

Minutes of City Council Meeting Monday, March 18, 2024

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Gerding and, upon roll call, the following Council members were present: Pepin, Vincent, Gibson, Paradis-Catanzaro, Michaud, Witham, Goodwin, Cameron, and Messier

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Witham led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE – OUR NATIVE ANCESTRAL AMERICANS

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Gerding amended the City Council Agenda due to clerical error and added Resolution 38-24 to Public Hearings.

Resolution 38-24 – City Council vote to Authorize a Bond to Construct the Constitutional Way Complete Streets Project

There were no public hearing comments.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

Shawnda Drouin, 7 1/2 Prospect Street, commented that she is a proud addict in recovery and she is speaking on behalf of the homeless community. She shared that she has experienced homelessness for about 13 years and she feels that unless someone has lived it, they cannot have any idea of what it is like. Shawnda stated that rehab plays a part in individual's recovery journey, however, that is only a part of it and people need a place to come back to. She commented that with the help from people within organizations like Karlee's Home Team overseeing the Willand Warming Center, people can have the opportunities she has been given. Shawnda stated that cities push homeless people into the woods and then they push them out of the woods with nowhere to go. She stated that the Warming Center has saved many lives and has allowed the communities police officers to do their jobs rather than policing homeless and their encampments. Shawnda referenced the local media reporting that two women went missing months ago and were both found deceased in the woods. She commented that the Tri-Cities have the ability to address the problem and that it is not going to just go away. Shawnda provided the Council with the number of individuals utilizing the Warming Center comparing last season to the current season noting the increase has doubled. She shared that Karlee's Home Team has coordinated with other organizations and worked to get a number of people on housing lists or into treatment. Shawnda stated that she has been sober for two years, is a sponsor for multiple individuals and is working to obtain her bachelor's degree and she gave thanks to the stability provided by organizations such as Karlee's Home Team that continue to help her through her recovery journey. Shawnda mentioned that not all of the homeless individuals utilizing the Warming Center are addicts, she stated that there are a number of individuals that have been pushed out of their homes

due to rent increases. She added she has knowledge of veterans, teachers, nurses and elderly people staying at the Warming Center and utilizing their services. She asked that the Council pay attention to the folks staying at the Center and not just the taxpayers of Somersworth, she stated that the Cities can continue to do something, they just have to be willing to do it, to offer a warm space, a bed, food, and other services. She pleaded that the Council help these people.

Art Rosbury-Yoder, 21 Shore Road, stated he has been a resident of Somersworth since 2017. He commented that he has had many good experiences with the City of Somersworth, and that he also shares some of the concerns brought up by the previous speaker. Art spoke about his experience with the Somersworth Historical Museum and he described it as incredible, being well organized with a large amount of material pertaining to the culture and history of the City. He encouraged the public to stop by on Sunday's when the Museum is open. Art also expressed gratitude to the employees that work within City Hall and he stated that throughout his many visits to the City Hall, he has never had a negative experience with any of the staff. Art specifically spoke about his positive interactions with Shane Conlin, the City's Code Compliance Officer. Art shared that he has had a number of interactions with Mr. Conlin and he commended him for always handling Art's frustrations with a calm and professional demeanor. Art expresses gratitude for the admirable work that Mr. Conlin does for the City and he stated that he is one of the best City employees he has met.

Nathanial Moore, 7 ½ Prospect Street, commented that he seconds the comments regarding City staff and his experiences have been positive as well. He stated that he is advocating for the Willand Warming Center and he is asking for the City's continued support for the Center and Karlee's Home Team excellent management of the facility. He stated that he has been a part of the amazing team that has provided wrap around care that has had a lasting impact to the local homeless population. Nathanial listed off a number of agencies that Karlee's Home Team has been partnering with to assist homeless individuals while the economy continues to decline and inflation continues to rapidly increase only making the situation worse. He expressed gratitude to the Council for their support in aiding the Center and helping to combat homelessness. He spoke about the significant increase in utilization comparing last season to this current season, he stated that the Center has seen an average of 95 people per night compared to around 40 people averaging last season. Nathanial noted that the contract with Karlee's Home Team was designed to accommodate a maximum of 60 people and with a contract amount not to exceed \$207,800 which was over \$50,000 less than the proposal submitted by CAP and for an average of 25 individuals. He added that the Warming Center has recorded sheltering 260 unique individuals which is a 90% increase of unique individuals. Nathanial spoke about Community Action Partnership of Strafford County having federal funds that allowed them to have contracts with 16 hotels and motels throughout the Tri-City area which helped to keep about 500 people sheltered and since that funding ended in 2023, the homeless population has had a significant increase. He shared that he attended the recently held County Commissioner meeting as a staff member of Karlee's Home Team and noted that as of March 11th, the budget came in at approximately \$25,000 under budget and he added that they are on par to keep within the contracted budget. Nathanial commended Amy and Melena, and he stated that he believes that regarding the budget status, it shows the organization has had good management and allocation of funds and he implored the City to continue to support the Center and to find an amicable solution as well as to continue looking into a permanent shelter that can provide the needed case management and wrap around services.

Councilor Gibson requested to speak to point of order, he reminded the Mayor of the five-minute time limit that should be enforced for all public comments.

Amy Malone, Karlee's Home Team, stated that she has been attending State meetings to learn about how other communities are doing. She stated that their organization has gotten a number of

individuals into rehabs who will be returning to the Community in 30, 60 or 90 days, she shared concern that their sobriety will not last if they have nowhere to return to. Amy continued to share the number of individuals they have also placed into housing and given vaccines to, she also shared the number of young adults, elderly, and veterans they have provided shelter to on any given day they have opened the Center. She continued by sharing that the organization has successfully connected veterans to Harbor Homes and the Veterans Administration. Amy spoke about the service provider fair that the organization held and plans for future fairs, as well as her gratitude for the Tri-City's agreeing to allow the Center to be open on Sundays for the remainder of their contract. Amy commented that the guests of the Center have plans to thank the City of Somersworth by holding a clean-up day and also finding ways to collaborate with the Don't Trash Somersworth group and she also thanked that City for hosting the Warming Center in its Community. She stated that the Center is scheduled to close on April 1st and she stated that the weather is still cold then.

