



MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Somersworth, NH  
February 18, 2020  
7:00 P.M.

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**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

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, Dumont, Austin, Michaud, Witham, Gerding, Cameron, and Paradis. Councilor Vincent was excused.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE**

Councilor Witham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Resolution No. 29-20** - Vote to Authorize a Bond to Replace the Elevator at the Somersworth Middle School  
No Comments.

**COMMENTS BY VISITORS**

Dale Sprague, 35 Page Street, Ward 1, said that he attended the Public Works and Environment Committee meeting this evening. He was sorry to see Councilor Pepin was no longer on that committee. He said he is here to educate the new members and inform some of the new council members about something, and to heed a warning. For the past 2 years, he has been beating to staff something that has been bothering him, and that is the amount of salt usage in the city. For full disclosure, he is a contractor. He does trucking; he's done trucking for Somersworth and Dover. He has been hauling sand for the State of New Hampshire since 1993. He services the Town of Lee, Newington, Rollinsford. He also hauls snow for Somersworth, Dover, and other municipalities.

He went on to say that Somersworth is what is called a MS4 Community. The MS4 is a permit that authorizes cities to discharge storm water, collected by the storm systems, into waters of the United States, i.e., Salmon Falls River. We've had issues in the past with eel grass, oyster beds in Great Bay, and the general ecology that is downstream from Somersworth. The history of sand and salt, years ago, salt was only used to stop the sand from freezing. Now it is turned to, it's the only thing we put on our roads. The community thinks that if they don't have black road they cannot venture out to their job or whatever they need to do. For years, we have been using sand and sand mix. Salt damages wells and watersheds. All you have to do is look at I-93 and see that the project has been held up for years. The Conservation Law Foundation had them in court for the salt usage that would happen on the 3 or 4 lanes. Last year, Councilor Vincent was involved in legislature that passed monies for the DES to start a Salt Reduction Program. It was an education program as to how to actually treat the roads. Even the State is doing the wrong thing. They are putting down pure salt all the time. Salt cost \$53 a ton and sand is \$23 a yard. By mixing the salt and sand, you could cut that \$53 a ton in half. As an example, Dover, to date, has

ordered 1500ton of winter sand. Somersworth has received 40 yards of sand. Historically, we used between 1400 and 2000 yards, up until last year. When we get different people involved and when they come from different communities, they apply things differently. We have made a change and it wasn't corrected. As a board, the Council needs to review this process. Sand is known for its immediate aggressiveness, especially on hills, and we are a Hilltop City. The guy at DES, salt reduction program, his name is Chris Avery. The argument, sand costs too much to pick up, it looks ugly... We just bought a new street sweeper for this reason; it is supposed to be the super-duper one that can clean out man holes, etc. The problem with salt is that it goes into the river. So, with the closed drainage that we have in the city, the salt, the antifreeze, oils, go into the river. It destroys our infrastructure; hand mixed mortar, which is between the joints of the granite curbing, start to break apart, manhole covers, which are raised with brick and mortar also deteriorate. Salt gets into the cracks of the roads and degrades the roads; this is why crack sealing is so important. When he was in the Public Works and Environment Meeting, he heard about a letter that is being sent about nitrogen in the river, and how high volumes of nitrogen will impact the sewer treatment plant. This will have to change the way they do business. The City is getting to do Main Street, from John Parsons Way, all the way down to Crockets Crossing, and that hollow, there is lot of drainage that collects in that area. That goes out to a major outfall that collects into the Salmon Falls River. And what is coming down the line, if we don't start to think about the way we treat our roads and storm water now, DES is going to make us do it and that is going to cost millions.

***Motion to suspend Council Rules to allow Mr. Sprague to continue past the 5-minute allotted time. Passed, 8-0.***

Mr. Sprague continued, explaining that there are a couple things that the City can do to help out right now. You could start by mixing the salt and sand. Investigate into adding saddle tanks that will put brine onto our augers before it hits the road. Dover currently has a 1 ½" opening in their shoots. This wets the salt before it hits the road and you get instant gratification from your salt. It doesn't just bounce away. A 2" opening gives 150lbs of salt per lane mile; if you cut that down by a quarter, then you can lengthen by a quarter, and use less salt. The City has an enterprise fund for water and sewer, so when we do all our major construction, we tap into that. The City needs to get a stormwater enterprise fund established. One way to fund that, if the State would allow to step up the transportation fund, whatever the increase would be, should go towards the Stormwater Enterprise Fund. The stormwater collects and runs along the roads, along with the salt and oils. The City could also look at a user fee for businesses using our system currently. The Drainage in parking lots has to go somewhere. Businesses on Willand Drive are required to have to have in their parking lot plan, a detention pond, creating their own closed system. In the parking lot behind City Hall, and other areas throughout the city, they do not have their own drainage, and this runs into the streets. They need to look at a way to say a parking lot is so many square feet, and there would be a fee that they would be required to pay. Educate the owners on how to treat their parking lots so it does not affect our ecosystem. This is something that he has been watching go on for 2 years now.

He stated that he used to plow Shaw's and Hannaford in Dover years ago. Shaw's wanted sand; it was cheaper, until the dirt was tracked into the store. It's a balance. Now-a-days

people don't buy snow tires anymore. We want black roads... its ok if they are not. There are consequences. Look at that river.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Approve Minutes of the City Council Workshop – Cemetery Road Complete Streets Design held on February 3, 2020

Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting held on February 3, 2020

***Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Austin, made a motion to approve all items on the Consent Calendar, 8-0.***

### **COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCILORS**

Councilor Witham stated that he appreciates Councilor Sprague's comments. They have discussed the use of salt in Public Works and Environment Committee. They are looking into brine usage and live blade cutting edges on the plows. The Public Works Department has been plowing more, instead of just treating the roads with salt.

