



Minutes of City Council Special Budget Meeting Monday, April 22, 2024

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Matt Gerding and, upon roll call, the following Council members were present: Pepin, Vincent, Gibson, Paradis-Catanzaro, Michaud, Witham, Goodwin, and Cameron.

Councilor Messier was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Cameron led the Council in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE – OUR NATIVE ANCESTRAL AMERICANS

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

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

There were no comments by visitors.

LAY ON THE TABLE

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

Councilor Gibson made a motion to remove Ordinance 9-24 from the table. The motion was seconded by Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro and passed 8-0 by voice vote.

Mayor Gerding shared that he created a spreadsheet in order to provide the Council with a visual of their amendments including the impact to the tax rate and the amount over the tax cap. He stated that as the amendments are provided, he will enter the information into the spreadsheet where it will formulate figures and that if the motion does not pass, he will simply remove it from the spreadsheet.

Councilor Witham made a motion to increase the Use of Fund Balance by \$300,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Goodwin.

Discussion:

Councilor Witham stated that he provided the Councilors with written notes pertaining to areas he had previously mentioned with regards to the budget. He shared that his motion increases the Use of Fund Balance to \$1,800,000 to help reduce the tax impact to taxpayers. He shared his reasoning of the increase including that he is assuming that if the City moves forward with this figure in future budgets, that it will be a sustainable amount that can be maintained by the City.

Councilor Goodwin inquired about the Use of Fund Balance and why it is seen as a set amount carried from year-to-year because the Council could choose to reduce it back to \$1,500,000 in the next budget year if they so wished or he wondered if the tax cap makes it hard to undo. Councilor Witham stated that based on his understanding, it is typically looked at as the figure going into the next budget year because if not, the City is looking at a reduction in funds. Finance Director Smith confirmed that Councilor Witham is correct, he provided an example of the Use of Fund Balance amendment passing to increase to \$1,800,000, and if the Council votes to bring the Fund Balance back down to \$1,500,000 during the next budget, then the City is essentially \$300,000 short in its revenue and could impact the tax rate because the City would need to raise more taxes to meet the budgeting needs of the City.

There was additional discussion pertaining to the Use of Fund Balance regarding increases and deductions and the impacts of each. Councilor Vincent inquired about the remaining fund balance if the Council approved this amendment. Finance Director Smith responded that about \$5,600,000 would remain at this time which is subject to change at the closure of the books for Fiscal Year 2024. The figure does not change daily, it is determined once a year at that closure.

There was discussion regarding the impact of new construction and the city-wide property revaluation to the budget. Councilor Gibson inquired if once those amounts are formulated into the budget, if that is expected to lessen the impact of what is coming out of the Fund Balance. Finance Director Smith confirmed that the new construction can reduce the tax rate, however, it would not change the amount that needs to be collected in property taxes to meet the budget needs.

Councilor Witham commented that he views the Fund Balance as the City's savings account that can be utilized to offset the tax rate. He explained that the Fund Balance has been utilized in the past to cover emergency expenses that were not expected and therefore, not budgeted for. Councilor Witham commented that he is trying to be mindful and conservative with the amount added to the Use of Fund Balance.

Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro stated that she supports the motion and she appreciates the discussion as to why \$300,000 is a good figure and not more. She commented that there are two options to add to the plus side of the budget from her perspective which is by increasing the Use of Fund Balance or overriding the tax cap to meet the needs of the City's Budget as a whole. She added that a balance of \$1,800,000 feels like a healthy place to be at, especially with the unknowns pertaining to new construction, the City's revaluation, and the State Adequacy Aid.

Councilor Vincent expressed concern regarding additional increases to the Use of Fund Balance because the Council will be responsible for sustaining that going forward into the next years' fiscal budget discussions.

Councilor Witham commented on him being the Councilor that raised the thought of utilizing the Fund Balance to cover one-time expenses and he mentioned his thoughts on removing \$25,000 from the CIP program plans for the Master Plan because he sees that as more of a one-time cost as opposed to road maintenance or fleet vehicles which should be a budgeted line items year-to-year to maintain those needs.

Councilor Goodwin clarified that the motion on the table is to take \$300,000 from the City's Fund Balance to be put into the Use of Fund Balance and not, at this time, specifically directed to the purchase of something but rather a general amount that is applied to the budget as a whole. He stated that he supports the increase of \$300,000.

Councilor Pepin provided the Council with a brief history pertaining to the City's Road Maintenance discussions when the Council determined an amount to budget that would maintain the City's roads. He spoke about the difference in costs from 10-15 years ago compared to now has increased significantly.