Melena Lugo, Karlee's Home Team, spoke about the issue of tents being setup on the Warming Center property. She commented that the tents were not authorized, however, she later learned that it was necessary and she referenced a homeless individual in a wheelchair being pushed into the woods and not being able to get through the wet mud and that started the "domino affect". Melena commented that the homeless consider themselves a community and they will take care of each other. She also passed around printed photographs of the Center property and surrounding area to show that the areas have been cleaned of trash that she felt was misrepresented by social media, she added that they gave the Mayor a tour of the area as well. Melena shared that the individuals that stay at the Center are very helpful and assist in cleaning of the facility very often, she stated that the longer that people stay at the Center, the more connected they are.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting held on March 4, 2024.

Councilor Gibson made a motion to approve the consent calendar as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 9-0 by voice vote.

COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCILORS

Councilor Pepin expressed frustration regarding comments about the Police tearing down tents and forcing people from the woods, he stated that he read the article and checked into the situation. He stated that Police Officer activities are monitored by cameras and he stated that the Police Chief had defended the Karlee's Home Team organization during a recent Public Safety Committee meeting. Councilor Pepin stated that he is grateful for the work of Karlee's Home Team and all of the work that they have done. Councilor Pepin stated that he spent 32 years within the Fire Department because he cares about people and he still does. He has continued concern with the number of individuals that are reporting coming from other communities outside of the Tri-Cities and he also mentioned the number of Somersworth residents which had a sudden and significant increase compared to its neighboring cities. Councilor Pepin reiterated that he does not blame any of the homeless individuals for seeking out the Center, however, he continues to worry that that the issue is bigger than what the Tri-Cities can ask their tax payers to fund and that the facility is not big enough. He stated that the Federal, State and County governments need to provide help on this issue. He acknowledged that the Council has a tough budget process to work through and he noted that the school's proposed budget came in at over \$1,500,000 above the tax cap. Councilor Pepin stated that he does not have a problem with the organization or the people utilizing the Center, he has concerns over the needs being too big for the City to handle.

Councilor Vincent agrees that the increase in the homeless population has become a bigger issue and he mentioned having had discussions with the County Commissioner. He spoke about the fact that

the County has a court house that covers all of Strafford County and the funding is divided appropriately between the cities and towns using a formula pertaining to the utilization of County residents. Councilor Vincent recalled the proposal of the Riverside Rest Home which fell through and setback the plans of the potential for a County-wide shelter.

Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro thanked Shawnda Drouin for sharing her story and what can be done with support. She stated that it is important that Karlee's Home Team is recognized for the work that they have done in the Community and she spoke about the cost cutting that the Willand Warming Center has given to the City with its operations. Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro shared concern that other Councilors have suggested on supporting the Center through funding in the future and she is not in support of closing the Center without another plan being put in place. She thanked Amy and Melena for sharing statistics of the Center and she supports a bigger solution as well because the Center does not offer enough space, bathrooms or showers for the population it serves. Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro commented that the people and their needs will not disappear. She acknowledged that she is grateful for the continued support of Mayor Gerding with regards to the Center and the homeless population.

Councilor Witham commented that he feels that he can hold his own when it comes to the City's budget and other important City needs, however, he admitted that he feels he struggles to understand this issue but he continues to try. He feels that the issue has become adversarial, and he hopes that the Council and Tri-Cities can work to move past that and continue to work to find a solution. He stated that the City of Somersworth has put funds towards the Center and that one could argue it is not enough but that the City is trying. Councilor Witham commented that often he feels that he is met with more frustrations than successes. He spoke about the plan for the Riverside Rest Home and he felt that it had merit with a bigger facility and more available resources, however, he added that he has come to find that he has lost faith that the County will come through with resolve but he still has faith in what the Tri-Cities are doing.

Councilor Gibson thanked those that spoke during public comment and he stated that he understands the desire to want to find support and he also agrees that the City of Somersworth is doing what they can with the number of demands for funds they have while there are other Communities that are not doing anything. He would like for the conversation to be at the National level and work its way down through the State, he added that he will continue to do the best he can with the available resources. Councilor Gibson stated that he disagrees with the way that the federal funds which were distributed to CAP were utilized to pay for hotels and he feels those funds could have been used to purchase a building to better assist folks. Councilor Gibson stated that he wants to work with everyone to find a solution.

Councilor Cameron thanked the public for their comments, and she appreciated the comments that prove anyone can turn their life around with support and stability. She stated that she believes that the City is trying to do the right thing but that unfortunately the homeless population is continuing to grow and is outgrowing the current facility. Councilor Cameron commented that she is hopeful for a more permanent solution and she hopes that everyone can have a success story because she feels that everyone deserves one.

Councilor Goodwin thanked the public for coming out and speaking, he added that he is committed to continuing with the Willand Warming Center funding until another solution arises. He stated that the scope and the expectations of the Center has changed and he added that some people maybe didn't expect that and therefore it is causing some friction regarding future talks of funding the Center further and he also commended the Mayor for his continued efforts in finding a solution. Councilor Goodwin hopes to partner with other organizations, determine who they are working with and also where they are going. He commented that he supports moving forward and acknowledged that it is not going to move as quickly as some would like. He added thanks for the work that Karlee's Home Team has done.

Councilor Michaud thanked Karlee's Home Team and he stated that he believes they are making a big difference in the Community. He mentioned that the Tri-Cities are three of 18 communities throughout Strafford County contributing to the Center and he inquired if that is because no one has asked for additional help from them.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND DISPOSAL THEREOF BY REFERENCE OR OTHERWISE

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

MAYOR'S REPORT

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Public Works and the Environment Committee – Councilor Witham reported that there is a meeting of the Committee scheduled on Tuesday, March 26th at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Recreation Committee – Councilor Cameron reported that there is a meeting of the Committee scheduled on Wednesday, March 20th at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

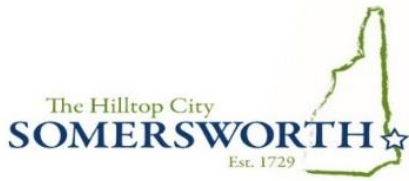
REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

Mayor's Commission on Culture, Ethnicity and the Arts – Councilor Cameron reported that the Commission met on March 13th and selected the art to be displayed in the Mayor's Office during the first quarter as stated by the Mayor in his report. She stated that the Mayor also informed the Commission of a number of grants for art and she noted that some of the grants pertain to the School Department which were communicated to the School Board Chair. Councilor Cameron reported that the Commission will be looking to speak with the City Manager and staff regarding community engagement grants that would allow for murals and other beautifications to the Downtown.

School Board – Councilor Messier reported that the School Board met on March 12th where they informed the public of their offer of the Superintendent position to John Shea and they are currently working on contract negotiations. He stated that the Board also expressed thanks to the benefactors for the fundraising of the School's band uniforms. Councilor Messier also mentioned that the School District will be advertising for the positions of an Assistant Superintendent and a Special Education Director.

