



## Minutes of City Council Meeting Tuesday, September 5, 2023

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### **ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

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

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilor Gibson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **RECOGNITION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE – OUR NATIVE ANCESTRAL AMERICANS**

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

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

- A. Community Development Block Grant – Update on Building Upgrades to Somersworth Housing Authority Properties

Donna Lane, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Consultant, and Debra Evans, Executive Director of the Somersworth Housing Authority, introduced themselves to the Council. Ms. Evans read from the following CDBG Public Hearing script:

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are available to municipalities through the NH Community Development Finance Authority. Up to \$500,000 annually is available for Economic Development Projects, up to \$500,000 for Housing Projects, up to \$500,000 for Public Facility Projects, up to \$350,000 in Emergency Funds, up to \$25,000 per Planning Study grant. All projects must directly benefit a majority of low- and moderate-income persons. The Public Hearing will update the public on, and receive comments on, the progress of the Somersworth Housing Authority's properties at Albert J Nadeau Homes, Bartlett Ave & Verona Street, Filion Terrace, Washington Street, and Charpentier Apartments, 28 Franklin St, 169 units in total.**

**The project has been ongoing since March 2021. It has received its last Certificate of Occupancy on July 24th for the remaining completed building totaling 34 buildings in all. This major rehabilitation included replacement of appliances, flooring, cabinetry, wiring, plumbing, windows, doors, insulation and siding. The CDBG funded doors and windows. All original residents have moved back to their units and approximately 50 applicants were taken off the waiting lists to move into their new home. Remaining work items are landscaping, community room upgrades and office upgrades. Final construction expected summer 2023.**

**Total project cost \$17mil+: CDBG Funds \$500,000, Matching Funds \$16.5mil+**

Debra Evans mentioned that the Somersworth Housing Authority is hosting an appreciation event at Filion Terrace on Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Ms. Evan's stated that there will be a few speakers along with tours of a couple of their completed apartments. She described the apartments as gorgeous adding that tenants have been happy to move into the newly renovated

apartments. Ms. Evan's expressed thanks to the City for partnering with them a couple of years back to obtain the CDBG funds that allowed them to proceed with the renovation project.

There were no comments from the public.

### **COMMENTS BY VISITORS**

Ray Bower, a resident of Somersworth for 3 years, commented that he and his wife are proud of all the Somersworth staff and elected officials have done and was a driving factor into their choice of where to live. Mr. Bower mentioned that he has recently been identified as a witness in a difficult case which has also led him to have concerns with his own safety. Mr. Bower reached out to the Police Department and has had a number of interactions with Officer Megan Tully and wanted to share that he feels she is an outstanding representative of the City of Somersworth and has made him and his wife feel secure in their own home. Mr. Bower expressed thanks to the Police Chief and the City for a great hire of Officer Tully.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. Approve Minutes of the City Council meeting held on September 5, 2023

*Councilor Austin made a motion to adopt the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 9-0 by voice vote.*

### **OTHER**

*Mayor Hilliard requested that without objection from Council, he would like to advance the vote for Other B under New Business regarding the Emergency Cold Weather Warming Center as the Chair of the Strafford County Commissioner, George Maglaras, was in attendance. Mayor Hilliard mentioned that the requested amount is now \$15,000 and would need to be amended. There was no objection from Council to proceed with Other B.*

*Councilor Austin made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow Commissioner Maglaras to address the Council. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 9-0 by voice vote.*

- A. Vote to Authorize the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with the City of Dover, City of Rochester, and Strafford County to Operate an Emergency Cold Weather Warming Center at 30 Willand Drive in Somersworth from November 2023 through March 2024, to include an Agreement with a Third-Party Organization to Provide Services at the Warming Center and to Authorize Funding in the Amount of \$20,000

Commissioner Maglaras thanked the Council and the City for hosting the Emergency Cold Weather Warming Shelter, he noted that because of the support from the City, it is making the process much easier. He commented that the County, as a result of working with the Tri-City Mayors, City Managers and City Welfare Departments, would like to continue to operate the Emergency Cold Weather Warming Shelter. Commissioner Maglaras mentioned that the County is continuing in its efforts to build a new nursing home and which would allow the current building to be utilized as transitional housing to help house the increasing homeless population.