The motion passed 6-2 by roll call vote. Councilor Vincent and Gibson opposed.

Councilor Witham made a motion to amend Street Maintenance - Road Resurfacing by increasing it by \$150,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gibson.

Discussion:

Councilor Witham stated that the current year budgeted amount is \$900,000, and the City Manager reduced the Road Resurfacing budget by \$150,000 in order to remain within the City's tax cap. He spoke about the cost of resurfacing a small section along West High Street which is between \$300,000-\$350,000. He also shared his thought on having to reconstruct Willand Drive with the new sports dome project which he would expect to increase traffic on that stretch of roadway once that

project is completed. Councilor Witham commented that the Council has worked collectively to maintain that line item to fund the maintenance and upkeep to City roads. Additionally, he commented that taxpayers being able to visualize their taxes hard at work is beneficial.

The motion passed 8-0 by roll call vote.

Councilor Witham made a motion to eliminate the Capital Outlay - Master Plan, a decrease of \$25,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro.

Discussion:

Councilor Witham stated that he views the Master Plan as a one-time expense and that the proposed \$25,000 is not enough money to complete the Plan in full. He would like to find a more cohesive way to fund the project.

Councilor Gibson questioned if the amendment is to do away with funding the Master Plan in FY25 or to fund it utilizing the unassigned Fund Balance. Councilor Witham confirmed his amendment ultimately removes it from the budget and would require Council action through a supplemental appropriation. Councilor Gibson asked if the supplemental appropriation would require a 2/3 Council vote. Mayor Gerding confirmed that it would. Councilor Gibson stated his concern is that the City could end up with nothing if the appropriation was not favored by 2/3 of the Council.

Councilor Goodwin also shared his concern that the Master Plan is not guaranteed to be funded if this amendment passes. He noted that the \$25,000 represents one chapter update of the Master Plan. He expressed the importance of the Master Plan for the City and that he would prefer to keep it in the budget.

Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro stated that her intent in seconding the motion was not to see the funds eliminated from the budget completely.

Councilor Gibson inquired about a timeframe in which the Master Plan must be updated. City Manager Belmore confirmed that there is no penalty for not updating the Master Plan timely, he also added that the City is in the process of updating two of the Master Plan's chapters utilizing grant funds currently. City Manager Belmore stated that the estimate came in around \$90,000 to update the Master Plan, and his proposal was to complete one chapter a year for four consecutive years.

Councilor Gibson shared that he is concerned with pushing the Master Plan back because costs will continue to increase, especially if the Council does not support a supplemental appropriation in the near future.

Councilor Pepin commented that he struggles with the Master Plan due to the fact that there are two large developments projects which would bring more people into the City, he wonders if it would be beneficial to wait to see what type of an impact or changes that brings to the future.

Councilor Witham commented that the pros and cons of this amendment has been heard by him, he agreed with Councilor Pepin's comments regarding large development projects within the City. He added that the Planning Department is small and he is not planning to stall on the Master Plan and that chapter updates are currently being worked on.

Councilor Goodwin shared his perspective regarding the large development projects coming into the City. He feels that those large developments are indicative to completing the Master Plan because developers are starting to come to Somersworth without having to beg for it. He noted that the Master Plan was last updated in 2010 and at that time the world was a different place to be in. Councilor Goodwin stated that having an updated Master Plan is important for the Community to know that the City is guiding the future. He added that without it being updated, we risk more development coming in that the City will not be able to reverse if they later realize it was not what was best for the Community. He stated that he feels it is an important investment and he will not support the amendment.

Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro agreed with the comments made by Councilor Goodwin and she added that the Master Plan is intended to be a 10-year plan, and as it stands currently, the updates are looking to be that of a 15-year Master Plan.

Councilor Vincent urged the Council to make a move to update the Master Plan by seeking other avenues if the motion passes.

Councilor Gibson commented that he also agrees with the comments regarding updates to the Master Plan. He favors keeping the proposed \$25,000 budgeted to ensure it is addressed.

The motion failed 3-5 by roll call vote. Councilors Goodwin, Cameron, Gibson, Paradis-Catanzaro, and Michaud opposed.

Councilor Witham made a motion to eliminate funding to the Somersworth Youth Connection (SYC) program and decreasing that line item with Community Support by \$50,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent.