Councilor Paradis stated that she and other members of Council received a letter regarding the dog park, from Dominic Zarcone.

Dear City Counselors of Somersworth, NH;

I write to you today in support of the proposed Dog Park at Millennium Park in Somersworth, NH.

My voice, as a citizen:

Being an active member and user of the Dover Dog Park for many years (Dover resident), I can attest to the significance and value it brings to members of the community. Not only does it promote the wellbeing of our furry family/community members, it also facilitates conversations and positive engagement between community peers. This sense of belonging and purpose, many times, intensifies one's perception of community influence and importance - thus generating or strengthening a desire to better oneself, and the society they are surrounded by.

Having an area for community members to congregate, while promoting an optimal environment encouraging canine interaction and activity, is extremely important. Not only does it allow our dogs to learn and grow from others, it also provides citizens, many of which don't have the facilities in/around their homes, land to allow their pups to exercise freely (a necessary element of overall canine health).

My voice, as a Business Owner:

I will soon be opening my Pet Store at Tri City Plaza in Somersworth (Pet Supplies Plus). With this information, you may accurately assume my obvious bias/love of animals. I mention my business, not for recognition or desire for profit, but as part of my offer of engagement and support. If there is a way a partnership would benefit the

creation, maturation, or maintenance of this newly proposed park, I would be happy to help!

I leave you with this...

Throughout the evolution of man, our best friends have journeyed with us, supporting us at our best and worst with unparalleled love and affection. This partnership, between mankind and canines, has since grown exponentially. It is no longer commonplace for families to house their dogs outside, feed them scraps, or even use them for their initial purpose -- working animals. Instead, we welcome in our homes, include them in family pictures, depend on them for emotional, physical, and mental support, and more. The fact is, society no longer refers to Dogs as pets, because they are no longer just pets... they're family.

I encourage you to pass the proposal for the new Somersworth dog park, and would be happy to help in any way I can.

Thank you for your time,  
Dominick Zarcone

Councilor Paradis thanked Mr. Zarcone for sending the letter.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Letter from Michael X. Watman regarding a donation to the Veterans Memorial Park

Dear Scott (Smith),

It would be my pleasure to make a donation in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500) to the Somersworth Veterans Memorial at Stein Park to purchase ten (10) memorial bricks in honor of veterans who might not have anyone able to honor them.

If any or all of these monies are not required for that purpose, then the funds may be directed toward any costs for the memorial as deemed appropriate.

Many thanks for your help in this matter and for the work you do on behalf of the City of Somersworth.

Best,

Michael X. Watman

The letter was read by the Clerk. Mayor Hilliard thanked Mr. Watman for his donation.

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

None

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Public service can be defined by selfless commitment, unwavering dedication, honor and sacrifice. Each day, members of the Hilltopper Team dedicate themselves to each citizen who calls Somersworth Home, and the goals and vision which keep our great community on the move. Often, their work goes unnoticed, and instead of accolades, they absorb unwarranted attacks on their character and their ability to serve. Tonight, however, we honor one of our great Hilltopper Public Servants, and recognize how he has made an impact on not only keeping our community safe, but ensuring Somersworth proud past will be preserved, while ensuring all of us will have a bright future. For eight years, Chief Hoyle has embodied Hilltopper values of neighbor helping neighbor and putting fellow brethren before self. Chief, we thank you for your practices you brought to the Somersworth Fire Service, and each day, ensuring each life and property would remain safe in our great Hilltopper City. Know that your mark on our community has formulated its page in our proud past. Because of your tireless dedication to Somersworth, we will continue to have a bright future.

Mayor Hilliard presented Chief Hoyle with his Chief's Helmet and a proclamation declaring the week of February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 as Keith Hoyle week in the City of Somersworth.

Chief Hoyle thanked the City Council, stating that they have always supported him and the fire department. He thanked Mayor Hilliard for championing the new fire station which will come to fruition soon. He thanked City Manager Belmore for the opportunity to lead the Somersworth Fire Department. He recognized the other department heads, and stated that he has not served with a better group of department heads; Chief Kretschmar, Shanna Saunders, Mike Bobinsky, and Scott Smith, the finance director, the man who manages all the money, and he has a big red 'no' button on his desk which he uses quite often when the department heads come looking for money. He recognized the men and women on the Somersworth fire department, for their dedication to the City. He said he would salute them, but they are all out on a call. This is the end of his 46 years in the fire service and he is humbled and honored to end it in Somersworth, the City on the move.

Mayor Hilliard continued:

While I am certainly humbled by the excitement that continues to build on the Mayor's office incentive to bring to Somersworth, the Nation's first Indonesian welcoming gate and Little Indonesian business and cultural district. Despite that level of excitement and energy surrounding the project, as we continue to move forward, it is imperative that all parties continue to work together and communicate. The article in today's Foster's Daily Democrat unfortunately led some readers with false prospective of the project. While some members of the ICC internal committee were, in fact, doing their best to expel the information correctly, and had the best intentions, it led me, this evening to clarify where we are in the project of the concept. The concept of the donation of a welcoming gate that will be donated to Somersworth by the Indonesian Government was first presented to the Mayor's office 2 years ago. During that meeting, I empowered members of the ICC to further explore some key points surrounding our Hilltop City receiving such a gift:

1. The Indonesian Government's commitment to moving forward with all of the costs, designs and construction of the gate.
2. How the gate would be presented to the City and the size and maintenance commitment that the City would incur by receiving such a gift.