Commissioner Maglaras reported that the County was denied their request for additional funding from the State who stated that Strafford County only has five homeless individuals. He commented that the Emergency Cold Weather Warming Shelter assisted 191 individuals last season and as a result, the State viewed those individuals as sheltered. Commissioner Maglaras mentioned that with the help of Mayor Callahan of Rochester and the Governor, the State has promised additional funding next year in the ballpark of \$140,000 to \$160,000 which will reduce the costs to the Cities. He reasoned that the request to increase the dollar amounts contributed by each City is strictly due to an increase in operational costs and that there are no other changes as to how the Emergency Cold Weather Warming Shelter will operate compared to last season.

Commissioner Maglaras confirmed that the initial requested amount of Somersworth was \$20,000, however, the County was able to kick in more funds thus reducing the financial request to only \$15,000 as the City of Somersworth continues to provide emergency in-kind services. He noted that the City of Dover and the City of Rochester have agreed to both fund the Emergency Cold Weather Warming Shelter at \$70,000 each, the County is putting in \$10,000 and the State is putting in \$55,000.

Commissioner Maglaras expressed thanks to the City of Somersworth's First Responders and notes that some money has been made available to reimburse the City for incidences that are outside of the normal operations of the City. He also mentioned that the County has insisted that any food being provided to the individuals that utilize the Emergency Cold Weather Warming Shelter, come from local Somersworth businesses.

Commissioner Maglaras updated the Council that the County is moving forward on building a new County nursing home but did have to change the location of the site for a number of regulatory reasons and has plans to report back to the County Delegations on the progress in September. He commented that there are also a number of projects going on within the County that is allowing for more affordable housing to become available.

Commissioner Maglaras reported that the State had received funding under the Biden Administration during the COVID pandemic, through the New Hampshire Emergency Rental Assistance Program (NHERAP), which assisted individuals in paying for their sheltering needs. He commented that that funding ended in June 2023 and therefore, the County attempted to address those issues with their proposed budget and the expectation that homelessness would likely increase due to the end of NHERAP funding. Commissioner Maglaras noted that he has seen an increase in elderly being displaced and living in their cars as a result of the NHERAP funding ending and the County has been working with the Mayor's to develop private and public partnerships that will address that population in particular.

Councilor Witham thanked Commissioner Maglaras and Mr. Bower for their kind words regarding the City and its staff. Councilor Witham stated that he is a bit bothered that the State alluded to the County having a homeless population of only five individuals. He shared some of the history of how the shelter came to be during the pandemic as well as the demand it had put on the City of Somersworth's first responders. The operation of the Emergency Cold Weather Warming Shelter went through modifications and in his opinion, operated very well last season and lessened the demand on City emergency services which has made his decision to support the vote tonight easier, in addition with the support of the Tri-Cities and the effort of the County to build a new nursing home and implement transitional housing. Councilor Witham noted the \$10,000 budgeted for homelessness within the Welfare Department Budget and he fully supports the additional requested \$5,000.

Councilor Austin added that if anyone is questioning supporting the additional \$5,000 in funds for the Emergency Cold Weather Warming Shelter, to think about the money being spent on material items whereas, the extra \$5,000 will go to individuals that are in need of the shelter for lifesaving measures.

*Councilor Witham made a motion to amend the requested amount from \$20,000 to \$15,000, the amount requested is an additional \$5,000 than what is currently budgeted for fiscal year 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilor Austin and passed 9-0 by voice vote.*

*The Vote to Authorize the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with the City of Dover, City of Rochester, and Strafford County to Operate an Emergency Cold Weather Warming Center at 30 Willand Drive in Somersworth from November 2023 through March 2024, to include an Agreement with a Third-Party Organization to Provide Services at the Warming Center and to Authorize Funding in the Amount of \$15,000 passed 9-0 by voice vote.*

### **COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCILORS**

There were no opening comments by Councilors.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications.

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

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

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

#### **Mayors Report for City Council Meeting September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Somersworth's commitment to continue to stand by its foundational strength, its citizens rich diversity will continue. This evening I am announcing how the City will be acquiring a billboard on West High Street to help promote the message of the Hilltopper spirit, safety, and our commitment to diversity. This evening I am empowering the Mayors Commission on Cultural Ethnicity and the Arts to create, design and finalize the message. The deadline is in about two weeks so Matt you will have to get a jump on it. I am confident that the final product will not only represent the strength in our Hilltopper values but continue to add pride to the great Community we live in.

