

Minutes of City Council Meeting Monday, March 4, 2024

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, Vincent, Gibson, Paradis-Catanzaro, Michaud, Witham, Goodwin, Cameron, and Messier

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Michaud 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

There were no public hearings.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

There were no comments by visitors.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting held on February 20, 2024

Councilor Witham made a motion to approve the consent calendar as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 9-0 by voice vote.

COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCILORS

Councilor Messier commented on the Willand Warming Center and the number of tents that have been setup towards the back of the building. He stated that he does not plan to support any extension to the current agreement or a request for funding for next season, he added that with this notice it gives ample time for the Tri-communities to figure out an alternative because it is not working. Councilor Messier stated that there is valuable commercial and industrial property surrounding the Center and that is what the City should be focusing on in that specific area.

Councilor Gibson agreed with the comments made by Councilor Messier regarding the Warming Center, he stated that he drives through that area on a regular basis and one afternoon he observed about 30 people in the parking lot of the Center. He added that it is a bad image and that he wants to be able to help people in need but that it has turned into a bad situation.

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

First up, I would like to formally request the Mayor's Arts and Culture Committee to meet regarding the Mayor's Office Art Contest. We had a total of six pieces submitted by community members for review. I hope to announce the winners this month, with the intention that the first piece be displayed in the Mayor's office starting on April 1st. I also received an announcement about a variety of arts and culture grants being made available by NH State Council on the Arts. I would request that you also discuss whether any of these grant opportunities fit the needs of our Community.

I want to thank the Strafford Regional Planning Commission and the Somersworth Planning Board for their partnership on the development of a Housing Chapter for the Somersworth Master Plan. This past month, the draft chapter was submitted to the Somersworth Planning Board, and it includes a number of exciting proposals. This is the product of a ton of work and effort by both groups, various methods of community input and engagement, and serves as a high-quality draft for the planning board to use to develop their final version of the housing chapter. For those interested, this draft can be found on the City's website, on the page for the City's Planning Office.

The Mayor's Housing Taskforce met Thursday, February 22nd at 5:00 p.m. The main focus of our meeting was to set reasonable objectives for the taskforce, as we begin tackling the housing crisis. We had an extensive discussion on the various goals and desires of our 10-member Committee, with many, many phenomenal ideas being shared. Much of our discussion centered around how best to partner with the City and its various boards, zoning changes that could be made to benefit the creation of all forms of housing, how best to elicit Community input and develop a sense of place and a neighborhood feel within the various parts of the Community, various ways to simplify application processes, City regulations, and partner better with developers, and we also discussed ways to keep the Community affordable and spark economic development. These goals were all captured, and will be shared out with the Committee, with the hope that the Taskforce will review the goals, distill them into categories, and approve them at a future meeting. The Taskforce's next meeting will be held as a joint meeting with the Planning Board and representatives from Strafford Regional Planning Commission on March 20th at 5:30 p.m., which will be a workshop specific to the newly developed proposed draft of the Housing Chapter.

Next up, I would like to make the public aware of a number of upcoming dates:

- Thursday, March 7th at 6:00 PM, in City Hall – Superintendent Community Forum
- Monday, March 18th at 6:00 PM, in City Hall – State of the City Address
- Monday, March 18th at 7:00 PM, in City Hall – 2024-2025 City Budget Introduced to Somersworth City Council
- Monday, April 1st at 6:00 PM, in City Hall – 2024-2025 City Budget Presentation by the City Manager
- Saturday, April 6th at 8:30 AM, in City Hall – 2024-2025 City Budget Workshop for the City Council

Mayor Gerding stated that he will be attending the March 11th Tri-City Mayor's meeting and they have been made aware of the setup of tents on the Willand Warming Center property. The Mayor's plan to discuss the issue in depth and he asked that anyone with input or concerns, to please reach out to him by email or phone prior to the scheduled meeting.

Mayor Gerding requested that the Council consider waiving Council Rules to allow for a second reading on Resolution 40-24.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance Committee – Councilor Witham reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, February 21st at 4:00 pm and had a lengthy agenda. The meeting began with an overview of the Community Power Cost Sharing Agreement and Member Services Contract presented by Henry Herndon of the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire. Councilor Witham explained that if the City of Somersworth wished to make changes to any of the language within the Agreement or Contract, the Coalition would need to have that approved by all of the member communities. He stated that there is nothing restrictive or concerning within the agreement and that the Committee felt confident sponsoring a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute the Agreement and Contract with the knowledge that it has been vetted by a number of communities and their legal counsels. Councilor Witham mentioned that Mr. Herndon has been very knowledgeable throughout the process and he is pleased to partner with the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire.

