

## MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Somersworth, NH  
February 5, 2018  
7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by His Honor, the Mayor, Dana S. Hilliard, and upon roll call the following Council members were present: Pepin, Vincent, Dumont, McCallion, Messier, Witham, Sprague, Cameron, and Levasseur.

City Manager Belmore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

MINUTES of the INAUGURATION held on January 11, 2018

*Councilor Cameron, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.*

MINUTES of the CITY COUNCIL MEETING held on January 16, 2018

*Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion passed with Councilors McCallion and Sprague abstaining.*

### COMMENTS BY VISITORS

Jenne Holmes presented on behalf of the 125<sup>th</sup> Commission. This year we celebrate 125 years as a city. There will be several celebrations this year, beginning with a reception at the Summersworth Historical Museum on February 18<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 12:30pm. City Officials and the public are invited to attend.

### COMMENTS BY COUNCILORS

None

### COMMUNICATIONS

None

### PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND DISPOSAL THEREOF BY REFERENCE OR OTHERWISE

#### **Petition regarding Sidewalks on Hamilton Street**

The petition was read by the Clerk, and the Mayor referred to the topic to the Public Works & Environment Committee.

## MAYOR'S REPORT

### **Mayors Report for City Council Meeting February 5th, 2018**

Tonight I am pleased to welcome members of Girl Scout Troop 12325 to our Council Chambers.

The members of Girl Scout Troop 12325 have completed the journey of earning their bronze award! After 2 years of planning, earning the required patches, and meeting all other requirements of the award, tonight we present them with their hard earned pins and certificates.

To fulfill the requirements of the Bronze award, as set forth by the Girl Scout Council, the girls had to:

- Come up with a project that meets the needs of their community
- Plan a project that is sustainable
- Calculate the cost of materials, ask for donations, apply for grants, etc.
- Work together as a troop to get to the finish line!

After conquering some hurdles early on, the girls were presented the wonderful opportunity of partnering up with the Farm to School program. As FTS is still being introduced into some of the schools, the Scouts of 12325 felt it was important to help. They decided to get Maple Wood up and running and build garden beds for the school.

Then, things went a step further, and another opportunity arose. They had the option of building handicap accessible, raised garden beds. When they knew they were going to be able to make it possible for ALL of their schoolmates, district wide, to participate in the gardening activities, they decided UNANIMOUSLY this was the route they were going.

Working closely with Wendy Berkeley, Farm to School coordinator, they were allowed to use grant money specifically for these ADA beds. With lumber purchased through the grant from Middleton Lumber, the girls gathered with Stacey Purslow of the Sustainability Institute at UNH to build the beds! They had a very hands-on experience. The girls measured, cut, and assembled three garden beds! But...they didn't want to stop there.

After researching exactly what they needed for the types of plants the schools would be growing, they went an extra step and asked Home Depot for donations of tools and soil to fill the beds. Home Depot generously granted their request.

The troop then went to Wentworth Greenhouse and purchased, with their own earned funds, vegetables and herbs to plant in each bed.

The girls proudly trucked their garden beds to not only Maple Wood, but two other schools in our district, filled them with nutrient rich soil, and planted the vegetables and herbs. Now all students and staff, no matter their physical mobility, can access the beds

and participate in the gardening. You can find their hard work standing at Maple Wood and Idlehurst Elementary Schools, as well as Somersworth Middle School (where the High School Students can benefit as well).

As these girls move on up, they look forward to earning, next, their silver award, and then their gold award...the highest award honored in all of girl scouts.

Congratulations to the girl scouts of troop 12325 on a job well done. These awards are so very deserved.

Katelyn Whiteman  
Sophia Jeffries  
Lauren Pflanz  
Abigail Burns  
Lindsey Whiteman  
Josie D'Angelo  
Amaya Paige  
Sophia Day

- The first **Mayors Community** forum will take place Saturday **February 17th from 9:00 – 10:30** at City Hall. Including in this forum will be **Ward 1 City Councilor Marty Pepin and Ward 1 School Board member Maggie Larson**. The purpose of the forums are to foster dialog and ideas, in a non-formal setting to continue to move our community forward. All members of the community are welcome to attend any forums
- With the conclusion of the Fire Stations commission work and recommendation, Council must now begin the process of vetting the possibilities for final debate and action. For about a year now, the recommendations from the commission have been available for the public and elected officials to review and discuss. In the interim, the need for a new facility for our Hilltopper fire fighters has not dissipated.

