

## Minutes of City Council Meeting Monday, January 8, 2024

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### **ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

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

Councilors Witham and Vincent were excused.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilor Pepin led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **A. Ordinance 7-24 – Amend Chapter 13 Police Offenses, Section 3, Traffic Control**

Re:

- Time limited parking on the westerly side of Main St. from 209 Main St to Spring St. from 2-hours to all day parking; and
- Prohibit parking on the west side of Lord's Court during the time period of November 15<sup>th</sup> until April 15<sup>th</sup>

There were no public comments.

### **COMMENTS BY VISITORS**

Jack Gage, 4 Royal Drive, commented on the continual increases that renters are experiencing throughout the City. He noted that his rent is set to increase significantly and he is looking forward to seeing how the Council intends to tackle the housing crisis within the City.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

#### **A. Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting held on December 11, 2023**

*Councilor Cameron made a motion to adopt the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gibson and passed 5-0-2 by voice vote. Councilors Paradis-Catanzaro and Goodwin abstained.*

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **A. Letter from the Mayor to the City Council and School Board Chair Regarding the Ward 5 School Board Vacancy**

*Mayor Gerding read the following letter:*

January 5, 2024

Dear Councilors & School Board Chair,

During the November 7, 2023 Somersworth Municipal Election, the School Board Ward 5 elected position resulted in a tie within the write-in votes to which Mary Ann Davis's name was pulled during a lot (NH RSA 669:36) held by the City Clerk on December 7, 2023.

On December 21, 2023, the Office of the City Clerk received an email from Mary Ann Davis stating that Ms. Davis is "unable to fulfill the position for the Ward 5 School Board". A copy of her email is attached.

For election races determined by write-in votes, if the person who received the most votes for an office, declines to take the Oath of Office and assume office, a vacancy is created. (RSA 669:12; RSA 652:12)

Per the Somersworth Council Rules and Regulations, Section 10A. Voting on Council or School Board Vacancies, please accept this letter as notice that the School Board Ward 5 position is vacant. In accordance with the City Charter the vacancy will be posted within City Hall for fourteen (14) days and advertised in a local newspaper three (3) times.

Regards,  
Matt Gerding  
Mayor

#### **COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCILORS**

There were no opening comments by Councilors.

#### **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 January 8, 2024**

Esteemed colleagues and members of the Council, I am so honored to sit with you tonight in this new role as Mayor. Thank you again to the Community for your continued support and faith in me. I promise to make decisions that put the Community first, and I aim to be as collaborative, positive, and solution-oriented as possible. I also value transparency, patience, communication, and kindness and hope the same can be awarded to me and my fellow elected officials. Congratulations are also in order to all the City Councilors sitting here tonight, as well as the School Board Members - congratulations to you all on your positions, and I wish you all successful and positive terms serving.

Tonight's Mayor's Report will include a number of important informational and housekeeping items, so please bear with me through this extensive report.

First up, I would like to announce that my normal **office hours** are scheduled here at City Hall for Mondays and Wednesdays from 4PM - 6PM. However, for the month of January, I am a chaperone for the Somersworth Middle and High School Ski Club on Wednesdays, so I will be moving my Wednesday Office Hours to Thursdays from 4PM-6PM for just the month of January.

The new year marks the City's annual tradition of declaring **January Diversity month** for the City. This is a yearly affirmation by this City that we support diversity, inclusion, and equity within the borders of this City. It reminds us, as we start each new year, the values that we hold dearest are those that promote acceptance, tolerance, and the differences that make us each unique. I am honored to sit before you having adopted this previously as a City Councilor, and now hopefully as your Mayor. The Proclamation is before us tonight as Resolution 28-24, and it is my recommendation that Council suspend Council Rules in order to have a second reading tonight on Resolution 28-24.

I am also excited to announce a new initiative out of the Mayor's Office called the **Mayor's Quarterly Art Show**. Four times throughout the year, the Mayor's Office will display new artwork submitted by residents of Somersworth in order to showcase the culture, talents, and creativity of our diverse Community. Artwork can be any medium and size, as long as it will fit comfortably within the Mayor's Office. Please consider submitting your work for consideration. The deadline for submissions for 2024 will be March 1st, 2024. Submit a picture of your artwork to **mgerding@somersworthnh.gov**, including the name of the artist, size of the work, medium, and artist's description of the work. Submitted artworks will be judged and chosen by the Mayor's Commission for Arts and Culture, and the first round of work will go on display in the Mayor's Office starting April 1st, 2024 through June 30th, 2024.