Eyes on 30 Committee – Councilor Goodwin reported that the Committee met prior to the City Council meeting at 5:00 p.m. where they continued their onboarding discussion. He stated that they are hoping to have a member of the School Board join the next meeting where the Committee will work towards refining their goals to start putting them into action by creating a priority list that will include timelines with deliverables.

City Manager's Report



Office of the City Manager

TO: Mayor Matt Gerding and City Council Members
FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager
DATE: Friday, March 15, 2024
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for March 18, 2024 City Council Meeting

State of the City Address
6:00 p.m.

Unfinished Business (under Section 16 of Agenda)

Resolutions

- A. Resolution 36-24:** To Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire Cost Sharing Agreement/Member Services Contract and to Approve the Associated Policies for Risk, Rates, Reserves, and Data Security and Privacy. Again, the Finance Committee voted to support this Resolution. Mr. Henry Herndon from the Coalition will be in attendance for Monday's meeting. Attached is a copy of the email that I had sent to all regarding liability coverage, especially on any data breach.
- B. Resolution 37-24:** To Authorize the City Manager to Contract with N. Granese and Sons of Salem, Massachusetts to Construct the Constitutional Way Complete Streets Project. Again, the Finance Committee voted to support this Resolution.
- C. Resolution 38-24:** City Council Vote to Authorize a Bond to Construct the Constitutional Way Complete Streets Project. Again, the Finance Committee voted to support this Resolution.
- D. Resolution 39-24:** To Authorize the City Manager to Sign a Contract with Wright-Pierce Engineers of Portsmouth, New Hampshire to Provide Resident Inspection and Construction Engineering Services Associated with the Constitutional Way Complete Streets Project. Again, the Finance Committee voted to support this Resolution.

New Business (under Section 16 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. Ordinance 9-24:** Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget. The City Manager's Proposed FY 2024-2025 Budget and School Department Budget has been submitted in accordance with the City Charter. Mayor Gerding has scheduled a Public Hearing for Monday, April 1st. The City Manager's Budget Presentation starts at 6:00 p.m. The Budget Public Hearing is posted for 7:00 p.m. as part of the regular Council meeting.

- B. Ordinance 10-24:** To Amend Chapter 32, Water Ordinance, by Amending Section 16.1.a Titled “Rates, Fees, and Charges” to Increase the Water Utility Rates Effective July 1, 2024 and July 1, 2025.

Ordinance No. 10-24 and 11-24: The Finance Committee met on February 21st to review possible increases to our water and sewer utility rates. The Committee voted to recommend the 10% increase for both utilities. I have included an analysis of the water/sewer rates that shows the estimated increases for each of the proposed two (2) years. I recommend a Public Hearing on both Ordinance Amendments prior to the next Council meeting on April 1st.

- C. Ordinance 11-24:** To Amend Chapter 8A, Sewer Ordinance, by Amending Charges Article XV Section 7.B Titled “Sewer Use Volume Charges” to Increase the Sewer Volume Charges Effective July 1, 2024 and July 1, 2025.

- D. Ordinance 12-24:** Supplemental Appropriation for the Additional Funding Needed for the Water Meter Replacement Program. The Finance Committee met on February 21st and voted to recommend this Supplemental Appropriation. Attached is a Memorandum from Finance Director Scott Smith regarding this Meter Replacement Program. I recommend a Public Hearing prior to the next Council meeting on April 1st.

City Manager Belmore requested, without objection, public hearings for Ordinances 9-24, 10-24, 11-24 and 12-24 be held at the next regularly scheduled meeting. There were no objections.

Resolutions

- A. Resolution 41-24:** To Authorize the City Manager to use Funding from the American Rescue Plan Act and the Cable Fund to Contract with Brightly Software, Inc., of Cary, North Carolina for SmartGov Software. The Finance Committee met on February 21st and voted to support this Resolution. Attached is a Memorandum from Michelle Mears, Director of Planning & Community Development explaining the benefits of this Online Permitting Software. Please note that land use applications and building permit applications will still be available to be submitted as done now with forms on-line and at the Development Services Office.
- B. Resolution 42-24:** To Authorize the City Manager to Contract with Fire Tech and Safety of New England of Winthrop, Maine for the Purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Fire Department. The Finance Committee met on February 21st and voted to support this Resolution. Attached is information from Chief Mark Dellner regarding utilization of the Mass State Bid List.

Informational Items

- A. Congressionally Designated Spending (CDS) Funding Approval for Library ADA Improvements and Expansion.** Tina Kasim from Senator Shaheen’s office called last Tuesday informing me that a Funding Bill was approved, which will award the City \$500,000 to assist in moving the Library Accessibility and Expansion Project to the next phase. City Staff submitted this request March of 2023.
- B. Fire Department Grant Applications.** Attached is a summary of the FEMA Grant Application that Chief Mark Dellner and his staff submitted that would complete the department’s Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) project if approved. I extend my appreciation to the Chief for this effort.

- C. **City Clerk Grant Application.** I have approved the attached request to submit for additional Moose Plate Grant Funding, this will continue City efforts on our Preservation of Vital Records. My thanks to our City Clerks - Kristen Lapanne and Ammy Ramsey for their efforts on this project.
- D. **Police Department Grant Application.** I have approved the Police Department's Grant application for Congressionally Directed Spending Funding of \$123,002 to replace thirty (30) mobile radios that are 9-15 years old.
- E. **Upcoming City Council Workshops & Special Meetings.**
- **Monday, April 1 at 6:00 p.m. - *City Manager Presents FY 2025 Proposed Budget***
7:00 p.m. - *FY 2025 Budget Public Hearing and Regular Council Meeting*
 - **Saturday, April 6 at 8:30 a.m. – *Community Support Organizations & City Departments Budget Review***
 - **Monday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m. – *Special City Council Budget Meeting (if needed)***

Attachments

1. **Department Head Reports**
2. **City Attorney Certification Six (6)**

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTION

Nominations Being Introduced for a Council Vote:

In accordance with Council Rules 17 Appointments, the following are being introduced for a Council confirmation vote:

- A. Bradley Fredette for re-appointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustments with a term to expire April 2027
- B. Nancy Mitchell for appointment to the Library Board of Trustees with a term to expire April 2029
- C. Sarah Robbitts-Terry for appointment to the Library Board of Trustees with a term to expire April 2029

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

LAY ON THE TABLE

There were no items under Lay on the Table.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

- A. **Resolution 36-24** – To Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire Cost Sharing Agreement/Member Services Contract and to Approve the Associated Policies for Risk, Rates, Reserves, and Data Security and Privacy

Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Resolution 36-24.