This evening I am referring the report and recommendations to the Public Safety committee. I am calling upon the committee to review the document and craft a final recommendation and timeline to Council by May, so that this body can adopt a feasible plan to move forward with the renovation or construction of a new facility.

In order to insure that safety of all citizens and brave fire professionals, we must continue to insure that they have access to 21<sup>st</sup> century equipment and a modernized facility.

- Social issues within our society know no borders, and to achieve long term sustainable solutions we must continue to work together in a collaborative regional approach. A recent meeting was held with my Tri-City Mayor colleagues, in which the issue of homelessness within the area was discussed. While the complexity of this issue is vast, to ignore and await solutions from other level of government or believe that this societal issue can be resolved by the work of non-profits is not a reality.

The only way we can continue to make real progress on issues that sometimes seem like there are no solutions, is by collectively working together as a team. Within the next week, along with my Mayoral colleagues, we will be announcing the creation of the Tri-City Mayors taskforce on homelessness. The taskforce will be charge with the creation of a master plan which will be forward to the respective councils for debate and adoption. The membership will consist of a broad spectrum of stakeholders, all working together to seek long term sustainable solutions. While we are of no misconception, that the task force will be able to eradicate homelessness from the Tri-City area, it is our hope that we will be able to create and adopt a regional plan to help some of our most vulnerable citizens.

- While the Council is still over a month away until we begin the 2018-2019 budget process, the school district has already began their work towards examining the needs of the district and what will finically will meet the constraints of the tax cap and the feasibility of our community.

Continuing our Hilltopper team approach and open communication will ensure that the 21<sup>st</sup> century ways of governing that Somersworth applies in principal and practice will progress. A recent meeting in the Mayor's office was held to explore future ways that the budgetary process can evolve. This will insure that both bodies can gain insight to maintain the diligence necessary in crafting a finalized budget which balances all aspects and needs of our community.

As we begin and continue to navigate through the 2018-2019 budget process, joint meetings of the finance committees, Joint City Council and School Board Commission and Joint meetings of both bodies will occur. Through open dialog and communication, we will continue to strengthen the collaborative approach to governing within the Hilltop City.

- January 18<sup>th</sup> was an exciting day in the Hilltop City as we officially kicked off the 125<sup>th</sup> celebration of the Somersworth becoming a city. The 125<sup>th</sup> flag was raised at Citizens Place along with a mural being unveiled at the Career technical center. Other events are planned throughout this year including a large concert and firework display.

The 125<sup>th</sup> Commission will soon be unveiling the calendar of the year events so all Hilltoppers can plan on partaking in celebrating our great community.

- Join us on February 17<sup>th</sup> celebrating Somersworth and your new team of elected officials at the 2018 Inaugural Celebration. The celebration will take place from 7-11pm at the VFW. The main entertainment will be Hilltoppers own Acoustic radio with other entertainers celebrating our rich cultural heritage. Food will be provided by Texas Road House. Join us in celebrating 10 square miles of Hope, Dreams and Equality and our great city continuing "On the Move!"

Tickets can be purchased at the Somersworth Chamber of Commerce with limited amounts sold at the door.

Nominations, Appointments and Elections:

- Under nominations, appointments and Elections; In accordance with Council Rule 17 Appointments, the following are being brought for nomination.

- Amy LaBelle, As a member of the Board of Cemetery Trustees with a term to expire February 2021
- Woodard Openo reappointment as a member of the Board of Cemetery Trustees with a term to expire on April 2021
- Coty Donohue as an Alternate member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment with a term to expire February 2021
- Shawn Kinneavy as an Alternate member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment with a term to expire February 2021
- Jameson Small change from an Alternate member of the Planning Board to a full member with a term to expire February 2021

In accordance with Council Rule 17 Appointments, the nomination shall remain open until the February 20th, scheduled Council meeting

- Also in accordance with Council Rule 15 the following appointment is being named this evening and do not require Council approval.
  - Rebecca England reappointment as a member of the Somerset Housing Authority Board of Commissioners with a term to expire May 2023
  - Thomas Poulin as a member of the Cultural Commission.

**This respectfully concludes my February 5, 2018 Mayors Report**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance Committee – Councilor Witham reported that the committee had not met. They are scheduled to meet on Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting. Members of the School board budget will be attending for initial look at the fiscal year 2019 and to address the revenue shortfall.

