused from the 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	EXCUSED	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Messier	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		8	0
On 12/11/2023	Ordinance 5-24	PASSED	FAILED

	City of Somersworth – Resolution
	Resolution No: 22-24 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH RICHARDSON ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC. OF SEABROOK, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF TWO VARIABLE FREQUENCY DRIVES AT THE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

November 13, 2023

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth’s Capital Improvement Plan endorsed a project to replace two variable frequency drives (VFDs) for the raw water pumps at the Water Treatment Facility; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth’s approved FY2024 Budget provides funding for the replacement of two VFDs at the Water Treatment Facility; and

WHEREAS, City staff prepared and accepted request for bids from qualified contractors for the project and recommends awarding the project to Richardson Electric Company, Inc. for an amount of \$90,750 (Ninety Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty dollars); and

WHEREAS, the City Council authorizes the City Manager to utilize an amount up to \$9,250 (Nine Thousand Two Hundred Fifty dollars) for project contingency making the total project not-to-exceed \$100,000 (One Hundred Thousand dollars);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to contract with Richardson Electric Company, Inc. of Seabrook, New Hampshire for an amount not-to-exceed \$100,000 (One Hundred Thousand dollars) for the replacement of two variable frequency drives at the Water Treatment Facility, and to take any other actions necessary for this project determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> David Witham Donald Austin Matt Gerding Kenneth Vincent	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Resolution 22-24

History

First Read Date:	11/13/2023	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	12/11/2023		

Discussion

11/13/2023

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 22-24.


Resolution 22-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.

12/11/2023

Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Resolution 22-24.

Councilor Witham made a motion to adopt Resolution 22-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gibson and passed 8-0 by roll call vote. Councilor Gerding was temporarily excused from the 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	EXCUSED	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Messier	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		8	0
On 12/11/2023	Resolution 22-24	PASSED	FAILED

	City of Somersworth – Resolution
	Resolution No: 24-24 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AND SALES AGREEMENT WITH KENNETH SCARPETTI AND DOUGLAS ANDERSON OF HOOKSETT, NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO SELL THE FORMER NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER LOCATED AT 15 BLACKWATER ROAD FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

November 20, 2023

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Committee met on September 19, 2023 and voted to recommend to the full City Council that the City contract with Heather Kretschmar of the Bean Group for the marketing and sale of the former National Guard Readiness Center located at 15 Blackwater Road; and

WHEREAS, the City Council met on October 9, 2023 and voted to contract with Heather Kretschmar of the Bean Group for the marketing and sale of the former National Guard Readiness Center located at 15 Blackwater Road; and

WHEREAS, the City received three offers to purchase the property and Mrs. Kretschmar presented those offers to the City Council and the City Council met with each prospective buyer to determine which offer is in the best interest of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council supports selling the property to Kenneth Scarpetti and Douglas Anderson of Hooksett, New Hampshire, for \$399,900 (Three Hundred Ninety-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred dollars) for a twenty-four (24) unit residential development, whereby the existing baseball field and related infrastructure will remain in its current condition by way of subdivision and remain in City ownership; and

WHEREAS, the City will support the rezoning of the remaining subdivided site to allow for the construction of a maximum of twenty-four (24) residential units;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to enter into a purchase and sales agreement with Kenneth Scarpetti and Douglas Anderson of Hooksett, New Hampshire, to sell the former National Guard Readiness Center located at 15 Blackwater Road for \$399,900 (Three Hundred Ninety-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred dollars), for a twenty-four (24) unit residential development and to take any other actions determined to be in the best interest of the City to sell this property.

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

City of Somersworth – Resolution 24-24

History

First Read Date:	11/20/2023	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	12/11/2023		

Discussion

11/20/2023

Clerk Ramsey performed a first reading of Resolution 24-24.

Resolution 24-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.

12/11/2023

Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Resolution 24-24.

Councilor Witham made a motion to adopt Resolution 24-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier.


Discussion:

Councilor Witham stated that he supports the Resolution and he thinks that the plan that has been presented to the Council fits the neighborhood as he recalled the Council considering a number of options for the property such as commercial or utilizing the site for the City. Councilor Witham reminded the Council that the process started with a Commission that honed in on something very similar to what is being presented tonight, however, he feels that the journey that led to this decision was important. He confirmed he plans to support Resolution 24-24.