Tonight, I also have a number of Committee Appointments to confer.

First up, as you will soon see under Nominations, Appointments and Elections; I have two appointments being brought forward this evening and placed into nomination for a vote:

- Matt Keiser for appointment as Ward 1 Selectmen with a term to expire December 2026; and
- Micheal Turgeon for appointment as Ward 2 Supervisor of the Checklist with a term to expire January 2029

Also found under Nominations, Appointments, and Elections, the following will be brought forward this evening before the City Council for a confirmation vote:

- David A. Witham for position of Deputy Mayor
- Paul Goodwin for City Council Representative to the Historic District Commission
- David A. Witham for City Council Representative to the Planning Board; and
- Kenneth Vincent for City Council Alternate Representative to the Planning Board

I would like to announce the City Councilor appointments for the **City Council Standing Committees**:

**Public Safety Committee**

Chair, Martin Pepin  
Vice Chair, Kenneth S. Vincent  
Member, Denis Messier  
Member, Crystal Paradis-Catanzaro

**Recreation Committee**

Chair, Nancie Cameron  
Vice Chair, Richard R. Michaud  
Member, Robert G. Gibson  
Member, Crystal Paradis-Catanzaro

**Public Works and Environment Committee**

Chair, David A. Witham  
Vice Chair, Kenneth S. Vincent  
Member, Martin Pepin  
Member, Denis Messier

**Finance Committee**

Chair, David A. Witham  
Vice Chair, Denis Messier  
Member, Marin Pepin  
Member, Kenneth S. Vincent

**Economic Development Committee**

Chair, Paul Goodwin  
Vice Chair, Richard R. Michaud  
Member, Robert G. Gibson  
Member, Crystal Paradis-Catanzaro

**Government Operations Committee**

Chair, Richard R. Michaud  
Vice Chair, Robert G. Gibson  
Member, Paul Goodwin  
Member, Nancie Cameron

I would also like to announce Mayoral Appointments to already-established commissions and committees that do not require a vote of council.

- Martin Pepin as Council Representative to the E-911 Street Name and Address Commission
- Kenneth S. Vincent to the Sewer Appeals Commission
- Richard R. Michaud to the Sewer Appeals Commission
- Martin Pepin to the Sewer Appeals Commission
- Paul Goodwin as Chair of the Eyes on 30 Commission
- Nancie Cameron as Member of the Eyes on 30 Commission
- Dina Gagnon as Business Owner Representative to the Eyes on 30 Commission
- Jenne Holmes as Community Member Representative on the Eyes on 30 Commission
- Denis Messier as Chair of the Joint Commission of the City Council and School Board
- Crystal Paradis-Catanzaro as Member of the Joint Commission of the City Council and School Board
- Beth Poulin as Chair of the Christmas Parade Committee
- Nancie Cameron as Council Representative of the Christmas Parade Committee
- Chris Smith as Member of the Christmas Parade Committee
- Coty Donohue as Member of the Christmas Parade Committee
- Crystal Paradis-Catanzaro as the Council Representative to the Hilltop Mental Health and Wellness Committee
- Denis Messier as Council Representative to the School Board
- Denis Messier as Council Representative to the Lamprey Regional Board of Directors
- Robert G. Gibson as Council Representative to the COAST Bus Coalition
- Nancie Cameron as Chair of the Mayor's Commission on Arts and Culture
- Crystal Paradis-Catanzaro as Vice-Chair of the Mayor's Commission on Arts and Culture
- Paul Goodwin as Member of the Mayor's Commission on Culture, Ethnicity, and the Arts
- Richard Michaud as Member of the Mayor's Commission on Culture, Ethnicity, and the Arts

I would also like to announce the formation of a number of **new Mayoral Commissions**, and the appointments therefore.