Councilor Witham made a motion to adopt Resolution 36-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier.

Discussion:

Councilor Witham stated that this vote is the next step to move forward in joining the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire. Regarding the Agreement and Contract, Councilor Witham noted that the language has been vetted and adopted by a number of other Communities and their legal counsels. He added that Henry Herndon has been very helpful throughout the process and available to answer questions. Councilor Witham stated that he had questions regarding data security and the Council has since received a thorough response which adds to his comfort level of supporting this Resolution.

The motion passed 9-0.

- B. **Resolution 37-24** – To Authorize the City Manager to Contract with N. Granese and Sons of Salem, Massachusetts to Construct the Constitutional Way Complete Streets Project

Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Resolution 37-24.

Councilor Goodwin made a motion to amend Resolution 37-24 to include a crosswalk on the North side of High Street at the intersection of Constitutional Way and to include solar powered flashing crosswalk beacons and utilize the existing funding to pay for it. The motion was seconded by Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro.

Discussion:

Councilor Vincent stated that the City already went through the bid process and he believes that that correct thing to do would be to refer back to Committee, however, the City is already this far into the project. He stated that the City could be looking at an additional \$100,000 or more and that he would not be in favor of the increased project cost.

Councilor Witham commented that the City did receive an engineering report which included a cost estimate that he recalled being approximately \$15,000 to \$16,000, he added that the cost did not include the flashing solar lights requested in the amendment but from other flashing beacon lights installed, he would guess the cost could be up to \$30,000 to \$35,000. Councilor Witham mentioned that the project includes a \$100,000 contingency and if those funds were to be used up, a supplemental appropriation would be required. He stated that he is not concerned with the money part, however, he had concerns regarding the visibility aspect brought up by the engineers but believes that the flashing lights add the needed safety.

Councilor Goodwin stated that from his experience, he does not feel that the contingency funds would be used up, he added that construction costs change after approval and that is why contingencies exist. He noted that the cost will increase in the future if the Council decides to not coordinate it as part of the complete streets project. Councilor Goodwin feels that it would be a good value for the Community and is a heavily utilized crossing area for walkers and this would add to pedestrian safety. Regarding the concern of water drainage, he is not concerned because the engineering would address that as well as ADA accessibilities.

Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro commented that she appreciates the safety of installing flashing beacons for pedestrians crossing High Street, she stated that the opposite side is just as unsafe in her opinion. Pertaining to the drainage concern, she stated that the curb in front of the Pawn Shop is already cut out and the fact that the engineers priced the crosswalk within the \$100,000 contingency she is in favor of the amendment.

Councilor Vincent commented that he would be ok with an increase of \$30,000 to construct the sidewalk and add flashing pedestrian lights.

Councilor Messier explained the project process and that N. Granese and Sons bid on the project, and that if the Council decides to add in the sidewalk and flashing lights, additional engineering would be required and he still has concerns regarding the water drainage issue.

The motion failed 3-6 by roll call vote. Councilors Cameron, Messier, Pepin, Vincent, Gibson, and Michaud opposed.

Councilor Witham made a motion to approve Resolution 37-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gibson and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

- C. **Resolution 38-24** – City Council Vote to Authorize a Bond to Construct the Constitutional Way Complete Streets Project

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 38-24.

Councilor Witham made a motion to adopt Resolution 38-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

- D. **Resolution 39-24** – To Authorize the City Manager to Sign a Contract with Wright-Pierce Engineers of Portsmouth, New Hampshire to Provide Resident Inspection and Construction Engineering Services Associated with the Constitutional Way Complete Streets Project

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 39-24.

Councilor Messier made a motion to adopt Resolution 39-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Ordinance 9-24** – Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget

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

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Ordinance 9-24 by title only.

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

Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Ordinance 9-24.

Councilor Witham made a motion to table Ordinance 9-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

- B. **Ordinance 10-24** – To Amend Chapter 32, Water Ordinance, by Amending Section 16.1.a Titled “Rates, Fees, and Charges” to Increase the Water Utility Rates Effective July 1, 2024, and July 1, 2025

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Ordinance 10-24.

Ordinance 10-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.

- C. **Ordinance 11-24** – To Amend Chapter 8A, Sewer Ordinance, by Amending Charges Article XV Section 7.B Titled “Sewer Use Volume Charges” to Increase the Sewer Volume Charges Effective July 1, 2024, and July 1, 2025

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Ordinance 11-24.

Ordinance 11-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.

Councilor Vincent inquired about the meaning of 100 cubic feet regarding the measurements of water used. Director Bobinsky confirmed that 100 cubic feet equals 748 gallons of water used.

- D. **Ordinance 12-24** – Supplemental Appropriation for Additional Funding Needed for the Water Meter Replacement Program

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Ordinance 12-24.

Ordinance 12-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.

RESOLUTIONS

- A. **Resolution 41-24** – To Authorize the City Manager to use Funding from the American Rescue Plan Act and the Cable Fund to Contract with Brightly Software, Inc. of Cary, North Carolina for SmartGov Software for the Department of Development Services

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 41-24.

Resolution 41-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.

- B. **Resolution 42-24** – To Authorize the City Manager to Contract with Fire Tech and Safety of New England of Winthrop, Maine for the Purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Fire Department

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 42-24.

Councilor Witham made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow for a second reading of Resolution 42-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent.

Discussion:

Councilor Messier questioned the reason for putting a rush on this vote and stated that he would be voting no regarding the suspension of rules but that he would vote to approve the Resolution itself.

Councilor Witham stated that his motion to suspend rules is because of the potential of a long lead time to get the equipment in as they have experienced in the past with other such equipment recently.

Councilor Messier agreed with Councilor Witham’s explanation.

The motion passed 8-1 by Voice vote. Councilor Gibson opposed.

Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Resolution 42-24.

Councilor Vincent made a motion to adopt Resolution 42-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin.

Discussion:

Councilor Gibson explained that the reason he opposed the vote is because, although he understands the urgency on placing the order, he has a problem with what causes the City to be in a situation where they need to rush the vote.

Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro stated that she supported the second reading to accelerate the purchase of the breathing apparatus and that these funds were approved previously and repurposed from the initial training tower grant funds request.

Councilor Witham clarified that the repurposed funds for the Fire Station training tower is not these same funds but that the breathing apparatus equipment was already budgeted for and approved by the City Council within the Capital Improvement Program and with the previous Fire Chief resigning, the interim Chief is catching up with needs.