Together, inch by inch, we will come closer to fulfilling our creed of creating a Community, State and Nation where all are celebrated, honored and protected.

There have been several inquiries made regarding the development of the former National Guard property over the last few weeks to the City Manager's office. This evening I am forwarding the inquiries to the Economic Development Committee to further vet them and see if they align with the overarching goals of this Council for the property. When the Committee has completed its work, I will request that the proposal that aligns, be forwarded back to the Council for a full discussion on direction and next steps.

“Proud Past”. Somersworth has now made the map as a destination for those who not only are committed to preserving and celebrating history, but also are part of the recreation of visiting NH historic markers throughout the State. Please Join me on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. to unveil the State Historic Marker celebrating the site of the first public school/high school in the State. We will then travel to Forest Glade Cemetery where at 6:00 p.m. the second marker, celebrating the National and Statewide recognized uniqueness of the Cemetery’s design.

The Mayor’s Office has also been finalizing all details and has submitted for design several of the 10 City historic markers which have been approved. It is my hope that over time, as more items are identified for their significance, that more markers will be approved.

#### Nominations, Appointments and Elections:

Under nominations, appointments and Elections; In accordance with Council Rule 17 Appointments, the following are being brought forward this evening for a confirmation vote:

Amy LaBelle for re-appointment as the Ward 3 Supervisor of the Checklist with a term to expire June 2028

Also under nominations, appointments and Elections the following are being brought forward this evening and placed in nomination:

Alyson Visser for appointment as a member to the Cemetery Board of Trustees with a term to expire September 2028

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

Finally, under nomination appointments and elections, in accordance with the City Charter and Council Rules the following Mayoral appointments are being named:

#### Members to the Community Power Committee

Councilors; David Witham and Matt Gerding

Business Owner – Timothy C. Bascom

Mayor Hilliard stated that other appointments will be brought forward as individuals who express interest in joining the Committee come forward.

**This respectfully concludes my September 5th, 2023 Mayors Report**

#### **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

*Finance Committee* – Councilor Witham reported that the Finance Committee met last Wednesday to discuss a number of items. The first item discussed was a supplemental appropriation request made by the School Department, he noted that no action was taken during the meeting as the School has not yet finalized their request. Councilor Witham stated that the City was awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for the purchase of technical rescue equipment and noted that Fire Chief Kramlinger has been successful in obtaining a number for grants for the Department. The AFG City match is \$2,381 and the Federal share of the Grant is \$47,619, he noted that the Committee unanimously agreed to support the acceptance of the Grant in its entirety.

Councilor Witham reported that the Committee reviewed the City's Investment Policy which is required to be adopted annually by the Council. He stated that there are no changes to the policy that is before the Council for a vote.

The Finance Committee discussed the Willand Pond Trail footbridges and unanimously agreed to support the replacement of the current wooden structures with aluminum for longevity, the estimate for materials and replacement of the bridges came in at \$57,520. Councilor Witham noted that the Committee had a brief discussion regarding the potential of having Public Works Department staff remove the bridges to lessen the total cost by around \$14,000, however, the Committee agreed that rather than tying up City staff for approximately two weeks with the project, that they would contract the removal with the contractor as staff have other important projects they are working on throughout the City.

Councilor Witham reported on the Committee's discussion regarding the purchase of a zero-turn lawn mower for the Highway Division, he stated that the current lawn mower is about 20 years old and has gone through two separate engine repairs and is at the end of its useful life. The Committee received a number of quotes to review and the Committee felt that since the replacement of the lawn mower was not budgeted, that they would review the lower bids and unanimously agreed to go with a local vendor, Patriot Tractors, to purchase a Bad Boy Rebel Zero Turn 61" lawn mower for just under \$13,000.

The Finance Committee discussed the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade, he reported that the next phase is in the queue for engineering and the City has budgeted about \$450,000 for this service. Councilor Witham noted that the discussion during the meeting was to decide if the City should sole source the engineering to Wright-Pierce Engineering as they have been the firm to complete all of the engineering services for the Wastewater Treatment Plant and prior studies. He confirmed that the Committee unanimously agreed to support continuing to work with Wright-Pierce Engineering due to their knowledge of the facility and the fact that the City has been very happy with the firm's work.