First, I would like to announce the formation of the **Mayor's Housing Task Force**. This Mayoral Commission will work to examine a variety of ways that Somersworth can change its Ordinances and Regulations to incentivize smart housing solutions that match the needs of our Community, positively partner the City with developers, bolster economic growth, and work to develop solutions that can lower the cost of living for working families here in Somersworth. It will work to inform the Mayor of possible recommendations, coordinate with City staff, County officials, and regional housing experts, and make suggestions to the Planning Board as they begin developing their new master plan. The task force will include the following members:

- The Mayor or their designee
- Councilor Paul Goodwin
- Councilor David A. Witham

- A member from the Somersworth Housing Authority, as chosen by their Executive Director
- A member from Seacoast Workforce Housing as chosen by their Executive Director
- A member of the Zoning Board of Adjustments, as appointed by the Chair of the Zoning Board of Adjustments
- A member of the Planning Board, as appointed by the Chair of the Planning Board
- A member of the Historic District Commission, as appointed by the Chair of the Historic District Commission
- Citizen Representative, Elizabeth Nguyen
- Citizen Representative, Kenneth Ferrer

I would also like to announce the creation of the **Community Outreach and Communication Committee**. This Committee will work to find new ways to facilitate increased communication between City Hall and the residents of Somersworth, and inform the Mayor on these possible solutions. Improved communication between residents, elected officials, and City staff can help to keep folks better informed, more engaged, and understanding of decisions being made within local government. The Committee will include the following members:

- Councilor Crystal Paradis-Catanzaro as Chair
- Councilor Paul Goodwin as Vice-Chair
- Councilor Bob Gibson as Member

I will also be forming the **Youth Advisory Committee**. This Committee comes about thanks to the tireless advocacy of a number of students who directly contacted me looking to be more involved with our Community. This Committee, composed of three student representatives, educators, and representatives from the City Council and School Board, will work to engage young residents in local government and provide an avenue for direct action on student, youth, and family-related projects. The Committee will include the following members:

- Councilor Nancie Cameron as Chair
- A member of the School Board, as appointed by the Chair of the School Board
- Teachers Scott Sealey and M. Louise White will serve as teacher advisors
- Taleya Puckerin, Ari Carter, and Chaplin Coussoule will serve as student representatives

Lastly, I will be forming the **Historic District Advisory Committee**. The creation of this Committee was jointly requested by members of the Somersworth City Council and Historic District Commission in order to address concerns raised during a recently held joint meeting of the Historic District Commission and the Economic Development Committee. The Historic District Advisory Committee will work to identify solutions that will allow for the ease of development and growth within our downtown while maintaining Somersworth historic character and charm, and will advise the Mayor on possible solutions such as changes to Form-Based Codes and Zoning Ordinances, changes to the standards for review of the Historic District Commission, ways to clarify procedures for processing new development and infill within the Somersworth Historic District, the need for

new historic surveys of Somersworth properties, etc. The Committee will include the following members:

- City Councilor Richard R. Michaud
- City Councilor Paul Goodwin
- City Councilor Robert G. Gibson
- Chair of the Historic District Commission, Laura Barry
- Member of the Historic District Commission, Richard Brooks
- Member of the Historic District Commission, Tim Metivier

It is with great excitement that I announce this extensive list of appointments, and I cannot wait to see the great work that comes out of these various Committees, Commissions, and Task Forces.

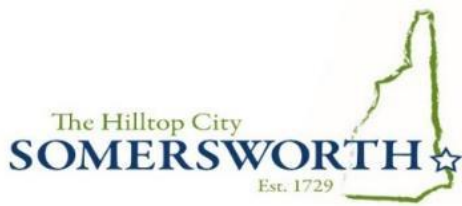
**Thank you, Somersworth. With gratitude, I respectfully conclude my first Mayor's Report of my tenure, for January 8th, 2024.**

### **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

There were no reports from standing committees.

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

#### **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, January 5, 2024

**SUBJECT:** City Manager's Report for Monday, January 8, 2024 City Council Meeting

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#### ***Unfinished Business (under Section 15 of Agenda)***

##### **Ordinances**

- A. Ordinance No. 7-24: Amend Chapter 13 Police Offenses, Section 3 Traffic Control.** Again, the Traffic and Safety Committee recommends this Ordinance change. This 2-hour parking was

put into place when General Electric was active. Therefore, the 2-hour limit is no longer needed in this area. If approved, the Lord's Court change will allow residents along the Road to park there during months when snow plowing does not occur. Presently, there is no parking allowed for the entire 12 months each year on Lord's Court.