The motion passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

There were no closing comments by visitors.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Witham gave a shout out to the small group that assisted Saturday with preparing the little league baseball field for the upcoming season. He also gave thanks to Patriot Tractor for their donation of loaning a commercial leaf blower to assist in the cleanup as well which he noted saved the group a lot of time. Councilor Witham expressed gratitude to the Somersworth Woman's Club and the Somersworth Festival Association for their donation towards the new sound system which is in need of being replaced at the field since the previous system failed. He made a plea for anyone that is able to donate towards the sound system before the season opens.

Councilor Goodwin provided a reminder that the next Economic Development Committee meeting is going to be held on April 11th at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers and in lieu of a normal meeting, the Committee is hosting a community workshop to get feedback from folks on the reuse of the 1 Winter Street property. He stated that he will be preparing a feasibility analysis for discussion purposes and he looks forward to hearing what residents envision for that site and sharing that information with the City Council with a recommendation on moving forward. Councilor Goodwin shared his disappointment regarding the sidewalk amendment not passing and he would have liked to see the support to increase pedestrian safety in the downtown area. He also stated that he feels that the lack of traffic calming and safe pedestrian paths contribute to the perception of the parking problems Downtown. Councilor Goodwin doesn't think that the addition of the crosswalk will be looked at as a separate project with engineering services if it doesn't get incorporated with the Complete Streets Project on Constitutional Way.

Councilor Cameron mentioned that Earth Day is on April 22nd which comes at a good time since Don't Trash Somersworth will be launching their program on Saturday, April 20th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. She stated that the group will be meeting at the Home Depot parking lot and invited those available to join them for the hour.

Councilor Messier gave a shout out Rye Beach Landscaping for their careful destruction of the former Somersworth Motel off of Elm Street. He stated that it is nice to see old and dilapidated buildings in a failing state come down. Councilor Messier also stated that he was happy to read that the solar array is continuing to move forward. He inquired about a future parking assessment meeting because he is

aware of a downtown business owner who is interested in taking part in the process. Councilor Messier echoed the compliments regarding the City's staff and he agreed they do a great job.

Councilor Pepin wanted to clarify his thoughts made during his opening comments. He stated that he believes that all lives are precious and he stated that Karlee's Home Team is doing a good job and that perhaps it is too good and is drawing people from all over the State. He believes that the County isn't going to do anything as long as the Tri-Cities continue to fund the Willand Warming Center. He explained that he doesn't blame anyone in need for utilizing the Center but he continues to have concerns for the significant growth it has seen. Councilor Pepin expressed gratitude for the Karlee's Home Team organization and he apologized for his emotions during his opening comments.

Councilor Vincent stated that, regarding the little leagues baseball field speaker system, Hilltop Fireworks will cover the remaining funds needed to replace it. He also gave a shout out to the new Vietnamese restaurant in the City and he described it as "the real deal". He also mentioned that perhaps the High Street sidewalk can be revisited and a workaround be done. Councilor Vincent mentioned that he has contacted the City Manager in regards to looking over the Ordinance pertaining to the schedule of backflow, he noted that the current language requires a backflow test of the water system two times a year for commercial establishments. He stated that within his business he has three systems requiring backflow testing and his concern is that the tests conducted at his business were done in December and January and within approximately 20 days. He added that while his business was able to afford the charges in a short period of time, his concern is of smaller businesses that may struggle.

Councilor Gibson commented on the addition of a High Street crosswalk near Constitutional Way and after hearing Councilor Messier's concern, he is in agreement with the N. Granese and Sons business not wanting to assume liability without more thorough engineering of the crosswalk. He added that if it may be worthwhile to the Community, the City can get it priced out and implement a change order if approved. Councilor Gibson stated that he drove by the site of the Elm Street development and while he agreed that the buildings needed to go, he remembers the consequences of urban renewal and he is concerned that the City is doing it again with this project and the large parking lot that will replace much of the site. He stated that he would like to have the Zoning Ordinance reviewed and discussions around infill such as if a structure is removed, that it be replaced with another structure. Councilor Gibson also echoed the comments regarding City staff, he stated that the City employees are an excellent group of people and he cannot recall any issues that could not be resolved amicably.

Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro thanked Art for coming out and sharing his experience with City staff. She also stated that she is not giving up on the addition of the crosswalk on High Street near Constitutional Way which has already been priced out and engineering work completed. She hopes to be able to incorporate the crosswalk with the Complete Streets Project.

Councilor Michaud commented on the discussion of the addition of the High Street crosswalk, he stated that the topic had been vetted by the Traffic Safety Committee and determined to not be a good idea. He is, however, in favor of flashing pedestrian lights on the current crosswalks in that area. Councilor Michaud thanked Art for his compliments pertaining to City staff and he thanked City staff as well.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Gerding requested that the Traffic Safety Committee discuss the High Street crosswalk and pedestrian flashing crossing lights.

Councilor Gibson requested the review of the Historic Districts infill pertaining to the Zoning Ordinance mentioned in his closing comments. Mayor Gerding referred the discussion to the Historic District Advisory Committee.

NONPUBLIC SESSION


There were no nonpublic sessions scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Vincent made a motion to adjourn at 9:31 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gibson and the motion passed 8-1 by voice vote. Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro opposed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen LaPanne, City Clerk

	City of Somersworth – Resolution	
	Resolution No: 36-24 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE COMMUNITY POWER COALITION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE COST SHARING AGREEMENT/MEMBER SERVICES CONTRACT AND TO APPROVE THE ASSOCIATED POLICIES FOR RISK, RATES, RESERVES, AND DATA SECURITY AND PRIVACY	

March 4, 2024

WHEREAS, the Somersworth City Council adopted Resolution 26-24 on December 11, 2023 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 (NHPUC) for review and approval; and

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2024 the City was notified by the NHPUC that the Somersworth Community Power Aggregation Plan has been reviewed and approved; and

WHEREAS, now that the Somersworth Community Power Aggregation Plan has been approved, the City is required to execute the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire Cost Sharing Agreement/Member Services Contract, and approve the associated policies for risk, rates, reserves, and data security and privacy; and

WHEREAS, the City Council would like to designate Deputy City Manager/Finance Director Scott Smith as the Authorized Officer for Member Service Decisions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to execute the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire Cost Sharing Agreement/Member Services Contract; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Council approves the associated policies of the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire Cost Sharing Agreement for risk, rates, reserves, and data security and privacy, and to designate Deputy City Manager/Finance Director Scott Smith as the Authorized Officer for Member Service Decisions.