Councilor Witham stated that Finance Director Smith gave a report on the closeout of fiscal year 2022, he noted that there was an increase in unanticipated revenue and that the budget closed out under spent for the year. The Committee also discussed the Hamilton Street storage tank and as they look to move forward with replacing the tank in its entirety, there was some concern regarding the roof's current condition and whether or not temporary action would need to be taken. Councilor Witham reported that it was determined that the roof structure is not in a state of immediate failure and the plan is to continue with the engineering and design phase of the tank replacement.

*Public Safety Committee* – Councilor Pepin reported that the Committee met on August 30<sup>th</sup> and first discussed the Assistance to Firefighters Grant for the purchase of technical rescue equipment as reported by Councilor Witham, and he wanted to add that the acceptance period of the Grant is time sensitive and requested that the Council consider allowing for a second reading of the Resolution regarding the Grant in order to meet the required deadline.

Councilor Pepin stated that the Committee received an update from Chief Kramlinger regarding the completion of the new Fire Station Project. The project is nearly complete with just a few punch list items left to be finished up such as hydroseeding and HVAC and lighting controls. Councilor Pepin stated that the Committee also discussed the red globe lights which was brought up during the Fire Station Building Committee, in an effort to have similarity to the Police Department and their blue globe lights and to also identify the main entrance of the building. The Public Safety Committee decided to host the Fire Station Open House event on Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Councilor Pepin added that the station is meant to protect the firefighters and their families, as well as

the citizens of the City and hopes that all Councilors and residents are able to attend this event as everyone should be proud of the new station.

Councilor Pepin reported that the Police Chief was attending a conference during the Public Safety meeting but that a memorandum outlining updates for the Police Department was given by the City Manager. The Committee discussed Chief McLin's recommendation to increase command staffing level by adding an additional Police Sargent position to assist in managing the new recruits, he stated that that Committee supported the recommendation unanimously. Councilor Pepin reported that the body worn cameras are being utilized by the Department and reported on the staffing needs of the department, he noted that two recruits are in the Police Academy, two officers are completing their field training and the Department was working to hire a NH Certified Police Officer pending the completion of the background investigation.

Councilor Pepin reported that with the departure of Sargent Lefebvre, Master Police Officer/K-9 Officer Colton Deschenes has been promoted to the rank of Sargent. Additionally, Police Officer Scott South will begin training within the schools as the new School Resource Officer with the prior School Resource Officer, Detective Fuller.

Councilor Pepin reported on the update provided by Paul Robidas regarding Stewarts Ambulance, 132 calls came in, response times average 4 minutes 8 seconds, and staffing is down by about two but they have been able to manage their shifts appropriately. Stewarts Ambulance have received two new ambulances to replace older vehicles but that they are not able to be placed in services until they receive radios which are required by the State and are currently on back order.

## **REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER**

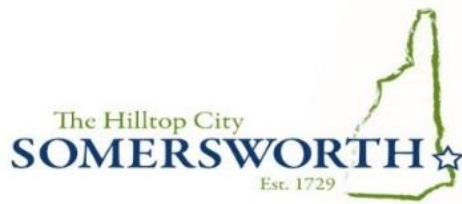
*E-911 Committee* – Councilor Pepin reported that the Committee met on August 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Bernier Street subdivision to include two new homes, the Committee approved the naming of the streets as Golden Road and Corso Drive along with the requirement that the developer install “Private Way” signs. The Council met again on August 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss the 271 High Street subdivision to include nine new homes, the Committee approved the naming of the street as Birch Hill Lane. Councilor Pepin noted that two Resolutions are on the Council agenda for a first read regarding the naming of the streets.

*School Board* – Councilor Austin reported that the School Board met on August 15<sup>th</sup> and August 29<sup>th</sup> and stated that the Business Administrator provided an update regarding the closeout of the fiscal year 2022. The update confirmed that an unspent amount of \$225,000 plus unanticipated revenue of approximately \$400,000 is left unallocated and will be returned to the General Fund. Councilor Austin reported that the School was also notified that they will be receiving additional adequacy aid funds for the current fiscal year in the amount of \$1,600,000 over what was budgeted. The School's Finance Committee is in the process of working to identify what kind of request they want to make to the Council regarding what projects they would like to spend the funds on.

*Mayor's Commission on Cultural, Ethnicity, and the Arts* – Councilor Gerding reported that the Commission is looking to schedule a meeting on the afternoon of Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>.

*Eyes on 30 Committee* – Councilor Cameron reported that the Eyes on 30 Committee meeting has been cancelled for the month of September due to the Fire Station Open House and Somersworth Housing Authority events. The Committee will reconvene in October.