This series of questions then led the ICC to begin to deep dive into exploring the answers to the questions proposed, while the Consulate General and Ambassador of Indonesia began

official talks regarding this project. During the reflection of the scope of the project, I then presented to the members of the ICC how the gate could open an opportunity of the concept for Somersworth to create a business and cultural district for the Indonesian population. The district would highlight Indonesian businesses, arts and cultural crafts and would then be the perfect equation to promote the largest ethnic group while bringing life to our downtown business district and making Somersworth a destination tourist stop.

I again empowered members of the ICC to explore some essential questions:

1. Does any other Indonesian welcoming gate or Little Indonesia exist anywhere in the United States.
2. Would the Indonesian Government be committed to aiding and attracting businesses if the City approved such a project?

The ICC once again, began to explore the questions the Mayor's office had empowered them with and report back. What they reported back, we were able to conclude that nowhere in the United States did an Indonesian welcoming gate exist, or a Little Indonesia. It was during this meeting that I made my commitment to the ICC to aid in moving forward with the gate and would expand the project in seeking to establish a Little Indonesia. Less than three months after that meeting, the Consulate General and I met at the Indonesian Bazaar. During that meeting, I expressed to him the desire of the ICC to raise funds from the Indonesian government to construct the Nation's first welcoming gate, and the Mayor's Office desire to expand the project by developing our country's first Little Indonesia. The meeting concluded with the Consulate General's commitment to both projects, and my commitment to the consulate to continue to develop the concept. For months, the concept would continue to germinate in the Mayor's office while working with members of the ICC to explore more questions and keep the chain of communication open with the Indonesian for service officials. A meeting between the Ambassador, members of the ICC and I took place last year where both concepts were presented and the commitment from the Indonesian government was discussed. The Ambassador and members of the ICC were also led through the downtown by me and City Officials outlining two potential sites of the project; The Somersworth Plaza and the business district across from Aclara. The meeting was a success with the Ambassador committing to working towards an official agreement by the Indonesian government. Throughout this process it was clearly explained to all parties that this is a concept in the Mayor's office and is in no form, an official commitment from this Council for the City of Somersworth. At the conclusion of the meeting, the ICC was again, empowered by the Mayor's office to seek designs on the gate and the cost that the Indonesian government would incur. It was also explained to the ICC that the project would be in phases. The first phase would be the gate, followed by phase two, the development of the business district. I also explained to the members of the ICC that the protocol would have to be followed throughout the process and again, that this project is a concept in the Mayor's office and there is no official commitment from the City. The ICC successfully sought to render the design of the gate as well as a proposed cost. They also developed what one of the proposed sights could potentially look like if phase two was adopted in the area of Aclara. The ICC presented their design at a launch of one of their new network opportunities sponsored by the Mayor's office. My commitment to move forward with the concept was again confirmed pending my re-election. Upon approval to renew my electorate lease in the Mayor's office for another two years, a video conference was set up between the President of the ICC and the Ambassador of Indonesia and I, to discuss the next steps in the concept. During that meeting, I explained to the Ambassador that an official commitment for the

concept from the Indonesian government would now be required. That upon receiving that commitment I would form the official commission to begin vetting the possibilities of bringing this concept to life. The commitment was received from the Ambassador in December 2019. The Mayor's office then proceeded to for the official Commission for Little Indonesia. Moving forward, there are a few key points for this Council to keep in mind:

1. The Mayor's Commission will make a final decision as to what will be presented to this Council. The Commission has representatives from the ICC who will be working with the City officials on determining the best site for the gate for Little Indonesia. The ICC will have a voice and has done massive due diligence in seeking the construction of this project and will continue to have input in moving this project forward. The ICC will continue to do their due diligence with their internal committee that they have just formed, working hand-in-hand with the Mayor's Commission to bring this project forward to Council.
2. When plans have been finalized, the Mayor's Commission will present to Council, and I will introduce to this body, a Resolution for debate, in seeking your approval.

To date, no final decision has been made, no location has been approved and no official commitment from this body or City has been finalized. While I am again humbled by the level of support and excitement in today's article there are some great lessons to be learned that the media has posed to all of us in their front-page article. It is imperative that with any project, protocol be followed, communication occur, and the pace that has been set by the lead car, be followed. I look forward to officially starting work on this concept this week with the first meeting of the Mayor's Little Indonesia Commission, and presenting to this honorable Council the joint findings of both the ICC and the Mayor's Commission by early Fall. Together as a team, the Mayor's office, the Mayor's Little Indonesia Commission, the ICC, City Officials and this Honorable Body will make Somersworth a destination tourist stop with the first Little Indonesian Gate and the first Little Indonesia.

In the last Mayor's report, I had the distinct honor of naming businesses and individuals who made a commitment to construct a living testament to our Veterans. Tonight, we heard a letter from former Mayor, Michael Watman. I encourage all businesses within this community and individuals, as we come closer to the due date of construction of our project to step up and honor our Veterans by making donations. Every little bit helps in bringing us closer to our goal of building a living testament to all who have worn the great uniform of the United States of America.

Once again, thank you to members of St. Ignatius Parish who came out last Friday and Saturday to offer their service to those in need of a warm, safe, caring environment. This is now the third time that St. Ignatius has aided members of our community who are in desperate need of hope. I cannot stress enough the value that the partnership with faith-based organizations play in continuing to move our Hilltop Community forward, and continue to bring hope to all Americans who desperately need it. I look forward to continuing to build a long-term partnership with caring organizations throughout Somersworth and to help bring long-term and temporary solutions for homelessness for those who are desperately within need. Together as a united community, we will keep Somersworth on the move and keep all our citizens safe.