Government Operations – Councilor Dumont reported that the committee met on January 24th. They received a personnel update from City Manager Belmore and from Human Resources Director, Linda Corriveau. The Committee reviewed a proposal for a position

of Deputy City Manager; the committee unanimously supported an ordinance change to include the position of Deputy City Manager. The meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.

Economic Development – Councilor Dumont reported that the committee met on January 23rd. There was robust discussion about House Bill 316; no action was taken. There was discussion about the former Police Department property. It was decided that they would allow some time for Economic Development Manager, Robin Comstock to work within area organizations to try to create interest. The committee met the new Code Enforcement officer, Shante Wolfe. There was discussion of his background and his work within Somersworth. The meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.

Public Safety – Councilor Pepin reported that the committee met on January 30<sup>th</sup>. City Manager Belmore presented a draft ordinance for ordering an SUV cruiser. Past experience has shown that it is better to purchase sooner to get a bid in before the towns place their orders. The committee voted to support this ordinance, passed unanimously. Police Chief David Kretschmar reported that they are looking to replace the Burns Alarm panel at the Police Department, which monitors different city and private alarms, with a different system. The current system is not owned by the city, but the police department monitors it, and it is very outdated. Committee agreed to support a new system. There was discussion about the JAG Grant, 11k, on hold at the Federal level, and STEP Grant, for DWI and distracted drivers. Police Department is up to full force. There were discussions about parking enforcement, community outreach, and the pros and cons of a potential K9 unit.

Fire Chief Keith Hoyle reported on a Grant to protect our drinking water. There will be a drill in cooperation with Berwick on June 22<sup>nd</sup> on Salmon Falls River; overtime will be funded by Homeland Security. There was also discussion regarding a grant for carbon dioxide and smoke detectors for low income housing, and homes with children and elderly. Chief also reported that they are looking into a grant to replace the 30 year old Community Mutual Aid Van, which is used for bottled air. They also received a grant safety vests for fire fighters.

Chief Paul Robidas of American Ambulance reported that the average response time is 4minutes, 11seconds. They have received 300 calls in January. The increase in calls is mostly weather related and flu in community.

Under miscellaneous, there was brief discussion that they are looking for a grant for the intersection of Route16B and Blackwater Road. The meeting adjourned at 5:40pm.

## 10. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

### Special Committees

Plaza Commission – Councilor Dumont reported that the commission met on January 18<sup>th</sup>. They worked on the development of the matrix. This Thursday February 8<sup>th</sup> the committee will meet again to finalize the matrix.

Cultural Commission – Councilor Dumont reported that the commission met on January 24th. They received a Thedford Mines update from the Mayor. They are hoping for a

student exchange later this year. As for student appointments, they have identified a student to visit at the meeting in March. They have created a sub-committee to outline flag raising policy; this is being reviewed by the Mayor. There was discussion about stop signs; the committee would like to import stop signs from Canada. Not sure about the regulations, but they can obtain those signs from Canada. The Cultural Commission discussed a cookbook that was done and is at the Museum. They are moving forward with a food tasting tentatively in May. The Mural at the CTC is a wonderful piece. On Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00, the committee will be raising of the Olympic Flag, and at 4:30, the Vatican flag. The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

School Board – Councilor Pepin reported that the School Board approved the field hockey team joining with St. Thomas. There was not enough student interest for a full team in Somersworth. This also needs to be approved with the state. Tri City Transportation quote came in \$11,000 less than the previous year. An HVAC unit is not functioning. The repair will cost approximately \$40,000. Somersworth Youth Connection and Farm to School initiative has been collecting compost, averaging 800lbs a month not going into a landfill.

COAST Bus – Councilor Pepin reported that the committee met on January 24<sup>th</sup>. They reviewed the financial report for November and December. They discussed the strategic plan of the improvements and grounds. Reduced the recommendation to reduce the fees and funding. They also approved the request for municipal funding. Somersworth's request will be \$92,574; an increase of \$6,979 (8.15% increase). They received approval from a federal grant in the amount of \$1,140,000 for the purchase of 3 new buses. Meeting with Portsmouth about senior transportation. They are looking into an “on time” performance system that will track traffic congestion, and track the bus using GPS monitoring. Instead of having a set time schedule, public can download an app to track the bus.