Councilor Vincent stated that he envisioned a pool and indoor ice-skating rink for the property, however, he will support the Resolution because he believes the developers will improve the area and Community.

The motion 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	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On 12/11/2023	Resolution 24-24	PASSED	FAILED

	City of Somersworth – Ordinance
	Ordinance No: 6-24 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2024

December 11, 2023

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT, in accordance with Chapter 3.7 of the City Charter which provides that the City Council’s “regular meetings shall be held on the first and third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise designated by Ordinance...” and Chapter 6, City Officials, Section 6.8.2 of the City Ordinances which also provides that the “City Council shall meet in regular session on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise agreed on by a majority of the members of the Council” that the City Council Meeting schedule for 2024 shall be as follows:

- Monday, January 8th and Wednesday, January 24th
- Monday, February 5th and Tuesday, February 20th
- Monday, March 4th and Monday March 18th
- Monday, April 1st and Monday, April 15th
- Monday, May 6th and Monday, May 20th
- Monday, June 3rd and Monday, June 17th
- Monday, July 15th
- Monday, August 12th
- Tuesday, September 3rd and Monday September 16th
- Monday, October 7th and Monday, October 21st
- Tuesday, November 12th
- Monday, December 9th

This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

Note: Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Mayor, City Council and School Board Inauguration Ceremony

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by:</i> Mayor Dana S. Hilliard Councilor Matt Gerding	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Ordinance 6-24

History

First Read Date:	12/11/2023	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	12/11/2023		

Discussion

12/11/2023

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Ordinance 6-24.


Councilor Witham made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow Ordinance 6-24 be read by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 9-0 by voice vote.

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Ordinance 6-24 by title only.

Councilor Witham made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow for a second reading of Ordinance 6-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier and passed 9-0 by voice vote.

Councilor Gibson made a motion to adopt Ordinance 6-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron 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	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On 12/11/2023	Ordinance 6-24	PASSED	FAILED

	City of Somersworth – Ordinance	
	Ordinance No: 7-24	AMEND CHAPTER 13 POLICE OFFENSES, SECTION 3 TRAFFIC CONTROL

December 11, 2023

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

Amend Chapter 13 Police Offenses, Section 3 Traffic Control, F. Time Limited Parking, 3. Two Hour, by removing the following:

Main St. on the westerly side from 209 Main St. to Spring St.

Amend Chapter 13 Police Offenses, Section 3 Traffic Control, F. Time Limited Parking, 8. All Day, by adding the following:

Main St. on the westerly side from 209 Main St. to Spring St.

Amend Chapter 13 Police Offenses, Section 3 Traffic Control, H. Special, by adding the following:

When signs are erected giving notice thereof, it shall be unlawful for any person having custody or control of any vehicle to park or cause the same to be parked on the west side of Lord's Court during the time period of November 15th until April 15th.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> Kenneth S. Vincent	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Ordinance 7-24

History

First Read Date:	12/11/2023	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			


Discussion

12/11/2023

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Ordinance 7-24.

Ordinance 7-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.

Voting Record		YES	NO
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		
TOTAL VOTES:			
On	Ordinance 7-24	PASSED	FAILED

	City of Somersworth – Resolution
	Resolution No: 25-24 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY TO MAKE CERTAIN BUILDING STRUCTURE AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE SOMERSWORTH EARLY LEARNING CENTER

December 11, 2023

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution 52-23 on July 10, 2023, to authorize the City Manager to apply for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA); and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth has received notification of a CDBG Grant Award in the amount of \$500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand dollars); and

WHEREAS, the City intends to contract with the Granite YMCA as the subrecipient of this Grant; and

WHEREAS, the Grant will provide funds to upgrade the parking lot, install air conditioning, new windows, new playgrounds, upgrade classrooms, and make certain building structure improvements at the Somersworth Early Learning Center;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH accepts the terms of the Community Development Finance Authority Grant Agreement, and furthermore, 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:</i> Mayor Dana S. Hilliard <i>Councilors:</i> David A. Witham Martin Pepin Matt Gerding Richard Michaud Nancie Cameron	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Resolution 25 -24

History

First Read Date:	12/11/2023	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	12/11/2023		

Discussion


12/11/2023

Councilor Witham made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow for a first reading by title only and to also allow for a second reading of Resolution 25-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gerding and passed 9-0 by voice vote.