***New Business (under Section 16 of Agenda)***

**Resolutions**

- A. Resolution 28-24: Proclamation Declaring January Diversity Month in the City of Somersworth.** City Council should consider waiving Council Rules to act on this Resolution this evening.
- B. Resolution 29-24: To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Grant Agreement with the New Hampshire State Library and to Accept a Moose Plate Grant Award for Vital Record Preservation.** Attached is a copy of the Grant Agreement for this Vital Record Project. The City will conduct preservation treatment, microfilm, and digitally scan 3 volumes of Marriage, Birth, and Death records for the years 1938-1940. My appreciation is extended to the City Clerk's office for successfully seeking out this Grant Fund opportunity.

**Informational Items**

- A. Constitutional Complete Streets Project.** Wright-Pierce Engineers has informed us that we will have the final bid documents to us by January 5<sup>th</sup>. Staff is finalizing a bid release date this week, with bids due back in early February.
- B. Sports Hub Dome.** Staff completed a pre-construction meeting this past Thursday. As you may have seen, the site prep work has started. The developer's timeline for opening the facility is November 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.
- C. New John Deere Loader.** The City accepted delivery of a new John Deere Loader this past week with a Plow and a Wing System. Attached is a photo of the Loader.

**Attachments**

- 1. City Attorney Certifications:** Two (2)

**NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTION**

**Nominations being Introduced for a Council Confirmation Vote:**

- A. Matt Keiser for Appointment as Ward 1 Selectmen with a Term to Expire December 2026
- B. Michael Turgeon for Appointment as Ward 2 Supervisor of the Checklist with a term to Expire January 2029

***Councilor Messier made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow for a vote on the slate of nominations. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gibson and passed 7-0 by voice vote.***

***Councilor Messier made a motion to appointment Matt Keiser as Ward 1 Selectmen with a term to expire December 2026 and Michael Turgeon as Ward 2 Supervisor of the Checklist***



*with a term to expire January 2029. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gibson and passed 7-0 by voice vote.*

Nominations Requiring Council Confirmation Vote:

A. Mayoral Nomination of Deputy (Acting) Mayor

- David A. Witham

*Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro made a motion to appoint Councilor David A. Witham as Deputy (Acting) Mayor. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 6-1 by voice vote. Councilor Gibson opposed.*

B. Mayoral Nominations of City Council's Representatives to Planning Board

- David A. Witham, Representative
- Kenneth S. Vincent, Alternate Representative

*Councilor Goodwin made a motion to appoint Councilor David A. Witham as the City Council's representative to the Planning Board. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 7-0 by voice vote.*

*Councilor Gibson made a motion to appoint Councilor Kenneth S. Vincent as the City Council's alternate representative to the Planning Board. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier and passed 7-0 by voice vote.*

C. Mayoral Nomination of City Council's Representative to Historic District Commission

- Paul Goodwin

*Councilor Pepin made a motion to appoint Councilor Paul Goodwin as the City Council's representative to the Historic District Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michaud and passed 7-0 by voice vote.*

LAY ON THE TABLE

There were no items under Lay on the Table.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

A. **Ordinance 7-24** – Amend Chapter 13 Police Offenses, Section 3, Traffic Control

*Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Ordinance 7-24.*

*Councilor Messier made a motion to adopt Ordinance 7-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 7-0 by roll call vote.*

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

- A. **Resolution 28-24** – Proclamation Declaring January Diversity Month in The City of Somersworth

*Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading on Resolution 28-24.*

*Councilor Pepin made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow for a second reading of Resolution 28-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michaud and passed 7-0 by voice vote.*

*Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Resolution 28-24.*

*Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro made a motion to adopt Resolution 28-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michaud and passed 7-0 by roll call vote.*

- B. **Resolution 29-24** – To Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Grant Agreement with the New Hampshire State Library and to Accept a Moose Plate Grant Award for Vital Record Preservation

*Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading on Resolution 29-24.*

*Resolution 29-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.*

### **COMMENTS BY VISITORS**

There were no closing comments by visitors.