Councilor Sprague asked about doing away with the times. What about the commuter trying to plan their day.

Councilor Pepin said the buses will still have standard routes, but estimated times. Not trying to do away with the times, just to track the bus. There will be GPS units on the buses, and an app to track the bus.

#### City Manager's Report



## **CITY OF SOMERSWORTH**

*Office of the City Manager*

**TO: Mayor Dana S. Hilliard and City Council Members**

**FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager**

**DATE: Friday, February 2, 2018**

**SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, February 5, 2018  
City Council Agenda**

---

*New Business (under section 14 of Agenda)*

**Ordinances**

- A. Ordinance 3-18 Amending Chapter 4, Personnel Rules & Regulations, Section 6. Hiring, Promotion, Transfer and Layoff and Appendix 1, Assignment of Class to Grade.** The Government Operations Committee met on January 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss this recommended amendment as well as a couple of other Personnel Rules & Regulations revisions. The Committee reviewed information provided by the City Manager to include the structure and pay of comparable positions in various NH and surrounding municipalities. The Committee voted to support the establishment of this designation and associated pay. I also attached copies of related sections of this Ordinance Chapter 4 and Chapter 6 regarding Council Standing Committees that outline some of the process for amending this particular Ordinance governing certain standards and pay for non-union affiliated City employees.

I recommend the City Council schedule a Public Hearing regarding this Ordinance as well as the forthcoming Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance 4-18, prior to the next regular scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:45pm.

*Without objection from Council, Public Hearings are scheduled for Ordinance 3-18 and Ordinance 4-18.*

- B. Ordinance 4-18 Supplemental Appropriation for Engineering Services for Improvements at the Somersworth Wastewater Treatment Facility.** This Supplemental Appropriation as well as the following Wright Pierce Engineering Contract Amendment was discussed at recent meetings held by both the Finance Committee & Public Works Committee; both Committees voting to support both action items. These actions are also a result of a recent Council workshop where consensus was provided to expand the Wastewater Treatment Facility upgrade several millions of dollars from \$3M plus to \$10M plus. City funding for the contract Amendment is available from available funds in the Sewer (Utility) Enterprise Fund. Just a Note: Funding to complete the actual WWTF improvement is being pursued through the NH State Revolving Fund (SRF).

**Resolutions**

- A. Resolution 22-18 To Authorize the City Manager to Amend the Contract with Wright Pierce Engineers of Portsmouth, NH to Include Additional**



**Engineering Services at the Somersworth Wastewater Treatment Facility.** I have attached a Draft copy of the Amendment (No. 1) to the Agreement as well as information provided by the Wright Pierce Engineering Project Team that explains the increase and rationale for it being related to the additional scope of the project.

**B. Resolution 23-18 To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into the Contribution Assurance Program with Primex of Concord, NH for Property and Liability Insurance.** The Finance Committee met on January 12<sup>th</sup> and voted to support this 3-year Extended Agreement and CAP Program. I want to point out that the City has been very satisfied with the services provided by Primex that not only includes coverage but an extensive series of safety & risk management prevention training. The training crosses all facets of municipal services and we have taken full advantage of it over the years; it has included police, fire, highway training as well as human resources and legal support.

**C. Resolution 24-18 To Authorize the City Manager to Order One SUV Style Police Cruiser Which Will Be Funded by A Lease Purchase Agreement.** The Public Safety Committee met on January 30<sup>th</sup> and voted to support this action item. The City Council has passed a similar Resolution for several years now and the early ordering process has served the police department operations and cruiser maintenance well. The present estimate for a 2018 Ford Explorer Police SUV fully equipped is approximately \$37,115; it has increased some since the CIP was submitted. This would continue to be a State Bid purchase of the Ford then the City would handle the equipment outfitting such as emergency lights, radio, etc.; finally, this is a lease – purchase arrangement projected to be a 5-year lease, at which time, the City would own the vehicle.

*City Manager's Items (under section 10 of Agenda)*

**A. Informational Items.**

- 1. NH DOT Safety Audit Program.** The City has been informed that the State HSIP Committee has given preliminary approval for funding our Old Rochester Road (Rte. 16B) – Blackwater Road intersection safety improvement request. Staff continues to excel in moving us to the top of the list for (limited) funds available through grants and assistance programs. Congratulations to our City team led by Traffic Safety Committee Chairman, Captain Timmons.
- 2. City Council Goal Session.** Mayor Hilliard is proposing a Session be considered for Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. We usual start at 8:30am. Please confirm your availability.