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

City of Somersworth – Resolution 36-24

History			
First Read Date:	3/6/2024	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	3/18/2024		

Discussion

3/6/2024

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 36-24.

Resolution 36-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.

Mayor Gerding requested to be added to the list of sponsors.

3/18/2024

Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Resolution 36-24.

Councilor Witham made a motion to adopt Resolution 36-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier.

Discussion:

Councilor Witham stated that this vote is the next step to move forward in joining the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire. Regarding the Agreement and Contract, Councilor Witham noted that the language has been vetted and adopted by a number of other Communities and their legal counsels. He added that Henry Herndon has been very helpful throughout the process and available to answer questions. Councilor Witham stated that he had questions regarding data security and the Council has since received a thorough response which adds to his comfort level of supporting this Resolution.

The motion passed 9-0.

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson		
Ward 4 Councilor	Paradis-Catanzaro		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Goodwin		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Messier		
TOTAL VOTES:			



City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: **37-24**

TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH N. GRANESE AND SONS OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS TO CONSTRUCT THE CONSTITUTIONAL WAY COMPLETE STREETS PROJECT

On

Resolution 36-24

PASSED

FAILED

March 4, 2024

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution 18-18 on December 4, 2017 authorizing the City Manager to contract with Wright-Pierce Engineers to provide engineering services for the design of various complete streets projects including Constitutional Way; and

WHEREAS, the Constitutional Way complete streets project design was completed and bid specifications were prepared and released requesting bids from qualified contractors to construct the project; and

WHEREAS, the City received bids on February 8, 2024, which were reviewed by Wright-Pierce Engineers, and they raised no objections to awarding the contract to N. Granese and Sons of Salem, Massachusetts for an amount of \$2,073,006 (Two Million Seventy-Three Thousand Six dollars); and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has reviewed the bids received with City staff and recommends contracting with N. Granese and Sons of Salem, Massachusetts for an amount of \$2,073,006 (Two Million Seventy-Three Thousand Six dollars); and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee recommends including an amount of \$103,650 (One Hundred Three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty dollars) with the project total for contingencies, and authorize the City Manager to increase the contract to an amount not to exceed \$2,176,656 (Two Million One Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Six dollars) if needed and determined to be in the best interest of the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to contract with N. Granese and Sons of Salem, Massachusetts to construct the Constitutional Way complete streets project for an amount of \$2,073,006 (Two Million Seventy-Three Thousand Six dollars); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT an amount of \$103,650 (One Hundred Three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty dollars) is included with the project total for contingencies and the City Manager is authorized to increase the contract to an amount not to exceed \$2,176,656 (Two Million One Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Six dollars) if needed, and it is determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Authorization

Sponsored by Councilors:

David A. Witham
Denis Messier
Martin Pepin

Approved:

City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Resolution 37-24

History

First Read Date:	3/6/2024	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	3/18/2024		

Discussion

3/6/2024

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 37-24.

Resolution 37-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.

3/18/2024

Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Resolution 37-24.

Councilor Goodwin made a motion to amend Resolution 37-24 to include a crosswalk on the North side of High Street at the intersection of Constitutional Way and to include solar powered flashing crosswalk beacons and utilize the existing funding to pay for it. The motion was seconded by Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro.

Discussion:

Councilor Vincent stated that the City already went through the bid process and he believes that that correct thing to do would be to refer back to Committee, however, the City is already this far into the project. He stated that the City could be looking at an additional \$100,000 or more and that he would not be in favor of the increased project cost.

Councilor Witham commented that the City did receive an engineering report which included a cost estimate that he recalled being approximately \$15,000 to \$16,000, he added that the cost did not include the flashing solar lights requested in the amendment but from other flashing beacon lights installed, he would guess the cost could be up to \$30,000 to \$35,000. Councilor Witham mentioned that the project includes a \$100,000 contingency and if those funds were to be used up, a supplemental appropriation would be required. He stated that he is not concerned with the money part, however, he had concerns regarding the visibility aspect brought up by the engineers but believes that the flashing lights add the needed safety.

Councilor Goodwin stated that from his experience, he does not feel that the contingency funds would be used up, he added that construction costs change after approval and that is why contingencies exist. He noted that the cost will increase in the future if the Council decides to not coordinate it as part of the complete streets project. Councilor Goodwin feels that it would be a good value for the Community and is a heavily utilized crossing area for walkers and this would add to pedestrian safety. Regarding the concern of water drainage, he is not concerned because the engineering would address that as well as ADA accessibilities.

Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro commented that she appreciates the safety of installing flashing beacons for pedestrians crossing High Street, she stated that the opposite side is just as unsafe in her opinion. Pertaining to the drainage concern, she stated that the curb in front of the Pawn Shop is already cut out and the fact that the engineers priced the crosswalk within the \$100,000 contingency she is in favor of the amendment.

Councilor Vincent commented that he would be ok with an increase of \$30,000 to construct the sidewalk and add flashing pedestrian lights.

Councilor Messier explained the project process and that N. Granese and Sons bid on the project, and that if the Council decides to add in the sidewalk and flashing lights, additional engineering would be required and he still has concerns regarding the water drainage issue.

The motion failed 3-6 by roll call vote. Councilors Cameron, Messier, Pepin, Vincent, Gibson, and Michaud opposed.

Councilor Witham made a motion to approve Resolution 37-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gibson 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	Paradis-Catanzaro	X	
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham	X	
At Large Councilor	Goodwin	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Messier	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0



City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: **38-24**

CITY COUNCIL VOTE TO AUTHORIZE A BOND TO CONSTRUCT THE CONSTITUTIONAL WAY COMPLETE STREETS PROJECT

On 3/18/2024

Resolution 37-24

PASSED

FAILED

March 4, 2024

WHEREAS, the City requested and received bids for the construction of the Constitutional Way Complete Streets Project; and

WHEREAS, the project costs include construction of water infrastructure, sewer infrastructure, drainage infrastructure, sidewalk and roadway improvements, lighting and other streetscaping improvements, construction engineering and inspection, and any other ancillary costs associated with the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT an amount not to exceed \$2,367,256 (Two Million Three Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-Six dollars) is appropriated to construct the Constitutional Way Complete Streets Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

- (a.) the City Manager is authorized to borrow up to \$2,367,256 (Two Million Three Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-Six dollars) under the Municipal Finance Act and to issue bonds and notes payable within 15 years from their dates, and
- (b.) the City Manager is authorized to issue temporary notes in anticipation of the issue of these bonds or notes, and
- (c.) the City Manager is authorized to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project, and
- (d.) the estimated useful life of this project is expected to exceed 15 years.