City Manager's Report



**Office of the City Manager**

**TO:** Mayor Dana S. Hilliard and City Council Members  
**FROM:** Robert M. Belmore, City Manager  
**DATE:** Friday, September 1, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** City Manager's Report for Tuesday, September 5, 2023 City Council Meeting

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*New Business (under Section 16 of Agenda)*

**Resolutions**

- A. Resolution No. 9-24: To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Grant Agreement with the Department of Homeland Security for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant for the Purchase of Technical Rescue Equipment.** The Public Safety Committee and the Finance Committee met on August 30<sup>th</sup> and voted to support this Resolution. Attached is a Memorandum from Fire Chief George Kramlinger regarding this Grant award. *Please note:* the Grant award is \$47,619 with a City match of \$2,381 making the total Project Cost of \$50,000. We plan to take the City's match out of FY2024 Fire Department Budget.
- B. Resolution No. 10-24: To Accept Sunningdale Drive, Firefly Circle, Cattail Circle and Luna Circle as Public Rights of Way.** Attached are copies of the following documents:
- City Engineer's Certification that the Roads were built to City specifications.
  - Petition from Twelve Month, LLC, Joseph Falzone for Council to accept the Development Roads as City Roads.
  - Deed and Maps of the Roads.
- C. Resolution No. 11-24: Naming Golden Road and Corso Drive and Assigning Addresses, if Required.** The E911 Committee met on August 8<sup>th</sup> and voted to support this Resolution. Please see attached map depicting the area of this Road and Drive.



- D. Resolution No. 12-24: Naming Birch Hill Lane and Assigning Addresses, if Required.** The E911 Committee met on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and voted to support this Resolution. Please see attached map depicting the area of this Lane.

### Other

- A. Vote to Approve the Request by Unitil for a Waiver of Chapter 13D, Noise/Nuisance Control, to Allow Nighttime Construction from September 10<sup>th</sup> through September 15<sup>th</sup> 2023 on Blackwater Road and the Intersection of Blackwater Road at High Street.** This proposed nighttime work is necessary in order to tie in new gas lines with minimal disruption to the road and intersection. Attached is copy of Chapter 13D and a letter from Unitil with their proposed traffic control plan, which Captain Duval has approved.
- B. Vote to Authorize the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with the City of Dover, City of Rochester, and Strafford County to Operate an Emergency Cold Weather Warming Center at 30 Willand Drive in Somersworth from November 2023 through March 2024, to include an Agreement with a Third-Party Organization to Provide Services at the Warming Center and to Authorize Funding in the Amount of \$20,000.** Strafford County is receiving less funding from the State. My understanding is the County is asking the Cities of Rochester and Dover to increase their funding from \$50,000 to \$75,000. The County is also asking Somersworth to contribute \$20,000 in addition our in-kind match of City services: Police, Fire, EMS and Highway. Attached is a copy of the City Council minutes of August 1, 2022. At that time, the Council indicated that they wanted to review this Agreement each year before entering into another year.
- C. Vote to Re-adopt the City of Somersworth Investment Policy.** This is an annual housekeeping action item for the City Council. City Staff supports re-adoption without any amendments. The Finance Committee met on August 30<sup>th</sup> and recommends re-adoption. Attached is a copy of the City Investment Policy.

### *City Manager's Items (under section 12 of Agenda)*

### Informational Items

- A. Replacement of Residential Water Meters.** The City has contracted with Hydro Utilities of Westford, Massachusetts to replace residential water meters throughout the City. The project is expected to start this fall. Property owners will be contacted to schedule an appointment with the contractor to remove the old meter and replace it with a new meter. Homes recently constructed will not require a new meter, and will not be contacted to schedule an appointment. Contractors will also be inspecting water connections to see if any lead water components are present. In the event there is evidence of lead water components, property owners will be notified.

### Attachments

- 1. Ward & Polling Location Change:** Attached notice is scheduled to be mailed out to Residents
- 2. Mayor Invitation to Historic Marker Unveil:** Wednesday, September 13 at 5:30 p.m.