**B. Attachments.**

- 1. City Attorney Certifications**

## NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

### Mayoral Nominations – Requires Council confirmation vote

Amy LaBelle as a member of the Board of Cemetery Trustees with a term to expire, February 2021

***Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Messier, made a motion to suspend Council rules, to vote on the nomination of Amy LaBelle to the Board of Cemetery Trustees, this evening. All in favor.***

***Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Messier, made a motion to approve the nomination. All in favor.***

Woodard Openo reappointment as a Member of the Board of Cemetery Trustees, with a term to expire April 2021

Coty Donohue as an Alternate member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, with a term to expire February 2021

Shawn Kinneavy as an Alternate member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, with a term to expire February 2021

Jameson Small change from Alternate Member of Planning Board to Member, with a term to expire February 2021

***The remaining nominations will remain open until the February 20, 2018 City Council meeting.***

### Mayoral Appointment

Rebecca England reappointment as a member of the Somersworth Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, with term to expire May 2023.

Thomas Poulin as a member of the Cultural Commission, with a term to expire January 2020.

## LAY ON THE TABLE


None

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

## NEW BUSINESS

### Ordinances:

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>City of Somersworth – Ordinance</b></p> <p>Ordinance No:       <b>3-18</b></p> <p><b>AMENDING CHAPTER 4, PERSONNEL RULES &amp; REGULATIONS, SECTION 6. HIRING, PROMOTION, TRANSFER AND LAYOFF AND APPENDIX 1, ASSIGNMENT OF CLASS TO GRADE.</b></p>
---	---

February 5, 2018

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

1. Amend Chapter 4, Personnel Rules & Regulations, Section 6. Hiring, Promotion, Transfer and Layoff, as follows:
  - Add: 6.9 *Deputy City Manager designation*.  
The Deputy City Manager is appointed by the City Manager and serves at the pleasure of the City Manager or until such time that the Deputy City Manager tenders his/her resignation. Each appointment will be considered on the basis of merit and fitness to perform duties as assigned.
  
2. Amend Chapter 4, Personnel Rules & Regulations, Appendix 1, Assignment of Class to Grade (Covering Classes Classified as Exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act), as follows:
  - Add: The regular rate of pay for a designated Deputy City Manager shall be three pay grades above the regular rate of pay that would otherwise be paid for performance of their department head duties.

These ordinance changes shall take effect upon passage.

Authorization	
<p><i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i></p> <p>Martin P. Dumont, Sr. Nancie Cameron Edward Levasseur David A. Witham</p>	<p><i>Approved:</i></p> <p>City Attorney</p>

## City of Somersworth – Ordinance 3-18

### History


First Read Date:	02/05/2018	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:	02/20/2018	Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

### Action

### Discussion

Ordinance will remain in first read until the February 20, 2018 City Council meeting.

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont *		
Ward 4 Councilor	McCallion		
Ward 5 Councilor	Messier		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Sprague		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Levasseur		
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			
On    /    /    .    Ordinance 3-18		PASSED	FAILED

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>City of Somersworth – Ordinance</b></p> <p>Ordinance No:       <b>4-18</b></p> <p><b>SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT THE SOMERSWORTH WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY.</b></p>
---	---

February 5, 2018

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 17-18 is amended as follows:

Appropriate \$519,200 from Sewer Utility Fund budget as follows:

Original Budget	Amendment	Revised Budget
\$ 2,159,074	\$ 519,200	\$ 2,678,274

Approved as to Funding:

Scott A. Smith  
Director of Finance and Administration

Recorded by:

Trish Harris  
City Clerk

Background:

This ordinance appropriates funding for an amendment to the engineering design services portion of the contract with Wright/Pierce Engineers for necessary improvements at the Somersworth Wastewater Treatment Facility.