Congratulations to Deb Evans, Executive Director of the Somersworth Housing Authority, for 35 distinguished years with the Somersworth Housing Authority. Thank you for all of your tireless efforts with keeping Somersworth on the move and your progressive vision of bringing great homes to all in need. Thank you for 35 years of service.

The next Mayor's Community Forum will take place Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00am to 10:30am at City Hall. In this community forum, Ward 1 and Ward 2 City Councilors Martin Pepin and Kenneth Vincent, and Ward 1 and Ward 2 School Board Members, Maggie Larson and Matt Hanlon. The purpose of the forums are to foster dialog and ideas in a non-formal setting and continue to move our community forward. All members of the community and elected officials are welcome to attend any forums.

#### Under Nominations Appointment and Elections

##### Nominations Requiring Council Confirmation Vote

Richard Brooks, appointment to the Historic District Commission, with a term to expire February 2023

Kenneth Vincent, as an Alternate Member to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, with a term to expire February 2023 (Explanation: Nominated as a Citizen Appointment; not as a Council Representative)

##### Nominations Introduced for Council Confirmation Vote

Matthew Keiser, Re-Appointment as a Member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, with a term to expire, March 2023

Margaret Roberge, Re-Appointment as a Member of the Board of Cemetery Trustees, with a term to expire, March 2025

This respectfully concludes my Mayor's Report for February 18, 2020.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance Committee – Councilor Witham reported that the Committee met on February 18, 2020 at 4:00pm. They discussed:

- The standpipe storage at Noble Pines; look at the condition and decide to rehab or replace. Wright Pierce was the successful bidder. Wright Pierce also did a study of the water distribution a few years ago in the City. They have an understanding of our system. The City received a \$20,000 grant, and budgeted \$100,000. The cost will be about \$34,000 and will also include an update of the previous study. A resolution will come to full council soon.
- Wellfield and well pump on Rocky Hill Rd. This occasionally used for irrigation at the Oaks golf course, and was used for a brief time during a flood. There were 7 bids, and 4 were interviewed. Staff chose Emery and Garrett, with assistance from Hoyle and Tanner. A resolution will be introduced at the City Council next meeting.
- Contract with Waste Management for blue bags, recycling and sludge removal. This is a 5-year contract. Waste Management is providing us with good pricing, and staff is pleased with the responsiveness. The Committee endorsed moving forward with a 5-year

contract. The cost of the contract is increasing, because the cost of the sludge treatment is going up.

- Cemetery Road project, and bid alternates that Public Works and Environment Committee was interested in. They suggested to do a portion of Doelson Street. The Committee was in favor with amending the contraction with Wright Pierce. A resolution will be introduced at next City Council meeting. As a bid alternate, they added on the access road around the high school. They would also like to consider a mill and overlay of Doelson Street as a bid alternate.
- Bonding on Cemetery Road. There was discussion about the tax impact. This bond will replace a previous bond. A resolution for a bond anticipation note will be introduced in the month of March. This is a \$3.5mil project. Because this is a Complete Streets Project, 1/3 of the cost will come out of General Fund, 1/3 will come from the Water Enterprise Fund and 1/3 from the Sewer Enterprise Funds.
- New fire station, bonds. The Committee unanimously agreed to bond \$7.7mil for the fire station. Robust discussion about the bond timing. Committee was in favor of a 20-25 year bond. Not usually a number they would go with, but a longer term note makes sense for this project.

Public Safety – Councilor Pepin reported that the Committee met on February 12, 2020 at 4:30pm. The Committee discussed:

- COPS grant for 2 new police officers. This is a 3-year deal, and they would be required to keep the officer on for one additional year. The Committee endorsed supporting the grant. Report on Police Department staffing; there is one in academy, one open position. Crime scene unit, almost complete; the department will receive the unit at the end of February. K9, Bravo has been busy in training. He is now certified in Narcotics Training.
- Report from Paul Robidas of Stewart’s Ambulance; response time has increase due to the weather. They hired a new training personnel to train staff.
- City Manager Belmore report for the Fire Department: Brush Truck is being outfitted. The new pickup truck is having radios installed. They lost 3 call firefighters. They are waiting for grant for generator at Hilltop School. For radios.
- They reviewed the Fire Station Design. The Committee supported the new Fire Station Design and EOC.

Public Works & Environment Councilor Witham reported that the Committee met on February 18, 2020 at 3:00pm. He stated that the Committee discussed many of the same items that was discussed in the Finance Committee.

- Sponsor Resolution for the water storage at Noble Pines, and the well pump at Rocky Hill Road.
- Waste management contract
- Letter to the state regarding the Nitrogen permit, requesting a peer review.
- Under Miscellaneous, the Committee discussed talked about the Veterans Memorial Park, regarding the price to replace the sidewalk in that area. Also want to add a fence along the side where Fair Court used to be and along Elm Street. The Committee endorsed this, and discussed that this will be paid for with one time State infrastructure funds.