- Hilltop School and then onto Forest Glade Cemetery.
3. **Living in Somersworth a Housing Plan for the City:** Thursday, September 14 at 5:00 p.m. Blackbox Theater
  4. **10<sup>th</sup> Indonesian Festival:** Saturday, September 16, 12:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. at Somersworth Plaza
  5. **City Attorney Certifications:** Four (4)

### **NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTION**

In accordance with Council Rules 17 Appointments, the following is being brought forward for a Council confirmation vote:

- A. Amy LaBelle for re-appointment as the Ward 3 Supervisor of the Checklist with a term to expire June 2028

*Councilor Gerding made a motion to re-appointment Amy LaBell as the Ward 3 Supervisor of the Checklist with a term to expire in June 2028. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 9-0 by voice vote.*

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

- A. Alyson Visser for appointment as a member of the Cemetery Board of Trustees with a term to expire September 2028

*Councilor Witham made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow for a vote on the nominee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 9-0.*

*Councilor Gerding made a motion to appoint Alyson Visser as a member of the Cemetery Board of Trustees with a term to expire September 2028. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 9-0.*

### **LAY ON THE TABLE**

There were no items under Lay on the Table.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

- A. **Resolution 9-24** – To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Grant Agreement with the Department of Homeland Security for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant for the Purchase of Technical Rescue Equipment

*Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 9-24.*

*Councilor Pepin made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow for a second reading of Resolution 9-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 9-0.*

*Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Resolution 9-24.*

*Councilor Pepin made a motion to adopt Resolution 9-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 9-0.*

*Councilor Michaud requested that his name be added as a sponsor to Resolution 9-24. There was no objection from Council.*

- B. **Resolution 10-24** – To Accept Sunningdale Drive, Firefly Circle, Cattail Circle and Luna Circle as a Public Way

*Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 10-24.*

*Resolution 10-24 with remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.*

- C. **Resolution 11-24** – Naming Golden Road and Corso Drive and Assigning Addresses if Required

*Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 11-24.*

*Resolution 11-24 with remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.*

- D. **Resolution 12-24** – Naming Birch Hill Lane and Assigning Addresses if Required

*Councilor Witham made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow Resolution 12-24 to be read by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 9-0.*

*Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 12-24 by title only.*

*Resolution 12-24 with remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.*

#### OTHER

- A. Vote to Approve the Request by Unitil for a Waiver of Chapter 13D, Noise/Nuisance Control, to Allow Nighttime Construction from September 10<sup>th</sup> through September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 on Blackwater Road and the Intersection of Blackwater Road at High Street

Councilor Witham commented that the request for night work makes sense to him as the intersection is a tremendously busy intersection during the daytime. He added that if there were a way to coordinate the needed catch basin repair with Unitil's project, he would be in support of that if possible. Councilor Witham stated that he is support of Unitil's request.

Councilor Vincent stated that he is also in full support of Unitil's request and inquired about the times of said construction. City Manager Belmore responded with the times, from 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

*The Vote to Approve the Request by Unitil for a Waiver of Chapter 13D, Noise/Nuisance Control, to Allow Nighttime Construction from September 10<sup>th</sup> through September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 on Blackwater Road and the Intersection of Blackwater Road at High Street passed 9-0 by roll call vote.*

- B. Vote to Authorize the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with the City of Dover, City of Rochester, and Strafford County to Operate an Emergency Cold Weather Warming Center at 30 Willand Drive in Somersworth from November 2023 through March 2024, to include

an Agreement with a Third-Party Organization to Provide Services at the Warming Center and to Authorize Funding in the Amount of \$20,000

*The vote to authorize the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with the City of Dover, City of Rochester, and Strafford County to Operate an Emergency Cold Weather Warming Center at 30 Willand Drive in Somersworth from November 2023 through March 2024, was advanced earlier in the meeting and followed the agenda item: Consent Calendar.*

C. Vote to Re-adopt the City of Somersworth Investment Policy

*The vote to re-adopt the City of Somersworth Investment Policy passed 9-0 by voice vote.*

### **COMMENTS BY VISITORS**

There were no closing comments by visitors.

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

Councilor Pepin commented that filing for the Municipal Election is coming up and he mentioned that he will be running for Ward 1 and that all Council positions will be open. Councilor Pepin inquired about the Police Department's diesel generator and wondered if it could be converted to gas and if not, replaced in the future.

Councilor Austin commented on the amount of negativity he has been seeing on social media platforms and websites, he believes the information is based on older and outdated information. He stated that he feels that the City has made dramatic improvements and has come a long way in the last decade through guidance from the Mayor and Council members. Councilor Austin encourages people to visit the City and to talk to its residents to see the changes before passing judgement to get a feel for what the Community is truly like. He mentioned the testimony from the public commented made by Mr. Bower regarding the quality service that the Police Department provides. He mentioned that the Council continues to work on the issues around them and the Community is on the move.