***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	
<p><i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i></p> <p>David A. Witham Dale R. Sprague Martin Pepin Martin P. Dumont, Sr. Denis Messier</p>	<p><i>Approved:</i></p> <p>City Attorney</p>

## City of Somersworth – Ordinance 4-18

### History

First Read Date:	02/05/2018	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:	02/20/2018	Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

### Action

### Discussion


#### Surrounding Community Rate Comparison – Current Rates:

	<u>Water/Unit</u>	<u>Sewer/Unit</u>
Somersworth	\$4.40	\$6.05
Dover	\$4.98	\$8.52
Rochester	\$5.29	\$6.52
Portsmouth < 10 Units	\$4.15	\$12.73
Portsmouth > 10 Units	\$5.00	\$14.00

Ordinance 4-18 will remain in first read until the February 20, 2018 City Council meeting.

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont		
Ward 4 Councilor	McCallion		
Ward 5 Councilor	Messier		
At Large Councilor	Witham *		
At Large Councilor	Sprague		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Levasseur		
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			
On    /    /    .    Ordinance 4-18		PASSED	FAILED

Resolutions:

	<b>City of Somersworth – Resolution</b>
	Resolution No: <b>22-18</b> <b>TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO AMEND THE CONTRACT WITH WRIGHT PIERCE ENGINEERS OF PORTSMOUTH, NH TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES AT THE SOMERSWORTH WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY.</b>

February 5, 2018

WHEREAS, The City Council adopted Resolution 19-17 to authorize the City Manager to contract with Wright Pierce Engineers for an amount not to exceed \$343,800 (Three Hundred Forty Three Thousand Eight Hundred dollars) to provide engineering services to provide a plant facility assessment and engineering and design specifications for facility improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Facility, and

WHEREAS, the plant facility assessment identified additional improvements such as a third clarifier, return sludge pumping and grinding systems, aeration tank upgrades, and building improvements that weren't included in the original scope of work, and

WHEREAS, Wright Pierce Engineers has provided the City a proposal to provide engineering and design services for the additional improvements at a cost of \$519,200 (Five Hundred Nineteen Thousand Two Hundred dollars) which would increase the total contract to an amount not to exceed \$863,000 (Eight Hundred Sixty Three Thousand dollars) ;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to amend the contract with Wright Pierce Engineers of Portsmouth, NH to include additional engineering services at the Somersworth Wastewater Treatment Facility for an amount of \$519,200 (Five Hundred Nineteen Thousand Two Hundred dollars) thereby increasing the total contract to an amount not to exceed \$863,000 (Eight Hundred Sixty Three Thousand 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> Dale R. Sprague David A. Witham Denis Messier Martin Pepin Martin P. Dumont, Sr.	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

## City of Somersworth – Resolution 22-18

### History

First Read Date:	02/05/2018	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			


### Action

### Discussion

Resolution 22-18 will remain in first read until the February 20, 2018 City Council meeting.

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont		
Ward 4 Councilor	McCallion		
Ward 5 Councilor	Messier		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Sprague *		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Levasseur		
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			
On / / . Resolution 22-18		PASSED	FAILED



	<b>City of Somersworth – Resolution</b>
	<p>Resolution No:       <b>23-18</b></p> <p><b>TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO THE CONTRIBUTION ASSURANCE PROGRAM WITH PRIMEX OF CONCORD, NH FOR PROPERTY AND LIABILITY INSURANCE.</b></p>

February 5, 2018

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

WHEREAS, PRIMEX offers a contribution assurance program whereby if the City agrees to extend the contract for coverage for an additional 3 (three) years, PRIMEX will agree that any annual rate increases will not exceed 7%, and

WHEREAS, city staff reviewed this proposal with the Finance Committee and they support this proposal,

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

Authorization	
<p><i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i></p> <p>Dale R. Sprague Martin Pepin Martin P. Dumont, Sr.</p>	<p><i>Approved:</i></p> <p>City Attorney</p>

## City of Somersworth – Resolution 23-18

### History


First Read Date:	02/05/2018	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

### Action

### Discussion

Resolution 23-18 will remain in first read until the February 20, 2018 City Council meeting.

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont		
Ward 4 Councilor	McCallion		
Ward 5 Councilor	Messier		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Sprague *		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Levasseur		
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			
On / / . Resolution 23-18		PASSED	FAILED

	<b>City of Somersworth – Resolution</b>
	Resolution No: <b>24-18</b>  <b>TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ORDER ONE SUV STYLE POLICE CRUISER WHICH WILL BE FUNDED BY A LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT.</b>

February 5, 2018

WHEREAS the City of Somersworth’s Capital Improvement Plan proposes a replacement schedule for police cruisers to maintain fleet integrity and reduce maintenance costs, and

WHEREAS the Somersworth City Council has an established goal whereby they may review and approve a priority list of CIP (capital improvement plan) items earlier than the actual FY budget approval process is complete in order to allow timely ordering, and

WHEREAS, the Somersworth City Council would like to improve the fleet of police cruisers by maintaining the replacement of traditional sedan style cruisers with a more modern SUV style of police cruiser.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to order one new “SUV” style police cruiser which will be funded in the FY2019 budget through a lease purchase arrangement.