Recreation – Councilor Cameron reported that the Committee met on February 5, 2020. The Committee discussed:

- Research for the dog park. It was determined that Millennium Park would be the best location for the Dog Park. The park will require 6’ fencing, signage, dog waste signs. The small dog area would be approx. 5,850 sq. ft. and the large dog area would be approx. 17,500 sq. ft. The dog park will be closed through the winter. Galvanized fencing would be most economical and water bowls will be available. The finance committee endorsed the use of the cable fund to fund the dog park. They discussed other fundraising opportunities.
- Program updates; youth and biddy basketball, and track. Summercamp, looking for camp councilors; there was discussion about increasing the hourly wage. Flashlight candy cane hunt, senior tea, daddy daughter dance, a mother and son event and the Easter egg hunt.
- Damage to the pavilion roof; repair to the roof and light pole.
- Highway Foreman Vachon had an idea to keep up with the knotweed at Noble Pines. He is going to use the milling from the streets to lay 6" down to help smother the knotweed to stop the growing. They use milling now at the DPW in the backyard to help with weeds and it has been successful.

**REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER**

Special Committees

School Board – Councilor Pepin reported that the Board had a budget presentation from Superintendent Gadowski. Following the presentation, there was a public hearing. Councilor Austin spoke in favor of the budget. During the School Board meeting, the Board discussed the contract for special education transportation. They are in a budget freeze at this time. The Board voted to approve sending the FY20-21 to the City Manager.

City Manager’s Report

**TO: Mayor Dana S. Hilliard and City Council Members**  
**FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager**  
**DATE: Thursday, February 13, 2020**  
**SUBJECT: City Manager’s Report for Tuesday, February 18, 2020**  
**City Council Agenda**

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*6:30 pm: City Council Group Picture*

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*Old Business (Under Section 14 of Agenda)*

## Resolutions

- A. Resolution No. 29-20: Vote to Authorize a Bond to Replace the Elevator at the Somersworth Middle School.** Again, the Finance Committee is recommending a 15-year Bond, and also accepted City Staff's recommendation to round the estimate up to \$650,000. Once final costs are determined, the City will only Bond the actual amount needed to complete the project.

## *New Business (Under Section 15 of Agenda)*

## Resolutions

- A. Resolution No. 30-20: Vote to Authorize a City Fundraising Campaign for the Creation of a Dog Park at Millennium Park.** The Recreation Committee met on February 5<sup>th</sup> and voted to support this Resolution to move forward with a fundraising campaign. I have also attached a "*Draft*" fundraising letter that is intended to be used during this campaign.
- B. Resolution No. 31-20: Vote to Forgive Two Notes and Release Two Mortgages and Security Agreements from Queensbury Mill Limited Partnership.** The Finance Committee met on January 29<sup>th</sup> and voted to support this action. City Attorney contacted the State's Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) and they had no concern with the City forgiving this debt. I have attached a copy of the email received from George Hunton of the CDFA. I have also included copies of some informational documents provided to the Finance Committee.
- C. Resolution No. 32-20: Vote to Authorize the City Manager to Apply for a Grant with the United States Department of Justice Cops Hiring Program to Add Two Additional Police Officers.** The Finance Committee met on January 29<sup>th</sup> and Public Safety met on February 12<sup>th</sup>, both Committees voted to support this Resolution to apply for this Grant. This Grant, if received, will pay for 75% of the salaries and benefits of officers, with the City covering the remaining 25%. Please note that the grant provides a maximum amount of \$125,000 per position, and the City will be required to fund the positions for one full year after the 3 year grant period.

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

### **A. Informational Items.**

- a. Chamber Portable Ramp.** Just a note: There is a portable ramp available in the Council Chambers should it be needed for anyone to access the Chamber Council desks.
- b. FY 2020/2021 Geosyntec Contract-Landfill Superfund Site.** In keeping with past practice, and without objection, I will be signing the attached Draft

Contract Amendment for proposed monitoring work to be done by Geosyntec Consultants as required by the EPA, this would cover FY 20/21. This Remedial Action Services contract outlines our compliance obligations in accordance with the existing EPA Consent Decree and Record of Decision (ROD) as well as other work that may be required by the EPA from time to time. Attorney Beliveau will provide legal guidance on any needed language amendments to this Agreement, which I have attached. The Contract costs and other associated budgeted expenses are split between the City at 50.5% and GE at 49.5%.

c. **Upcoming City Council Meetings & Workshops.** (*please note:* the Special Budget meeting originally scheduled for April 27 has been moved to April 13)

➤ **Monday, March 2**

- 6:00 pm: Vision 2020 Presentation
- 6:30 pm: Somersworth Housing Authority (SHA) update on the SHA Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) project.

➤ **Monday, March 16**

- 5:30 pm: State of the City Address
- 7:00 pm: City Council Meeting
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➤ **Saturday, March 28**

- 8:30 am: City Council Team Building Session

➤ **Saturday, April 4**

- 8:30 am: City Council Budget Workshop – Non-Profits & City Departments

➤ **Monday, April 6**

- 6:00 pm: City Manager Presents Budget
- 7:00 pm: Budget Public Hearing and City Council Meeting

➤ **Monday, April 13**

- 7:00 pm: Special Budget Meeting – Budget Possibly Adopted

➤ **Monday, April 20**

- 7:00 pm: City Council Meeting

**Attachments**

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

City Manager Belmore introduced the City's new Fire Chief, George Kramlinger. Chief Kramlinger stated that it is an honor to be here and he looks forward to working with the Councilors, staff and crew.

## NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

### Nominations Requiring Council Confirmation Vote

Richard Brooks, appointment to the Historic District Commission, with a term to expire February 2023

***Councilor Cameron, seconded by Councilor Paradis, made a motion to approve the nomination. The motion passed, 8-0.***

Kenneth Vincent, as an Alternate Member to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, with a term to expire February 2023 (Explanation: Nominated as a Citizen Appointment; not as a Council Representative)

***Councilor Austin, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to approve the nomination.***

Councilor Witham said he applauds Councilor Vincent for wanting to be on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. He said it strikes him as odd. If he were appointed as a Council Representative to the Planning Board, that is a confirmed vote of the Council. He is going to be a citizen appointee, and he is still a City Councilor. Just the whole thing strikes him as odd. Councilor Witham stated that he would like to have this investigated a bit further.