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

Councilor Pepin thanked the Department of Public Works Highway Division and emergency service departments for their efforts during the recent winter storm. He also mentioned the recent rain storm that produced high wind gusts, he gave thanks to Eversource who was out during that weather working to restore his and other customers electricity. Councilor Pepin commented on the CMAQ project with regards to the traffic lights and he noted that there may need to be some revisions after he experienced some heavy traffic Saturday afternoon when he turned off of Blackwater Road and onto High Street.

Councilor Gibson also thanked the Highway Department and first responders for their service during the snowstorm and its cleanup. He stated that he hopes that everyone's New Year is a good one. He added that going forward, he hopes that everyone with diverse interests can work to cooperate in the best interest of the City. Councilor Gibson stated that he will be asking the hard questions where he feels they are necessary.

Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro thanked Mayor Gerding for forming the Community Outreach and Communications Committee and for also being named as the Chair. She stated that she would be reaching out to the named members of the Committee to schedule their first meeting. Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro mentioned that all of the Councilors can be contacted through the City's website by email, she noted hers being [crystal@somersworthnh.gov](mailto:crystal@somersworthnh.gov) and stated that she will welcome all ideas on how better to outreach to the Community with what is going on within the City. Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro commented on the traffic lights along High Street and she stated that she has heard positive comments from other residents although she agrees that there was some traffic over the weekend as mentioned by Councilor Pepin. She wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilor Michaud acknowledged the Department of Public Works and their efforts to keep the roads clear during the weekend snowstorm. He welcomed new Councilors Paradis-Catanzaro and Goodwin

to the City Council, and he added that he is looking forward to a good next two years on the Council. He wished all a Happy New Year.

Councilor Messier commented that his experience with the traffic lights has been more accommodating during his early morning travel. He asked that residents be aware of fire hydrants in front of their homes and to shovel them, if possible, to help out the City during and after snowstorms. He also added that he will be monitoring the culvert near his home with the anticipation of more snow and rain during the week. Councilor Messier thanked the Councilors who ran for another 2-year term, and he welcomed the two new Councilors to the Council.

Councilor Cameron echoed the comments made by other Councilors regarding the hard work of the Department of Public Works Highway Division during the weekend snowstorm and she felt that they did a great job keeping the roads clear. Councilor Cameron mentioned that the City's Dog Park is closed for the season and reminded residents walking their dogs to be careful as the sidewalks can be slippery. Councilor Cameron thanks Mayor Gerding for the formation of the Youth Advisory Committee, she used to be a class advisor and she is looking forward to working with students again. She welcomed the new Councilors and put in a plug about the new Ellie the Dog Patch available at the Police Department, she added that the proceeds go to help support the shelter Ellie came from.

Councilor Goodwin commented on the traffic lights on High Street allowing him to pass through multiple green lights during his commute which was great, however, he also sat in traffic over the weekend regarding Councilor Pepin's comments. He thanked Mayor Gerding for forming the Housing Task Force and his nomination as a member to that Committee. Councilor Goodwin noted that he is passionate about the housing situation in the City as well as economic development which he believes goes hand-in-hand. He thanked Jack for his public comments, he added that he appreciates members of the Community for coming out to engage with the Council and to provide feedback.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were not future agenda items discussed.

### **NONPUBLIC SESSION**

There were no nonpublic sessions scheduled.


### **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Messier made a motion to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gibson and passed motion passed 6-1 by voice vote. Councilor Gibson opposed.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kristen LaPanne, City Clerk

	City of Somersworth – Ordinance	
	Ordinance No: 7-24	<b>AMEND CHAPTER 13 POLICE OFFENSES, SECTION 3 TRAFFIC CONTROL</b>

December 11, 2023

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

**Amend Chapter 13 Police Offenses, Section 3 Traffic Control, F. Time Limited Parking, 3. Two Hour, by removing the following:**

Main St. on the westerly side from 209 Main St. to Spring St.

**Amend Chapter 13 Police Offenses, Section 3 Traffic Control, F. Time Limited Parking, 8. All Day, by adding the following:**

Main St. on the westerly side from 209 Main St. to Spring St.