Councilor Witham suggested that the Public Safety Committee have a conversation with Chief McLin regarding electric scooters and bicycles since they are becoming more prevalent within the City. He stated that he spoke with a resident about an incident where their vehicle was struck and damaged by someone operating an electric scooter and they then left the scene. Councilor Witham suggests the discussion at the Public Safety Committee as perhaps there is a need for ordinances to help regulate the use of electric bicycles and scooters within the City such as prohibiting them from sidewalks. Councilor Witham commented on the negative comments mentioned by Councilor Austin regarding the City, he stated that the City has invested millions of dollars into its infrastructure, roads, sidewalks, image, etc. and feels that the article he read could have been true at one time, but is not the case today.

Councilor Gerding commented that last week was the first week of school and that it went great.

Councilor Cameron commented that she was very excited to hear about the report of the Willand Pond Trail footbridges. She also hopes to see everyone at the Somersworth Housing Authority Appreciation Event and the Somersworth Fire Department Open House event. Councilor Cameron mentioned that her dog, Fenway, had the opportunity to visit with residents of the Riverside Rest Home to provide therapy to some.

Councilor Messier stated that he received an email thanking the City for installing a larger American Flag as the former National Guard Readiness Center. He commented on the Forest Glade Cemetery still needing landscaping and painting of the fence. Councilor Messier also commented on Unitil and their contract, he stated that he feels they do great finish work on their projects such as the loam and hot top.


### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Councilor Gerding made a motion to adjourn the City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michaud and passed 9-0 by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kristen LaPanne, City Clerk

	<b>City of Somersworth – Resolution</b>
	Resolution No: <b>9-24</b>  <b>TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FOR AN ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT FOR THE PURCHASE OF TECHNICAL RESCUE EQUIPMENT</b>

September 5, 2023

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth has applied for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant through the Department of Homeland Security, and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth has received notification of an Assistance to Firefighters Grant Award in the amount of \$47,619 (Forty-Seven Thousand Six Hundred Nineteen dollars) which represents 95% of the project cost; and

WHEREAS, the Grant will allow the City of Somersworth to purchase technical rescue equipment for the Fire Department; and

EXPLANATION OF TOTAL PROJECT GRANT BREAKDOWN:

Assistance to Firefighters Grant	=	\$47,619
City Match	=	\$ 2,381
Total Purchase Cost	=	\$50,000

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee and the Finance Committee reviewed and supports entering into this Grant Agreement for the purchase of technical rescue equipment for the Fire Department;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to execute any documents and agreements necessary for the grant's execution, and take any and all other such actions relative to this grant determined to be in the best interest of the City.

<b>Authorization</b>	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i>  Martin Pepin Kenneth S. Vincent Nancie Cameron Denis Messier David A. Witham Don Austin Matt Gerding Robert Gibson Richard Michaud	<i>Approved:</i>  City Attorney

## City of Somersworth – Resolution 9-24

### History

First Read Date:	9/5/2023	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	9/5/2023		

### Discussion

9/5/2023

*Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 9-24.*

*Councilor Pepin made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow for a second reading of Resolution 9-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 9-0.*

*Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Resolution 9-24.*

*Councilor Pepin made a motion to adopt Resolution 9-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 9-0.*

*Councilor Michaud requested that his name be added as a sponsor to Resolution 9-24. There was no objection from Council.*

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	X	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent	X	
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson	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	Messier	X	
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>

On 9/5/2023	Resolution 9-24	<b>PASSED</b>	FAILED
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## City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: **10-24**

### **TO ACCEPT SUNNINGDALE DRIVE, FIREFLY CIRCLE, CATTAIL CIRCLE AND LUNA CIRCLE AS PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

September 5, 2023

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth Planning Board approved a certain subdivision known as Subdivision Plan for The Villages at Sunningdale Subdivision, off Stackpole Road and Green Street, Somersworth New Hampshire, Tax Map 19 Lot 1 and Tax Map 20 Lot 05 (formally known as Tax Map F9, Lots 19-1 and 20-5), Final Plans signed April 16, 2014, revised on December 13, 2013 prepared by Doucet Survey, recorded as Plan #109-014 thru 109-022 at the Strafford County Registry of Deeds and the roadway was to be accepted by the City of Somersworth; and