Councilor Witham made a motion to table the nomination, then removed his motion to allow for further discussion.

Mayor Hilliard said it has been examined by City Staff and reviewed by the City Attorney. Under state law, it is permissible.

***Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to request a Roll Call Vote. The motion passed, 8-0.***

***Motion to approve the nomination passed 7-1, by roll call vote, with Councilor Witham opposed.***

### Nominations Introduced for Council Confirmation Vote

Matthew Keiser, Re-Appointment as a Member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, with a term to expire, March 2023

Margaret Roberge, Re-Appointment as a Member of the Board of Cemetery Trustees, with a term to expire, March 2025

***These nominations will remain open until the March 2, 2020 City Council Meeting.***

## LAY ON THE TABLE

None

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### RESOLUTIONS



## City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: 29-20

### **VOTE TO AUTHORIZE A BOND TO REPLACE THE ELEVATOR AT THE SOMERSWORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL**

February 3, 2020

WHEREAS, the elevator at the Somersworth Middle School is essential to providing access for every student to all sections of the Middle School; and

WHEREAS, School Officials recommend replacing the elevator due to its age, concern of its reliability, and lack of access to replacement parts that may be required to repair the elevator should it stop working, and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost to replace the elevator is \$650,000 (Six Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars), and

WHEREAS, the project costs include architecture, engineering, construction, 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 \$650,000 (Six Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars) is appropriated to replace the elevator at the Somersworth Middle School; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

- (a) the City Manager is authorized to borrow up to \$650,000 (Six Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars) under the Municipal Finance Act and 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	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> David A. Witham Martin Pepin Donald Austin	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

**City of Somersworth – Resolution 29-20**

<b>History</b>			
First Read Date:	02/03/2020	Tabled:	NA
Public Hearing:	02/18/2020	Removed From Table:	NA
Second Read:	02/18/2020		

**Discussion**

*This Resolution requires a public hearing and requires a 2/3 majority vote of the City Council after the public hearing (Sections 7.13 and 7.14 City Charter).*

*Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to approve Resolution 29-20.*

Councilor Witham said they have been talking about the elevator for a number of years, and there is a bond being released by the school and this is the time to do this project. The School is receiving some onetime money but that will be used for some CIP needs. A bond is the best approach.

Councilor Gerding stated, as someone who works at the middle school, he often doesn't use the elevator, because of the concern for its safety. He will place equipment on the elevator then take the stairs.

Councilor Cameron stated that they have been going around and around and it is time to take care of this.

<b>Voting Record</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	X	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent	-	-
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont	X	
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin	X	
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham	X	
At Large Councilor	Gerding	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Paradis	X	
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>
On 02/18/2020 Resolution 29-20		<b>PASSED</b>	

Councilor Dumont suggested that the Joint Building Commission be re-instated to oversee the design and construction of the elevator in the Middle School.  
*Mayor Hilliard nominated Councilor Pepin and Councilor Dumont as members of the JBC. Council approved, 8-0.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTIONS**

	<b>City of Somersworth – Resolution</b>
	<p>Resolution No: <b>30-20</b></p> <p><b>VOTE TO AUTHORIZE A CITY FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN FOR THE CREATION OF A DOG PARK AT MILLENNIUM PARK</b></p>

February 18, 2020

WHEREAS, the Somersworth City Council adopted Resolution 17-20 to develop a preliminary report on potential location/s and costs for a possible City Dog Park, and

WHEREAS, the City Manager worked with city staff to evaluate locations throughout the City and determined the best option for a City Dog Park is Millennium Park with an estimated cost of \$45,000, and

WHEREAS, staff reviewed this report with the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Committee supports this recommendation and further supports engaging in a fundraising campaign through March 31, 2020,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT that the City will begin a fundraising campaign for the creation of a Dog Park at Millennium Park, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the fundraising campaign will conclude on March 31, 2020.

<b>Authorization</b>	
<p><i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i></p> <p>Nancie Cameron  Richard R. Michaud  Martin Pepin  Crystal Paradis</p>	<p><i>Approved:</i></p> <p>City Attorney</p>

**City of Somersworth – Resolution 30-20**

**History**

First Read Date:	02/18/2020	Tabled:	NA
Public Hearing:	NA	Removed From Table:	NA
Second Read:	02/18/2020		

**Discussion**

*Councilor Cameron, seconded by Councilor Witham, made a motion to waive Council Rules to allow for a second read of Resolution 30-20. The motion passed, 8-0.*

*Councilor Cameron, seconded by Councilor Paradis, made a motion to approve Resolution 30-20.*

Councilor Austin said he will not be supporting this Resolution. When we can offer a service to our citizens, and not have them pay for it, we should do that. We are user-feeing people to death. This is another burden to the tax payers.

Councilor Dumont said he somewhat agrees with Councilor Austin, it is a wonderful thing and we should do this. He is fearful of becoming a fundraising-minded Council; every time a need comes up, we have a fundraiser. All dogs are supposed to be licensed. We should look into adding an extra fee to the dog licenses. If we register vehicles, an extra \$5 is added to a fund for roads and sidewalks. This is a short window for fundraising. He stated his concern is not just raising money to develop the dog park, but how will it be supported and maintained.

Councilor Witham said this is an interesting conversation that has been raised. There are user fees for other things in the city; music, sports, there is a lot of fundraising that goes on. If a corporate entity, wanted to advertise with a sign, could they do that?