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

## City of Somersworth – Resolution 24-18

### History

First Read Date:	02/05/2018	Tabled:	NA
Public Hearing:	NA	Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	02/05/2018		

### Discussion and Action

*Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Dumont, made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow for a second read. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to approve Resolution 24-18.*

Councilor Witham said that this has been a practice for a number of years.

Councilor Sprague said he will vote for this, but wants to make sure that we are not pigeon holing ourselves in how we fund the vehicles. Let's look at funding at a later time.

*Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Sprague, made a motion to amend Resolution 24-18 by striking “Which will be Funded by a Lease Purchase Agreement” in the title and by striking “through a lease purchase arrangement”, in the fourth paragraph. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.*

*Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to approve Resolution 24-18 as amended.*

Voting Record			YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	*	X	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		X	
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont		X	
Ward 4 Councilor	McCallion		X	
Ward 5 Councilor	Messier		X	
At Large Councilor	Witham		X	
At Large Councilor	Sprague		X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron		X	
At Large Councilor	Levasseur		X	
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>
On	02/05/18	Resolution 24-18	<b>PASSED</b>	

## CLOSING COMMENTS BY VISITORS

None

## CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Pepin said congratulations to the Girl Scouts. They gave a presentation at the School Board with some sample products. They also gave products to the food pantry and restaurants.

Councilor Vincent gave a “Well Done” to the Girl Scouts. He said he attended the (Land Use Board Appreciation) volunteer dinner. Great job!

Councilor Dumont said congratulations to the Girl Scouts. The Land Use Board Appreciation Dinner was wonderful. Thanks to the volunteers. He directed Councils’ attention to the recent Town and City Magazine. Term ‘Millennial’ is being used a lot. An article shows the challenges that are presented, and what it takes to make them consider living in a community; the wants and needs are equal among the elderly. A good transportation system was at the top of the list. He suggested that Council consider fully funding the COAST bus. Developers are developing properties with millennials in mind. Home ownership is not a high priority. As we do our Economic Development plans, we can’t look at one part of the population. There are other priorities. It is time for the baby boomers to understand the future, and make the millennials part of the community.

Councilor McCallion said congrats to Girl Scout Troup.

Councilor Witham said he has been following legislation at the State level, freedom saving account for students, which has passed by the senate and house. It is a voucher program for students that to seek education outside local schools. It is funded by the State by reducing funding to local schools. The funding to Somersworth as a local community is already below what it should be. This piece of legislation will magnify what is already a significant problem. Some of the estimates that have been published show an almost \$6,000,000 state wide reduction in the first year alone. School department has struggled with a revenue problem, and some of it was because of shenanigans at the state level. There are a lot of studies out there, and indication shows that vouchers will come from property poor community. So... take the money away, or don’t give us as much money, take the students away, have more vouchers for Somersworth.... This is bad, bad, bad, on more levels than we could ever imagine. According to the Governor’s website, “This bill will give the parents of the children the ability to choose the education path that is best suited for them.” Not sure there is anything stopping parents from making the best choice as it is. There are other things in place; private schools with scholarships, tuition breaks, etc. If somebody wants to choose an alternate education path over public education, there are already things in place. The Governor also says in the statement, “This will close the opportunity gap regardless of economic status.” He takes umbrage with the Governor and invites him to the Council Chambers to have a chat about this. In his humble opinion, this will increase the gap

between those who can and those who can not. This will magnify that issue. Not sure where to go with all of this. The train is moving down the tracks very quickly, and he is not sure it be stopped or derailed. He asks the City Manager, Finance Director and staff at the SAU to begin to develop an idea as to what the fiscal impact of what this legislation would be on us here in Somersworth. He'd also be curious to see how various Senators and Representatives voted on this particular piece of legislation.