Discussion:

Councilor Witham commented that he understands the value of before and after care and he shared some history of the program previously being funded by grants and then due to restrictions, the School Department decided to keep it in house and was funded partially by the School Department, the City, and user fees. He added that he came to this decision as he believes that it belongs fully in the school's budget, and also the Council heard about alternative programs for similar services that SAU staff were pursuing if the SYC program was no longer funded.

Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro stated that the motion seems to make sense and that the Council already approved amending the School Department's budget by increasing it by \$500,000 which covered all of the tier 3 items. She added that the SYC program was the number one thing that she recalls hearing from the Community about with regards to potential budget cuts and she requested an update from the School Department regarding previously discussed before and after school care alternatives should the Council vote to eliminate the SYC funds.

Superintendent Goscinski confirmed that discussions continue to be had between the School Department and the YMCA and Rochester Child Care. He confirmed that the school is not a licensed child care provider and therefore they cannot offer scholarship programs. He also confirmed that if the SYC program is not funded, he is fairly confident that one of the alternative programs will take its place and he will ensure that families are left with options.

Councilor Vincent inquired about the Rochester Child Care center offering services within Somersworth. Superintendent Goscinski confirmed that services will be within Somersworth and that one of their stipulations was that the organizations hire the current staff so people would not lose their jobs.

The motion passed 7-1. Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro opposed.

Councilor Witham made a motion to increase the Community Support for COAST Bus in the amount of \$10,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro.

Discussion:

Councilor Witham recognized that his amendment doesn't move the needle a lot compared to COAST's request. He stated that the Council heard that ridership within the City remains strong and ADA Paratransit Services are in high demand and a costly service to provide.

Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro commented that she appreciates the small move but she also doesn't think that it is enough. She does support the motion.

Councilor Pepin stated that he used to sit on the COAST Board and he mentioned that the Federal Government matches local funds and that even though it may not be enough, it is helpful to the organization.

Councilor Witham commented that his approach to the budget was to offer small increases to gauge the Council appetite and impact to the budget's proposed tax rate.

The motion passed 8-0 by roll call vote.

Councilor Goodwin made a motion to increase the following Community Support line items: Community Food Pantry increase by \$500, fund the Pope Memorial Humane Society at \$2,000, and fund the Falls Chamber of Commerce at \$2,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro.

Discussion:

Councilor Goodwin explained that the Community Food Pantry had a small increase request of \$500 and he would like to see that through as they provide a critical service to the residents of Somersworth. He commented that he would like to fund the Pope Memorial as a show of good faith as they work with the City's Police Department to assist in animal control, he added that he was surprised to learn that the City had not been supporting the organization previously. Councilor Goodwin shared that his reason for supporting the Falls Chamber of Commerce is that the City no longer has a staff member dedicated to the City's Economic Development and he feels that it is a small amount to encourage development within the Community.

Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro stated that she supports the motion and that she had planned on bring forward support for the Pope Memorial.

The motion failed 3-5 by roll call vote. Councilors Cameron, Pepin, Vincent, Gibson, and Michaud opposed.

Councilor Witham made a motion to increase the following Community Support line items: Community Food Pantry increase by \$500 and fund the Pope Memorial Humane Society at \$2,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gibson.

Discussion:

Councilor Pepin commented that he would prefer to amend line items separately and he will not be supporting the motion.

Councilor Witham stated that Councilor Goodwin brought up good points about the Community Food Pantry small increase request and the fact that Pope Memorial works with the City's Police Department is good leverage and helpful with animal control.

Councilor Gibson commented that he agreed with Councilor Witham, and that he is familiar with Pope Memorial and they provide excellent work and are good people from his experiences.

The motion passed 7-1. Councilor Pepin opposed.

Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro made a motion to fund the Falls Chamber of Commerce at \$1,500. The motion was seconded by Councilor Goodwin.

Councilor Gibson inquired about if the organization is receiving other funding. Mayor Gerding recalled that they may be receiving funds from Dover and Rollinsford but the amounts are unknown.

Councilor Gibson commented that he is in a "show me" situation, whereas he wants to see action that produces results before he supports funding the organization and he recalled that the organization was not previously involved with City events under past executive directors.

Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro stated that she offered an amendment to fund the Chamber at half of their request and that it is pretty unusual for a Community to not financially support their Chamber of Commerce. She added that she has received a number of event invites from the Chamber which she has attended and the Council also heard a number of planned events coming up.

Councilor Cameron inquired about the City funding the Chamber in the past. City Manager Belmore responded no.

The motion failed 3-5. Councilors Michaud, Cameron, Pepin, Vincent, and Gibson opposed.