City Manager Belmore said they've talked about allowing advertisements, but has not been addressed. They could not allow it at this time.

Councilor Witham said with advertisements, sponsors could come in a bit quicker. There needs to be a more comprehensive look at fundraising.

City Manager Belmore said the short window was his idea. There is a damaged fence and he wants to get it repaired, along with this project.

Councilor Cameron said the idea of fundraising came up to help the users have pride in the facility; knowing they contributed to it, and they would help with clean up and to maintain the park. There was some concern that residents would think if the city was going to build a dog park, those funds could be used elsewhere.

Councilor Pepin stated there was a long discussion while this was in the Recreation Committee. A lot of dog parks in other communities are self-efficient. As far as upkeep, there will be some maintenance.

Paradis said she sees the point of the fundraising. It might be more appropriate to contact businesses for advertisement, banners, or flyers.

Councilor Michaud mentioned that the members of the community have reached out to him. They are in favor but they don't want the tax payers to pay for it.

Councilor Witham stated that he feels, where this is short term it is ok, and will help offset the cost a bit. He would like to look into corporate sponsorship, for this and all parks. Corporate Sponsors could have signage at the parks.

City Manager would have no problem approving a temporary sign. He explained that the Cable Fund is not funded through the tax payer money. It is funded by Comcast subscribers.

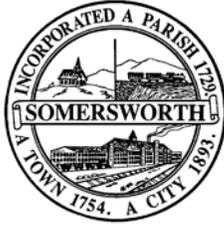
Councilor Gerding said he has no issue with the fundraiser. If people are willing to donate towards this, it will save some on the cable fund. He would like to look into maintenance and alternatives to paying for maintenance in the future. Advertising could pay for maintenance.

Councilor Paradis stated that according to other communities, the cost for maintenance was negligible.

City Manager Belmore said that is accurate, the cost for maintenance will be minimal. The fence should last a long time. There is also a Capital Reserve Fund for park maintenance.

Councilor Dumont stated that after listening to the discussion, he does not feel compelled to vote no. After the Dog Park is up and running, he would like some feedback as to the usage and anything that crops up. He agrees that they should contact corporate sponsors and veterinarians in town, to discuss the possibility of advertising.

<b>Voting Record</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	X	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent	-	-
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont	X	
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin		X
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham	X	
At Large Councilor	Gerding	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Paradis	X	
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>On / / . Resolution 30-20</b>		<b>PASSED</b>	



## City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: **31-20**

**VOTE TO FORGIVE TWO NOTES AND RELEASE TWO MORTGAGES AND SECURITY AGREEMENTS FROM QUEENSBURY MILL LIMITED PARTNERSHIP**

February 18, 2020

WHEREAS, the Somersworth City Council adopted Resolution 28-95 on July 17, 1995 accepting conditions for the Queensbury Mill Congregate Housing Services Program under the Community Development Block Program (CDBG) by the City of Somersworth, and

WHEREAS, as part of this project, the City Council authorized the City Manager to enter into a contract with the Somersworth Housing Authority for the administration and supervision of the project, and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth, using the CDBG program, authorized the sub-granting of up to \$456,590 to the Queensbury Mill Limited Partnership with an additional \$31,150 designated as reimbursement for administrative expenses to the Somersworth Housing Authority, and

WHEREAS, to ensure performance of the CDBG obligations, the City entered into two (2) Notes and two (2) Mortgages and Security Agreements with the Queensbury Mill Limited Partnership, one for \$307,000, and one for \$87,000, both executed on September 11, 1996, and

WHEREAS, the Mortgage and Security Agreements become payable in 360 equal monthly payments beginning August 26, 2026 provided the Queensbury Mill Limited Partnership does not default on any of the Grant Agreements between the City and the NH Office of State Planning, and

WHEREAS, the Queensbury Mill Limited Partnership has met the obligations of the Grant Agreements and the Mortgage and Security Agreements are no longer required to ensure compliance with the Grant Agreements, and

WHEREAS, should the City enforce repayment under the Agreements it provides no benefit to the City as such payments would be required to be submitted to the State of New Hampshire,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT that the City Manager is authorized to sign any and all legal documents required to release and forgive the Queensbury Mill Limited Partnership from their obligations under the two (2) Notes and two (2) Mortgages and Security Agreements entered into with the City of Somersworth, and furthermore the City Manager is authorized to take any other action relative to this approval determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Authorization	
<p><i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i></p> <p>David A. Witham Donald Austin Martin Pepin</p>	<p><i>Approved:</i></p> <p>City Attorney</p>

**City of Somersworth – Resolution 31-20**

<b>History</b>			
First Read Date:	02/18/2020	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

**Discussion**

On February 18, 2020, *Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Dumont, made a motion to waive Council Rules to allow Resolution 31-30 to be read by title only. The motion passed, 8-0.*

Resolution 31-20 will remain in first read until the March 2, 2020 City Council Meeting.

<b>Voting Record</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont		
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Gerding		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Paradis		
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			
On / / . Resolution 31-20		<b>PASSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>



## City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: 32-20

**VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR A GRANT WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COPS HIRING PROGRAM TO ADD TWO ADDITIONAL POLICE OFFICERS**

February 18, 2020

WHEREAS, the City Council would like to increase the number of police officers to improve the efficiency of the Police Department and continue to provide quality service throughout the City, and

WHEREAS, City staff has received notification that a new series of grants are available through the United States Department of Justice COPS hiring program that provides a 75% match with a maximum amount of up to \$125,000 per officer over a three year period; and

WHEREAS, if the City accepts a grant for additional police officers it must maintain these positions for one full year after the grant period,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to apply for a grant with the United States Department of Justice COPS Program to add two additional police officers, and take any and all other such actions on relative to this grant determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> David A. Witham Martin Pepin Donald Austin Kenneth S. Vincent Nancie Cameron Crystal Paradis	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

## City of Somersworth – Resolution 32-20

<b>History</b>			
First Read Date:	02/18/2020	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

### **Discussion**

Resolution 32-20 will remain in first read until the March 2, 2020 City Council Meeting.