Authorization

Sponsored by Councilors:

David A. Witham
Denis Messier

Approved:

City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Resolution 38-24

History

First Read Date:	3/6/2024	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	3/18/2024		

Discussion

3/6/2024

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 38-24.


Resolution 38-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.

3/18/2024

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 38-24.

Councilor Witham made a motion to adopt Resolution 38-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	X	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent	X	
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson	X	
Ward 4 Councilor	Paradis-Catanzaro	X	
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham	X	
At Large Councilor	Goodwin	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Messier	X	

	City of Somersworth – Resolution		
	Resolution No: 39-24 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH WRIGHT-PIERCE ENGINEERS OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE TO PROVIDE RESIDENT INSPECTION AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL WAY COMPLETE STREETS PROJECT		
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On 3/18/2024	Resolution 38-24	PASSED	FAILED

March 4, 2024

WHEREAS, Wright-Pierce Engineers of Portsmouth, New Hampshire have provided the City with pre-construction services such as engineering, design, and development of bid specifications for the Constitutional Way complete streets project; and

WHEREAS, the City has received bids from qualified contractors for the construction of the Constitutional Way complete streets project and will require resident inspection and construction engineering services associated with the construction of this project; and

WHEREAS, Wright-Pierce Engineers have provided a proposal in the amount of \$190,600 (One Hundred Ninety Thousand Six Hundred dollars) to provide resident inspection and construction engineering services for this project;

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has reviewed the proposal with City staff and recommends contracting with Wright-Pierce Engineers for resident inspection and construction engineering services associated with the construction of this project for an amount of \$190,600 (One Hundred Ninety Thousand Six Hundred dollars);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to sign a contract with Wright Pierce Engineers of Portsmouth, New Hampshire to provide resident inspection and construction engineering services associated with the construction of the Constitutional Way complete streets project for an amount not to exceed \$190,600 (One Hundred Ninety Thousand Six Hundred dollars), and to take any other action related to this contract determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i>	<i>Approved:</i>

David A. Witham
Denis Messier
Martin Pepin
Kenneth S. Vincent

City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Resolution 39-24

History

First Read Date:	3/6/2024	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	3/18/2024		

Discussion

3/6/2024

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 39-24.

Resolution 39-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.


3/18/2024

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 39-24.

Councilor Messier made a motion to adopt Resolution 39-24 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	Paradis-Catanzaro	X	
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham	X	
At Large Councilor	Goodwin	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	

At Large Councilor	Messier	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On 3/18/2024	Resolution 39-24	PASSED	FAILED

	City of Somersworth – Ordinance
	Ordinance No: 9-24 FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 BUDGET

March 18, 2024

THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH ORDAINS THAT BUDGETS FOR THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH FOR THE 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR SHALL BE:

DEPARTMENT

GENERAL FUND

BUDGET

Elected Leadership	\$230,220
City Management	614,050
Finance and Administration	1,919,546
Development Services	1,082,786
Police	5,180,374
Fire	2,838,771
Public Works	3,572,794
Other Expenses	1,391,000
Capital Outlay	45,000
Intergovt Assessments - County	3,169,922
School Department	31,319,747

TOTAL GENERAL FUND

51,364,210

ENTERPRISE FUNDS

Wastewater Department	3,619,635
Water Department	2,873,558
Solid Waste	676,169

TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS

7,169,362

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Cable Fund	<u>69,513</u>
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TOTAL FY 2024-2025 APPROPRIATION

\$58,603,085

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

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

City of Somersworth – Ordinance 9-24

History			
First Read Date:	3/18/2024	Tabled:	3/18/2024
Public Hearing:	3/18/2024	Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

Discussion

3/18/2024

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

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Ordinance 9-24 by title only.


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

Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Ordinance 9-24.

Councilor Witham made a motion to table Ordinance 9-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson		
Ward 4 Councilor	Paradis-Catanzaro		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		

At Large Councilor	Goodwin		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Messier		
TOTAL VOTES:			
On	Ordinance 9-24	PASSED	FAILED

	City of Somersworth – Ordinance
	<p>Ordinance No: 10-24</p> <p>TO AMEND CHAPTER 32, WATER ORDINANCE, BY AMENDING SECTION 16.1.a TITLED “RATES, FEES, AND CHARGES” TO INCREASE THE WATER UTILITY RATES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024, AND JULY 1, 2025</p>

March 18, 2024

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

Amend Chapter 32, Section 16.1.a titled “Rates, Fees, and Charges”, by deleting the second paragraph in its entirety and replace it with the following:

All water users will be charged at a rate of \$5.94 per 100 cubic feet of water used beginning July 1, 2024; \$6.53 per 100 cubic feet of water used beginning July 1, 2025;

Background:

By passage of this Ordinance the City Council is increasing the Water Use Volume Charge 10% effective July 1, 2024, and 10% effective July 1, 2025.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Authorization

<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> David A. Witham Denis Messier Martin Pepin Kenneth S. Vincent	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney
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City of Somersworth – Ordinance 10-24

History			
First Read Date:	3/18/2024	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

Discussion


3/18/2024

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Ordinance 10-24.

Ordinance 10-24 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	Paradis-Catanzaro		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Goodwin		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		

At Large Councilor	Messier		
TOTAL VOTES:			
On	Ordinance 10-24	PASSED	FAILED

	City of Somersworth – Ordinance
	<p>Ordinance No: 11-24</p> <p>TO AMEND CHAPTER 8A, SEWER ORDINANCE, BY AMENDING CHARGES ARTCILE XV SECTION 7.B TITLED “SEWER USE VOLUME CHARGES” TO INCREASE THE SEWER VOLUME CHARGES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024, AND JULY 1, 2025</p>

March 18, 2024

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

Amend Chapter 8A, Article XV, Section 7.B Titled “Sewer Use Volume Charges”, by deleting it in its entirety and replace it with the following:

All sewer users will be charged at a rate of \$8.83 per 100 cubic feet of water used beginning July 1, 2024; \$9.75 per 100 cubic feet of water used beginning July 1, 2025;

Background:

By passage of this Ordinance the City Council is increasing the Sewer Use Volume Charge 10% effective July 1, 2024, and 10% effective July 1, 2025.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i>	<i>Approved:</i>

David A. Witham Denis Messier Martin Pepin Kenneth S. Vincent	City Attorney
City of Somersworth – Ordinance 11-24	

History			
First Read Date:	3/18/2024	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

Discussion

3/18/2024


Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Ordinance 11-24.

Ordinance 11-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.