Councilor Vincent made a motion to eliminate the funds to the Lion's Club within Community Support. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gibson.

Discussion:

Councilor Vincent commented that he and his father have been involved with the Lion's Club for a number of years and he has knowledge that the organization is "well off" and he added that they receive compensation for events. He stated that he normally wouldn't recommend a motion as such, however, he would urge the Council to cut this out of the proposed budget.

Councilor Gibson stated that he seconded the motion to hear Councilor Vincent's reasoning and that he was unaware of the Lion's Club's financial being. He favors the amendment.

Councilor Witham stated that perhaps Councilor Vincent provides insider information, however, the Council has never previously made decisions based on the financial state of organizations and maybe it is something they should look into in the future. He also mentioned that the Community Support section of the budget is not considered to be a large portion of the budget with most requests being under \$3,000. He stated that he will not support the motion because he does not feel that it is right to call out one organization over others.

Councilor Goodwin stated that the amount of their request is small and he will not favor the motion.

The motion failed 2-6 by roll call vote. Councilors Paradis-Catanzaro, Michaud, Witham, Goodwin, Cameron, and Pepin opposed.

Councilor Witham made a motion to increase Police Patrol – Part Time Salaries by \$19,438. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gibson.

Discussion:

Councilor Witham recalled the memo provided by the City Manager regarding budget reductions he made in an effort to remain within the City's tax cap. He noted that one of those reductions was funding the Part Time Salaries for Patrol within the Police Department for 6-months as opposed to 12-months. He stated that the Department has had success in the past with employing retired Police Officers to help with patrol hours and he believes that it serves the Community and Department well. Additionally, Councilor Witham acknowledged that there may be minimal impact to some of the benefits that he assumes can be absorbed within the budget. City staff agreed.

Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro inquired about the confidence of City staff that they will be able to fill the part-time positions from 6-months to 12-months. City Manager Belmore confirmed that the Chief recommended the increase and he believes that he is confident in his request.

The motion passed 7-1 by roll call vote. Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro opposed.

Councilor Witham made a motion to increase the School Department's Budget by an additional \$150,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Goodwin.

Mayor Gerding recused himself from the discussion and appointed Councilor Witham, as Deputy Mayor, to Chair the meeting for the School Budget discussion.

Discussion:

Councilor Witham commented that with this additional amount, it gets the School Department to about half of their proposed operating budget requests that were cut to meet the tax cap as made by the Superintendent and allows them to include some of the tier 2 structured reductions. He added that it moves the needle a little as he is gauging the appetite of the Council.

Councilor Goodwin commented that his inclination is that this motion moves the needle in the right direction but that it is not as far as he would like for it to go. He added that he would like to see that all of tier 2 get funded, however, this motion approves half of that and he will favor it.

Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro agreed with Councilor Goodwin and she noted that at a glance, the motion saves approximately two or three of the positions out of the five within tier 2.

Councilor Vincent stated that he had a good conversation with someone from the School Board as well as the Superintendent that gave him some good information. He stated that it is possible that the School Department will be turning over about \$300,000 back to the City in unspent funds as well as the unknown of what the State will provide in aid funds. Councilor Vincent stated that he will not vote to approve overriding the City's tax cap and that he wants to remain conscience of his constituents as he feels there has been little consideration for the tax payers and that bothers him. He stated that he feels that the City Manager proposed a budget that remained within the tax cap. Additionally, he commented that if the City provides additional funding upfront to the School Department and funds from the State provides funding above the amount expected, that the money should remain with the City and not be requested by way of a supplemental appropriation to be turned over to the schools.

Councilor Gibson stated that he has spent time on the School Board and that he understands how hard the budget process can be, but he also seconds Councilor Vincent's sentiments. He commented that as a Council, we have responsibilities to one primary group and that being the residents of Somersworth as a whole. He confirmed that he does not favor further increasing the School Department's budget.

Councilor Pepin commented that there have been a number of years where the budget came in under the tax cap and that has come back on the Council. He stated that education is important and takes a significant chunk of the budget, but he also stated that the City side of the budget brings people in and keeps them here. His approach to the budget is where is the need and what can the taxpayers afford. Councilor Pepin stated that he does not like to override the tax cap and the City has been fortunate to not have to very often. He added that while he would like to fully fund the School Department's full request, he is okay with Councilor Witham's compromise.