WHEREAS, the City Council named Sunningdale Drive and Firefly Circle as streets by Resolution No. 22-17 on December 5, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the City Council named Cattail Circle and Luna Circle as streets by Resolution No. 31-19 on February 4, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the roads known as Sunningdale Drive, Firefly Circle, Cattail Circle and Luna Circle has been constructed to the satisfaction of the City; and

WHEREAS, the following conditions apply: A 2-year maintenance Surety Bond in the amount of \$234,000 (Two Hundred Thirty-Four Thousand dollars) is provided acceptable to the City, a deed to the road as well as all needed public utility easements are provided to the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to accept and record deeds to Sunningdale Drive, Firefly Circle, Cattail Circle and Luna Circle and said ways are hereby accepted as public rights of way.

#### Authorization

##### *Sponsored by Councilors:*

David A. Witham  
Martin Pepin  
Nancie Cameron  
Don Austin  
Denis Messier

##### *Approved:*

City Attorney

## City of Somersworth – Resolution 10-24

### History

First Read Date:	9/5/2023	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			


### Discussion

9/5/2023

*Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 10-24.*

*Resolution 10-24 with remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.*

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson		
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Gerding		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Messier		
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			
On	Resolution 10-24	PASSED	FAILED

	<p align="center"><b>City of Somersworth – Resolution</b></p>
	<p>Resolution No:       <b>11-24</b></p> <p><b>NAMING GOLDEN ROAD AND CORSO DRIVE AND ASSIGNING ADDRESSES, IF REQUIRED</b></p>

September 5, 2023

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the following roads be named and addresses assigned, if required;

NAME

EXPLANATIONS

“GOLDEN ROAD AND CORSO DRIVE”

1) Names suggested by Developer of the Bernier Street subdivision and approved by the Planning Board in April 2022.

2) The E-911 Street Name and Address Committee recommended and approved the street names at their August 8, 2023 Committee meeting.

3) The Street name is required to be in compliance with E-911 standards. State E-911 officials concurred that the proposed street name is in compliance with E-911 standards.

4) Golden Road and Corso Drive are private roads.

5) Developer is required to install a street sign and a “Private Way” sign per City condition of name acceptance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT this action is in accordance with RSA 231:133; RSA 231:133-a; RSA 106-H; State of NH, Department of Safety, Division of Emergency Communications Addressing Standards, and City of Somersworth Ordinance: Chapter 19, Section 23.

<b>Authorization</b>	
<p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Councilor Martin Pepin</p>	<p><i>Approved:</i> City Attorney</p>

## City of Somersworth – Resolution 11-24

### History

First Read Date:	9/5/2023	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			


### Discussion

9/5/2023

*Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 11-24.*

*Resolution 11-24 with remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.*

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson		
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Gerding		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Messier		
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			
On	Resolution 11-24	PASSED	FAILED

	City of Somersworth – Resolution	
	Resolution No: <b>12-24</b>	<b>NAMING BIRCH HILL LANE AND ASSIGNING ADDRESSES, IF REQUIRED</b>

September 5, 2023

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the following roads be named and addresses assigned, if required;

NAME

EXPLANATIONS

“BIRCH HILL LANE”

- 6) Names suggested by Developer of the 271 High Street subdivision and approved by the Planning Board in February 2023.
- 7) The E-911 Street Name and Address Committee recommended and approved the street name at their August 23, 2023 Committee meeting.
- 8) The Street name is required to be in compliance with E-911 standards. State E-911 officials have concurred that the proposed street name is in compliance with E-911 standards.
- 9) Developer is required to install a street sign per City condition of name acceptance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT this action is in accordance with RSA 231:133; RSA 231:133-a; RSA 106-H; State of NH, Department of Safety, Division of Emergency Communications Addressing Standards, and City of Somersworth Ordinance: Chapter 19, Section 23.

Authorization	
Sponsored by: Councilor Martin Pepin	Approved: City Attorney

## City of Somersworth – Resolution 12-24

### History

First Read Date:	9/5/2023	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

### Discussion

9/5/2023

*Councilor Witham made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow Resolution 12-24 to be read by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 9-0.*

*Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 12-24 by title only.*

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

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson		
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Gerding		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Messier		
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			
On Resolution 12-24		PASSED	FAILED