Councilor Vincent inquired about the meaning of 100 cubic feet regarding the measurements of water used. Director Bobinsky confirmed that 100 cubic feet equals 748 gallons of water used.

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson		
Ward 4 Councilor	Paradis-Catanzaro		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Goodwin		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		

At Large Councilor	Messier		
TOTAL VOTES:			
On	Ordinance 11-24	PASSED	FAILED

	City of Somersworth – Ordinance		
	Ordinance No: 12-24 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING NEEDED FOR THE WATER METER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM		

March 18, 2024

THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH ORDAINS THAT pursuant to Section 7.7(A) of the City Charter:

The annual budget for the City of Somersworth for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 is amended as follows:

Appropriate \$75,000 (Seventy-Five Thousand dollars) from the Water Fund budget; and

Appropriate \$50,000 (Fifty Thousand dollars) from the Sewer Fund budget as follows:

Water Fund Original Budget \$ 3,236,505	Amendment \$ 75,000	Revised Water Fund Budget \$ 3,311,505
Sewer Fund Original Budget \$ 4,183,996	Amendment \$ 50,000	Revised Sewer Fund Budget \$ 4,233,996

Approved as to Funding:

Scott A. Smith
Director of Finance and Administration

Recorded by:

Kristen LaPanne
City Clerk

Background:

This Ordinance appropriates additional funding to complete the Residential meter replacement program.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

This Ordinance requires a public hearing and requires a 2/3 majority vote of the City Council after the public hearing subject to Section 7.4.1 and Section 7.7 (A) of the City Charter.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i>	<i>Approved:</i>

David A. Witham Denis Messier Martin Pepin Kenneth S. Vincent	City Attorney
City of Somersworth – Ordinance 12-24	

History			
First Read Date:	3/18/2024	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			


Discussion

3/18/2024

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Ordinance 12-24.

Ordinance 12-24 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	Paradis-Catanzaro		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Goodwin		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		

	City of Somersworth – Resolution		
	Resolution No: 41-24 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO USE FUNDING FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT AND THE CABLE FUND TO CONTRACT WITH BRIGHTLY SOFTWARE, INC. OF CARY, NORTH CAROLINA FOR SMARTGOV SOFTWARE		
At Large Councilor	Messier		
TOTAL VOTES:			
On	Ordinance 12-24	PASSED	FAILED

March 18, 2024

WHEREAS, the Somersworth Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2025-2030 includes a project to provide on-line permitting software for use by the Department of Development Services; and

WHEREAS, City Staff researched qualified companies and requested and received demonstrations from a number of these software companies that provide similar products; and

WHEREAS, after reviewing products available, City Staff determined that SmartGov by Brightly Software of Cary, North Carolina provides a platform that best meets the needs of the City with an initial cost of \$48,386 (Forty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Six dollars); and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee reviewed this recommendation with City Staff and recommends the City contract with Brightly Software for SmartGov Software for an amount not to exceed \$48,386 (Forty-Eight Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Six dollars); and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee also recommends the City fund this contract using available funding from the American Rescue Plan Act and the Cable Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to use funding from the American Rescue Plan Act and the Cable Fund to contract with Brightly Software for SmartGov Software for an amount not to exceed \$48,386 (Forty-Eight Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Six dollars) and take any and all other actions relative to this purchase determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i>	<i>Approved:</i>

David A. Witham
Denis Messier
Martin Pepin
Kenneth S. Vincent

City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Resolution 41-24

History

First Read Date:	3/18/2024	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			


Discussion

3/18/2024

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 41-24.

Resolution 41-24 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	Paradis-Catanzaro		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Goodwin		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		

	City of Somersworth – Resolution		
	Resolution No: 42-24 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH FIRE TECH AND SAFETY OF NEW ENGLAND OF WINTHROP, MAINE FOR THE PURCHASE OF SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT		
At Large Councilor	Messier		
TOTAL VOTES:			
On	Resolution 41-24	PASSED	FAILED

March 18, 2024

WHEREAS, the Somersworth Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2024-2029 contains a recommendation to replace all self-contained breathing apparatus used by the Fire Department over a 4-year period; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal year 2023-2024 adopted budget contains an appropriation for the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus representing the first year of this program; and

WHEREAS, Fire Tech and Safety of New England is a certified vendor for self-contained breathing apparatus on the Massachusetts State Bid List; and

WHEREAS, City staff recommends purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus from Fire Tech and Safety of New England utilizing the Massachusetts State Bid list at a cost not to exceed \$108,000 (One Hundred Eight Thousand dollars); and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee reviewed this recommendation with City Staff and recommends the City contract with Fire Tech and Safety of New England for an amount not to exceed \$108,000 (One Hundred Eight Thousand dollars); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to contract with Fire Tech and Safety of New England of Winthrop, Maine for the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus for the Fire Department at an amount not to exceed \$108,000 (One Hundred Eight Thousand dollars) and take any and all other actions relative to this purchase determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i>	<i>Approved:</i>

David A. Witham
Denis Messier
Martin Pepin
Kenneth S. Vincent

City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Resolution 42-24

History

First Read Date:	3/18/2024	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	3/18/2024		

Discussion

3/18/2024

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 42-24.

Councilor Witham made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow for a second reading of Resolution 42-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent.

Discussion:

Councilor Messier questioned the reason for putting a rush on this vote and stated that he would be voting no regarding the suspension of rules but that he would vote to approve the Resolution itself.

Councilor Witham stated that his motion to suspend rules is because of the potential of a long lead time to get the equipment in as they have experienced in the past with other such equipment recently.

Councilor Messier agreed with Councilor Witham's explanation.

The motion passed 8-1 by Voice vote. Councilor Gibson opposed.

Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Resolution 42-24.

Councilor Vincent made a motion to adopt Resolution 42-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin.

Discussion:

Councilor Gibson explained that the reason he opposed the vote is because, although he understands the urgency on placing the order, he has a problem with what causes the City to be in a situation where they need to rush the vote.

Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro stated that she supported the second reading to accelerate the purchase of the breathing apparatus and that these funds were approved previously and repurposed from the initial training tower grant funds request.

Councilor Witham clarified that the repurposed funds for the Fire Station training tower is not these same funds but that the breathing apparatus equipment was already budgeted for and approved by the City Council within the Capital Improvement Program and with the previous Fire Chief resigning, the interim Chief is catching up with needs.

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	Paradis-Catanzaro	X	
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham	X	
At Large Councilor	Goodwin	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Messier	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On 3/18/2024	Resolution 42-24	PASSED	FAILED