Clerk LaPanne performed a first and second reading of Resolution 25-24.

Councilor Witham made a motioned to adopt Resolution 25-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	X	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent	X	
Ward 3 Councilor	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	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On 12/11/2023	Resolution 25-24	PASSED	FAILED

	City of Somersworth – Resolution
	Resolution No: 26-24 A VOTE TO ADOPT THE SOMERSWORTH COMMUNITY POWER AGGREGATION PLAN AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT THE PLAN WITH THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

December 11, 2023

WHEREAS, the Somersworth City Council adopted Resolution 2-24 on August 7, 2023 to authorize the City Manager to execute the joint powers agreement of the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire and to form an electric aggregation committee known as the Somersworth Community Power Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Somersworth Community Power Committee’s purpose is to develop a community power aggregation plan for the City of Somersworth in order to provide residents and businesses in the City the opportunity to access a competitive electric power supplier utilizing the benefits of community power aggregation; and

WHEREAS, the Somersworth Community Power Committee has completed a draft plan known as the Somersworth Community Power Aggregation Plan and has voted to forward it to the City Council recommending that it be adopted; and

WHEREAS, the Somersworth Community Power Aggregation Plan must be reviewed and approved by the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission in order for it to be effective; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of the Plan requires two (2) public hearings, the first being held on December 7, 2023 during the Somersworth Community Power Committee meeting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the Somersworth Community Power Aggregation Plan is hereby adopted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to submit the plan to the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission, and to take any and all other such actions determined to be in the best interest of the City.

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

City of Somersworth – Resolution 26 -24

History

First Read Date:	12/11/2023	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:	12/07/2023 & 12/11/2023	Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	12/11/2023		

Discussion

12/11/2023

Councilor Witham made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow for a first reading by title only and to also allow for a second reading of Resolution 26-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gerding and passed 9-0 by voice vote.

Clerk LaPanne performed a first and second reading of Resolution 26-24.


Councilor Witham made a motioned to adopt Resolution 26-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Austin.

Discussion:

Councilor Witham thanked Henry Herndon, representative from the New Hampshire Community Power Coalition, for being extremely helpful in guiding the Somersworth Community Power Committee through the process of joining the program.

The motioned 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	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On 12/11/2023	Resolution 26-24	PASSED	FAILED

	City of Somersworth – Resolution	
	Resolution No: 27-24	TO ACCEPT THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED SIDEWALK ON TRI-CITY ROAD

December 6, 2023

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth Planning Board approved a site plan developed by John J. Flatley for access to a self- storage facility located on a lot within Rollinsford through Royal Drive off of Tri-City Road, and required certain off-site improvements to be constructed by the developer; and

WHEREAS, the off-site improvements included 400 linear feet of new sidewalk improvements on Tri-City Road from Royal Drive to the entrance of Tara Meadows be constructed with an asphalt surface; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works and Environment Committee supports accepting the Tri-City Road new sidewalk contingent on the completion of the sidewalk reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works, including the City Engineer, has completed a review and inspection, and concurs that the sidewalk construction and the 40 feet of granite curbing on the driveway entrance to Tara Meadows has been built to the approved set of plans and specifications and recommends acceptance as a public sidewalk;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City accepts the sidewalk extension improvements on Tri-City Road and is hereby accepted as a public sidewalk.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilor:</i> David A. Witham Martin Pepin Richard Michaud	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Resolution 27-24

History

First Read Date:	12/11/2023	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	12/11/2023		

Discussion

12/11/2023

Councilor Witham made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow for a first reading by title only and to also allow for a second reading of Resolution 27-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gerding and passed 9-0 by voice vote.

Clerk LaPanne performed a first and second reading of Resolution 27-24.

Councilor Austin made a motion to adopt Resolution 27-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron 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	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On 12/11/2023	Resolution 27-24	PASSED	FAILED