Councilor Witham spoke about the City Charter's amendment to implement a tax cap but he reminded the Council of the provisional language that was built in which allowed the Council to override the tax cap with a 2/3 vote. He acknowledged the continued lack of financial support for schools from the Federal and State levels especially when it comes to special education. He hopes to be able to continue moving the needle to retain staff.

Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro commented that it amazes her that the only time the tax cap is mentioned is when it is in regards to the School Department's budget and not the City side of the budget. She stated that she would love to hear from other Councilors where the money is going to come from if they choose to not support the motion on the table and the fact that positions will be cut. She mentioned that she has received a large number of communications from her constituents

all of which requested that she not support budget reductions to the School Department. Additionally, she reminded Council that when the fiscal year closes out, it will not look the same and she directed the Council to page B-6 of the budget book to the Financial Overview graph at the bottom of the page. Here she pointed out the 7-year expenditure pattern where the City has gone up on the same projectory while the schools remain fairly flat. She shared percentage and dollar amounts comparing the School Department and the City's proposed budget changes and the fact that the City's figures are higher than the School's for the upcoming year. Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro noted that it is difficult to pull funds from anywhere in the budget. She also stated that due to unfilled teaching positions, the School Department will likely be turning unused funds over to the City and with balance of the City's Fund Balance, she will be supporting this motion and wanting to move forward with more.

Councilor Gibson commented that the City has historically strongly supported the School Department's budget at the cost of the City's side of the budget in order to fund the schools as best as possible. He added that the City is now needing to play catch up.

Councilor Cameron noted that the budget as amended up to this point is already over the tax cap budget regardless of it being the City or the School that pushed it over because the money is coming from the same pot. She agrees that the City side has suffered in the past and that now it is time to play catch up, however, she wants to remain mindful of the tax rate for the current residents as well as newcomers. She added that she believes the City has a great school system.

Councilor Goodwin appreciates being mindful of the tax rate but he also stated that in terms of drawing people in, as a realtor, he mentioned that the City's school systems is not one of the leading reasons that is drawing people in. He added that in order to make the City more desirable to families, the Council needs to invest in their schools. Councilor Goodwin shared his experience as having utilized special education programs. He is sympathetic to the tax rate but he would favor more.

Councilor Michaud commented that he does not have an issue with the union contracts that the City Council approved, however, he does have an issue with the pay increases to the non-union employees within the School District. He noted that the unions received around a 4% increase while he is seeing that some administrative employees received up to a 10% pay increase. He stated that he would have been okay with gradual increases but questions the significant increases.

Councilor Gibson appreciated Councilor Goodwin's comments and he noted having a son who utilized special education services as a child. He also questioned that if families are not moving here because of the school system, then why is there an increase in special education costs and he also questioned the funding formula and the fact that taxpayers end up having to support the bulk of the services which is tough especially on retired individuals.

Councilor Michaud commented that families who need special education programs move to the City because the School Board supports those programs and is one of the best programs in the local area.

Councilor Vincent agreed with Councilor Michaud's comment, he added that he wished families would stay. He stated that he would like to support the School Department's budget in full but he is trying to be realistic for all of his constituents.

Councilor Pepin shared that his wife worked within the special education programs and the City offers great services that he doesn't want to hinder. He too is trying to look out for taxpayers and he hopes that those who voted for him see that he is making the best decisions for the Community.

The motion passed 6-2. Councilors Vincent and Gibson opposed.

Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro made a motion to increase the School Department's Budget by an additional \$160,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Goodwin.

Discussion:

Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro stated that the positions in tier 2 are necessary to the daily operations and she offers this amendment to cover the remaining reductions listed in tier 2 excluding the Somersworth Youth Connection program.

The motion failed 3-5. Councilors Michaud, Cameron, Pepin, Vincent, and Gibson opposed.

Mayor Gerding returned to Chair the Council meeting.

There were no further amendments from Councilors.

Councilor Witham made a motion to adopt Ordinance 9-24 as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gibson.

Discussion:

There was clarification on the 2/3 vote requirement. It was confirmed that there remains nine elected Councilors with eight members present and in order for the budget to pass because it is over the tax cap, six of the eight Councilors present would need to vote in favor of the motion for it to pass.

Councilor Witham requested the Finance Director provide a summary of where the budget stands as amended. Finance Director Smith confirmed that the amended budget is set at \$59,385,023, with a tax rate impact of \$1.51. The budget tax cap override totals \$481,938 which sets the tax rate at \$30.81.