<b>Voting Record</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont		
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Gerding		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Paradis		
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			
On / / . Resolution 32-20		<b>PASSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>

### **CLOSING COMMENTS BY VISITORS**

Superintendent Gadomski thanked the Council for approving Resolution 29-20 and supporting the bond for the elevator. They have talked about this for years and it would be impossible to fit this into the School budget without cutting programs.

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

Councilor Pepin thanked Mr. Brooks for putting his name back in as a member of the Historic District Commission. He did good work and will continue. He thanked (former) Councilor Sprague for keeping their minds working; he makes them think out of the box. He said he was going to miss Chief Hoyle in the committees and the stories they shared. Enjoy your retirement.

Councilor Dumont thanked (former) Councilor Sprague. He stated that he always comes to the table with knowledge, along with that, he appreciates his concern for the city. Congratulations to the new fire chief and to Debbie Evans for her 35 years of service to the Somersworth Housing Authority. He stated that they must have counted when she first went to the day care, as a student.

Councilor Dumont stated that he has seen a lot of stuff in the paper about Aclara. He saw a quote that said, "Never came to Somersworth with a plan for Somersworth"

He stated that he has been challenged with his health since July. He received good care from Dartmouth Hospital. He thanked everyone for the prayers and for all the well wishes.

He said he has received a lot of inquiries about the library. He does not go there but it is a good place for the community. He knows the City Manager uses the library regularly. He would like a committee do a study on the library.

He said he appreciates Mr. Zarcone's letter. We called them pets, but they are considered family. The Family member that doesn't disagree with you. He has cats. For those of you who don't have a family member, they bring happiness to a house. Think about those animals that are in a cage. Visit them and give a donation to the animal shelters.

St. Ignatius is the church he goes to. Those people just jump up and volunteer, whether it be donations of food, blankets, or the warming shelter.

For those of you who have not made a donation for the Veterans Park, there is still time. He thanked Mayor Watman for his generous donation. The Veterans Park is a small token for those who have given their life.

He congratulated Chief Hoyle on his retirement.

He thanked Mayor Hilliard for clarifying the Little Indonesia article in Fosters. Indonesian people just want peace and harmony and a safe place to live.

Market Basket story; he ran into Ed Mulligan, who had a restaurant in Somersworth. It was a great place to get a wonderful European meal, with wine. Thank you for what you did for Somersworth. Mulligan's Grill at the CTC.

Councilor Austin thanked Chief Hoyle for all he has done for the community. He congratulated Debbie Evans on her milestone. People who do the same work for 35 years is quite an achievement.

St. Ignatius, that parish steps up to the plate anytime. Food, blankets, time, they step up.

He clarified that he supports the dog park, he just doesn't think we ought to go to fundraising when we have non tax dollars available for this project. We don't provide many services to this community that are truly free. We should do that when we can.

Councilor Michaud thanked Chief Hoyle for his years of service and congratulated him on his retirement. He welcomed the new Fire Chief, welcome to the Somersworth Family.

He welcomed Marty (Dumont) back. He stated that the School Board did an awesome job on the school board budget. He thanked Deb Evans for her many years of service.

He said he saw an article on social media regarding a landlord on Green Street. We need to look into codes, regarding properties with absentee landlords.

Councilor Witham said, in regards to code enforcement, he doesn't think we are doing enough there. There are many violations, with non compliance. The dial needs to be turned up. Many of these are repeat offenders. The council typically has a workshop in spring and he hopes the code enforcement can be addressed.

Chief Hoyle, congratulations on his pending retirement. It has not been an easy 8 years; there has been a fair number of sad days in the region. He thanked Chief Hoyle for making Somersworth his final stop. To the incoming Chief, welcome. What you inherit is an organization that is heading in the right direction. You inherit a solid group and would put them up against any other is in the state.

Councilor Gerding also congratulated Chief Hoyle and congratulations to the new chief as well. Robotics update; they went to the state meet and placed 11<sup>th</sup> out of 41 and was one place shy of making the finals. They will be heading to Iowa the first week of April.

Councilor Cameron welcomed back Councilor Dumont.  
Chief Hoyle, congratulations on well earned retirement.  
Deb from Housing, congratulations on the 35 year milestone.  
She welcomed the new Chief.  
Richard Brooks welcome back aboard.  
For all the comments on the dog park, she will look into the options.

Councilor Paradis congratulated Chief Hoyle on his retirement. Welcomed the new chief as well and congratulated Debbie for 35 years.  
Coffee with the Councilor was held last Saturday. They talked mostly about the Dog park, and road repair schedules and how roads get chosen and their rank and order. Leap day, February 29, 2020 is the next scheduled Coffee with a Councilor; 10am at Teatotaller.  
Regarding the Aclara closure, she read an article about what other cities have done to change old mill buildings.

Mayor Hilliard said he will not be at the March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 City Council Meeting. He will be attending the American Israeli public affairs.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**NONPUBLIC SESSION**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

***Councilor Michaud, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.***

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Trish Harris, City Clerk

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Dana Hilliard, Mayor