He said he is in favor of the efforts of a new Fire Station. However, the location of the fire station needs to be addressed by the Public Safety Committee, in terms of responses. If possible, we need to look at a downtown venue. He believes it was a mistake to move the Police Department out of the downtown proper; it brings a sense of safety and community. Need a good hard look at downtown. It would also be nice if a downtown Fire Department housed a Police substation, small community space. It's all about image.

Speaking of image, he applauds the code enforcement efforts; he reads the reports about code enforcement activity. There has been ongoing conversation about dumpsters in the area. His observation is that the problem as worsened. It has not gotten better. It seems that there are still some violations outstanding, which were discussed several months ago. The Parking Enforcement officer is seen out, routinely in the community. He encourages the efforts, and a target area should be hills and small streets off Union Street.

Some time ago, there was discussion about the work that Pike Paving did in the fall. He just wanted to remind the City Manager and Public Works about past discussions about ponding water by Market Basket and Goodwill on High Street. The ponding is still there. He is pleased to hear there is a committee working on a policy about the flag pole at Citizens Place. Just a word of advice, to run the policy by an Attorney before finalizing.

As for the failed HVAC unit at the school, just a correction; it is just a unit, not an entire system.

As for the sidewalks on Hamilton Street, there are sidewalks on both sides. There have been previous conversations about sidewalks on the lesser traveled roadways; do we need them at all, or maybe just on one side. The petition stirs a much larger conversation. There is currently a robust discussion happening about a development going in on Rocky Hill Road, and the need for sidewalks. It is more for the City to maintain, but the whole concept of sidewalks and sidewalk repair is a much larger conversation. The petition will generate further conversation.

As for City operations, staff does a very good job at a lot of different things, and most of the time that work is at grade A level. Now and again it is of B level and sometimes it is of C level. We never fail, but sometimes we don't quite get the A. We should always strive for the A. Whether it be putting up signs, to wearing traffic vest at a motor vehicle accident, to Channel 22, which is riddled with errors. It's not wrong, it's just not perfect.

Councilor Sprague stated that he did not vote for SB193, but he will look into it further. The Land Use dinner was a great time. Thank you to all of the volunteers of the Planning Board, Zoning Board and the many other boards. Director Saunders and staff did a great job and the venue, Great Falls Hall, is a very nice place. Congrats to the Girl Scouts on their awards. He mentioned that he was a boy scout and cub scout. He thanked the parking enforcement officer. He said he has seen the officer monitoring the parking at the Plaza. He would like to see something done about the red light at the sharp left going to Chilies. Maybe this is something that could be addressed by the Tri City Mayors.

And finally, not sure if it would be City Clerk's office or the Government Operations Committee, but we need to start thinking about how the wards are set up. Every 10 years there is a census, and that is how we choose our city positions and state representatives. There is currently a really weird set up with 3 state representatives to represent 4 wards, then there are a couple super wards. We didn't have our wards correctly in line when the state asked for them, so the state set the way it is. Our wards are misaligned and we will need to look at the population in each ward, sooner, rather than later.

Councilor Cameron stated that she was a Girl Scout and appreciates the hard work that the girls did. Thanks to Shanna Saunders and Tracy Gora for their work on the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. She said she is happy to once again be part of the Food Truck Committee. Lydia's House of Hope on their one year anniversary, and for all they do for the community. And she is happy that something will be done with the dangerous intersection at Blackwater Road and Route 16B.

Councilor Levasseur thanked the Middle School Students, Caden Cassell and Kylea Dodier, for their recycling and composting project. They calculated a savings of about \$13,000. Hoping they can introduce that into some of the other school and City buildings. He thanked the parents and teachers for their assistance as well. He congratulated the Girl Scouts on their bronze award. He attended a robotics competition at the middle school, where Somersworth was well presented. Somersworth had about 5 teams that participated and it was amazing. Thank you to the Somersworth Youth Connection (SYC) for putting that forward. He wanted to associate himself with the comments of Councilor Witham regarding HB193. Hopefully the School Board will come out in opposition. In a time where this country is competing globally for education, now is not the time to disinvest in our school systems. This is not the direction we should be taking. He agrees that we should look forward to the impact that this may have on our school system. Vision 2020 will be meeting on Wednesday 7pm. He encouraged the public to attend.

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

#### NONPUBLIC SESSION

None

#### ADJOURNMENT

***Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Dumont, made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.***

---

Trish Harris, City Clerk

---

Dana Hilliard, Mayor