Councilor Witham stated that he takes what he does in Council Chambers very seriously. He agreed that there are members within the Community that struggle to make ends meet, others that are well off, and then those somewhere in the middle. He stated that when he was elected to office, he believes that people supported him to make informed, guided, and thoughtful decisions. He reiterated the tax override provision within the Charter regarding the required 2/3 vote and he noted that it would only be the third time since the tax cap was enacted that the Council took such action.

The motion passed 6-2. Councilors Vincent and Gibson opposed.

COMMENTS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro commented on her previous inclination of increasing parking enforcement within the City and after all of the discussions had during the meeting, she did not feel that there was an appetite to continue adding amendments. She mentioned that the Economic Development Committee had discussions regarding working with the Town of Berwick or finding other creative ways to fund additional parking enforcement in the Downtown District which she looks forward to continuing discussions on.

Councilor Witham thanked his fellow Councilors for their candor and thoughtful discussions regarding the budget whether they aligned with his thoughts or not. He appreciated everyone's perspectives. He also thanked Mayor Gerding for his approach on the budget which he felt was guided in a thoughtful and calm manner.

Councilor Goodwin thanked the Mayor for proactive and respectful approach to the budget process. He also thanked Councilor Witham for providing the Council with a structured memo regarding his thoughts that he felt was useful in helping to guide the Council whether it was agreed with by all or not. Councilor Goodwin also thanked Councilor Cameron for her efforts regarding the Don't Trash Somersworth event held on Saturday.

Councilor Cameron thanked everyone that showed up to support the Don't Trash Somersworth launch. She stated that there were 12 volunteers present and they collected 20 bags of trash over the one-hour period.

Mayor Gerding thanked the Council for their hard work on the budget. He noted that he is well aware of the challenges faced when dealing with the budget process including the tax cap override. He felt that there were thoughtful discussions and decisions made and he is thankful that the budget process is over. Mayor Gerding thanked the School Department for their efforts pertaining to the budget as well.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Witham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michaud and passed 8-0 by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen LaPanne, City Clerk



City of Somersworth – Ordinance

Ordinance No: **9-24**

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 BUDGET

March 18, 2024

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

DEPARTMENT

GENERAL FUND

BUDGET

Elected Leadership	\$192,720
City Management	614,050
Finance and Administration	1,919,546
Development Services	1,082,786
Police	5,199,812
Fire	2,838,771
Public Works	3,722,794
Other Expenses	1,391,000
Capital Outlay	45,000
Intergovt Assessments - County	3,169,922
School Department	31,969,747

TOTAL GENERAL FUND

52,146,148

ENTERPRISE FUNDS

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

TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS

7,169,362

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Cable Fund	69,513
------------	--------

TOTAL FY 2024-2025 APPROPRIATION

\$59,385,023

AS ADOPTED 04/22/2024

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Authorization	
Sponsored by Request:	Approved:

Councilor David A. Witham	City Attorney
---------------------------	---------------

City of Somersworth – Ordinance 9-24

History			
First Read Date:	3/18/2024	Tabled:	3/18/2024 & 4/15/2024
Public Hearing:	4/1/2024	Removed From Table:	4/15/2024 & 4/22/2024
Second Read:	3/18/2024		

Discussion

3/18/2024

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

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

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

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

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

4/15/2024

Councilor Witham made a motion to remove Ordinance 9-24 from the table. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 9-0 by voice vote.

Councilor Vincent made a motion to adopt Ordinance 9-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gibson.

Councilor Witham withdrew is motion to adopt Ordinance 9-24 as submitted. Councilor Gibson also withdrew his second on the motion to adopt Ordinance 9-24 as submitted.

Councilor Witham made a motion to amend the School Department's Proposed Budget with an increase of \$500,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier.

The motion to amend the School Department's Proposed Budget with an increase of \$500,000 passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

4/22/2024

Councilor Gibson made a motion to remove Ordinance 9-24 from the table. The motion was seconded by Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro.

Councilor Witham made a motion to adopt Ordinance 9-24 as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gibson. The motion passed 6-2 by roll call vote. Councilors Vincent and Gibson opposed.

Minutes of the April 15, 2024 City Council Meeting and April 22, 2024 City Council Special Budget Meeting are available to review detailed discussion of the FY 2024-2025 Proposed Budget.

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	X	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		X
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson		X
Ward 4 Councilor	Paradis-Catanzaro	X	
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham	X	
At Large Councilor	Goodwin	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Messier	EXCUSED	
TOTAL VOTES:		6	2
On 4/22/2024	Ordinance 9-24	PASSED	FAILED