**Amend Chapter 13 Police Offenses, Section 3 Traffic Control, H. Special, by adding the following:**

When signs are erected giving notice thereof, it shall be unlawful for any person having custody or control of any vehicle to park or cause the same to be parked on the west side of Lord's Court during the time period of November 15<sup>th</sup> until April 15<sup>th</sup>.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

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

## City of Somersworth – Ordinance 7-24

### History

First Read Date:	12/11/2023	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:	1/8/2024	Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	1/8/2024		

### Discussion

*12/11/2023*

*Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Ordinance 7-24.*

*Ordinance 7-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.*


*1/8/2024*

*Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Ordinance 7-24.*

*Councilor Messier made a motion to adopt Ordinance 7-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 7-0 by roll call vote.*

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	X	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent	Excused	
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson	X	
Ward 4 Councilor	Paradis-Catanzaro	X	
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham	Excused	
At Large Councilor	Gerding	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Messier	X	
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>
On 01/08/2024	Ordinance 7-24	<b>PASSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>



	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>City of Somersworth – Resolution</b></p> <p>Resolution No:       <b>28-24</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PROCLAMATION DECLARING JANUARY DIVERSITY MONTH IN THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH</b></p>
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January 8, 2024

WHEREAS, January 15, 2024 will mark the 95<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, the “dream” of equal treatment, is the foundation of human rights and democratic values; and

WHEREAS, our Nation has worked towards the goal of fulfillment of this commitment for over 245 years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth has become a model of a Community which embraces and promotes its diversity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth is committed to the values of equality and liberty stated in the Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, New Hampshire State Constitution and City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us that freedom, liberty and equality must be protected for all citizens and that “from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire, let freedom ring.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Somersworth encourages all residents, including community groups, schools and institutions to continue to work toward fulfilling Dr. King’s dream of the elimination of all barriers to the fulfillment of equal opportunities and human rights; and

The City of Somersworth calls upon all citizens to reflect during this month on the message of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and commit themselves throughout the year to join the fight for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and disadvantage and to ensure that everyone has the right to live in conditions of dignity, respect and peace; and

The Somersworth Mayor and City Council hereby declare that January, 2024 be Diversity and Equality Month in the City of Somersworth and that the City of Somersworth along with all of its citizens hereby recommits itself to the fulfillment of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “Dream.”

Authorization	
<p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Mayor Matt Gerding</p> <p><i>Councilors:</i> David A. Witham Nancie Cameron Crystal Paradis-Catanzaro Richard Michaud Paul Goodwin Denis Messier</p>	<p><i>Approved:</i> City Attorney</p>

## City of Somersworth – Resolution 28-24

### History

First Read Date:	01/08/2024	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	01/08/2024		

### Discussion

*01/08/2024*

*Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading on Resolution 28-24.*


*Councilor Pepin made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow for a second reading of Resolution 28-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michaud and passed 7-0 by voice vote.*

*Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Resolution 28-24.*

*Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro made a motion to adopt Resolution 28-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michaud and passed 7-0 by roll call vote.*

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	X	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent	Excused	
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson	X	
Ward 4 Councilor	Paradis-Catanzaro	X	
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham	Excused	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Messier	X	
At Large Councilor	Goodwin	X	
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>
On 01/08/2024	Resolution 28-24	<b>PASSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>



	City of Somersworth – Resolution
	Resolution No: <b>29-24</b>  <b>TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE LIBRARY AND TO ACCEPT A MOOSE PLATE GRANT AWARD FOR VITAL RECORD PRESERVATION</b>

January 8, 2024

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth values its history and understands the importance of preserving and maintaining the City’s records; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth applied for a Moose Plate Grant through the New Hampshire State Library to preserve and protect the City’s historical vital records; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth has received notification of a Moose Plate Grant award in the amount of \$9,249 (Nine Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Nine dollars), to conduct preservation treatment, microfilm, and digitally scan three (3) volumes of Marriage, Birth, and Death records for the years 1938-1940;

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 acceptance and execution, and take any and all other such actions relative to this grant project’s completion determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by:</i> Mayor Matt Gerding  <i>Councilors:</i> David A. Witham Nancie Cameron Crystal Paradis-Catanzaro Richard Michaud Paul Goodwin Denis Messier	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

## City of Somersworth – Resolution 29-24

### History

First Read Date:	01/08/2024	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

### Discussion

*01/08/2024*

*Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading on Resolution 29-24.*

*Resolution 29-24 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	Paradis-Catanzaro		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Messier		
At Large Councilor	Goodwin		
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			
On	Resolution 29-24	PASSED	FAILED