

MINUTES OF THE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

January 22, 2020 at 5:00 pm

Committee Members present: Councilor Richard Michaud, Chair
 Councilor Nancie Cameron, Vice Chair
 Councilor Matt Gerding
 Councilor Donald Austin

Administration/Staff present: City Manager, Bob Belmore
 City Clerk, Trish Harris

Chairman Michaud called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion made by Councilor Cameron, seconded by Councilor Austin to accept the September 18, 2019 minutes as presented. Motion Passed 4-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-20, PROCLAIMING SOMERSWORTH A WELCOMING CITY –
REFERRED BY MAYOR HILLIARD

City Manager Belmore referred the Committee Members to the printouts regarding becoming a Welcoming City from the organization's website. The Committee reviewed the benefits, obligations and cost. There is a \$12,000 fee to be certified, which was discounted to \$6,000 in 2018 and 2019.

City Manager Belmore said 3 cities, Concord, Manchester, and Nashua, are listed as Welcoming Cities Councilor Michaud said the application process is an intense process; it would be like a full-time job, and the application would have to be renewed every 3-5 years. Councilor Austin stated that he doesn't see the need to join a network to be known as a Welcoming City. We have done a lot of things to make people feel welcome. Councilor Gerding stated that the first few paragraphs in the proposed Resolution 23-20 are things that we already do, up to paragraph 5, joining the initiative.

After further review and discussion, ***Councilor Cameron, seconded by Councilor Austin, made a motion to amend Resolution 23-20 as follows:***

- Amend the title to state:
 - TO DECLAIR SOMERSWORTH THE HILLTOP WELCOMING CITY
- Remove the 5th paragraph entirely
- Amend the last paragraph to state:
 - NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City of Somersworth hereby declares Somersworth the Hilltop Welcoming City.

The motion to amend, passed, 4-0.

CITY MANAGER UPDATES

City Manager Belmore reviewed and explained the employee breakdown for the new Members of the Committee. He stated that Public Works is now in charge of Parks and Maintenance; this was a recent change. The Recreation Division previously was responsible for Parks and Maintenance, with a fulltime seasonal position and assistance from highway. He stated that it is in the proposed 2020 Budget to make this a full-time, year-round position.

City Manager Belmore stated that a Part Time Police Officer, a Sargent, has retired. This will become a 40hr a week position, if the budget passes. There was an open position for a DPW Equipment Operator, however, an offer was given to an applicant today. Fire Chief candidate interviews are scheduled in a couple weeks.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Austin seconded by Councilor Gerding. The meeting adjourned at 5:31 pm. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Harris, City Clerk