Councilor Witham reported on the discussion regarding the Public Safety Communications Repeater and Highway Radio Base Station. He stated that when the replacement of the equipment was first brought up to the Committee in January, the amount estimated was not enough to cover the project and tonight before the Council for a first reading is Resolution 40-24 with accurate project costs. Councilor Witham also noted that the funding for the project will come from remaining ARPA funds. He mentioned that the City has a formal agreement with Chinburg Properties for the City's radio equipment on top of the former Hilltop School, and that there has been discussion about the possibility of looking at moving those to the new Hamilton Street water tank in the future.

Councilor Witham stated that the Committee discussed and was in favor of implementing a permitting, planning and code software program for the Planning and Code Offices. He stated that City staff tested demos and recommended contracting with SmartGov for a period of five years again utilizing ARPA funds for the startup costs and then building the expense into the City's budget down the road. He added that this software is also capable of integrating with other City systems currently in place.

Councilor Witham reported on the Constitutional Way Complete Streets Project noting that the Committee recommended contracting with N. Granese and Sons of Salem, Massachusetts who was vetted by Wright-Pierce Engineers. He noted that the funding of the project will be split between the General Fund, Water Fund and Sewer Fund. Councilor Witham explained the bond and anticipation bond notes process, and he stated that the total project cost of \$2,367,256 through a 15-year bond would have a \$0.05 increase to the tax rate. He also spoke of the retaining walls located at the southerly end of Constitutional Way which is on private property, he noted that the walls are both in a state of disrepair and that City staff have been working to communicate with the property owners of the possibility to coordinate with the contractor to have said walls replaced at a lower cost and also to make them aware that if they choose not to fix the walls at this time, there will be a 5 year moratorium in affect at the completion of the project. Councilor Witham also mentioned the crosswalk between the Highland sidewalk and High Street sidewalk which was raised during a previous Council meeting, the Committee determined that since the crosswalk was outside of the scope of the Constitutional Way Complete Streets Project and the cost estimated at \$14,000 to \$17,000 to implement it, the Committee agreed to take no action at this time.

Councilor Witham reported that the Committee reviewed and discussed the water and sewer rate analysis charts provided by Finance Director Smith and while the fund balance is healthy at this time,

with the upcoming projects including the Hamilton Street Water Tank and upgrades to the Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities, the Committee agreed to start to move the needle now and keep up with infrastructure needs. He added that the increase in rates will remain less than neighboring communities. The Committee was in favor of sponsoring an Ordinance for a water and sewer rate increase of 10% for two consecutive years.

Councilor Witham updated the Council with the water meter replacement project, he stated that City staff underestimated the number of meters needing to be replaced and is requesting \$125,000 in additional funding to complete residential properties. Additionally, due to the demand of the project, City staff are recommending that the remaining 335 commercial water meters be scheduled out over the next year and be completed by City staff. Councilor Witham commented that he has been pleased with the vendors work.

Councilor Witham shared that the Committee received an update regarding the Fire Station budget and construction punch list. The project is nearing completion and is expected to be under budget by approximately \$100,000. The last of the items necessary to complete the project is expected to cost around \$10,000 to \$15,000. The Committee also received news that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant funds that were initially approved for the Fire Station Training Tower, can be re-purposed for other training avenues and equipment. Lastly, Councilor Witham stated that Fire Chief Dellner is working to obtain a new FEMA grant to cover the remaining 3-year replacement CIP project of the Fire Department's SCBA/breathing apparatus.

Economic Development Committee – Councilor Goodwin reported that the Committee met directly before the City Council meeting and discussed proposed Zoning amendments that would prohibit car washes and other auto-oriented businesses from opening within Residential and Commercial Districts, as well as language that help define automotive repair shops abutting residential areas after hearing a number of noise complaints from nearby residents.

Councilor Goodwin shared that the Committee agreed to schedule a community meeting on Thursday, April 11th at 7:00 p.m. for the public to provide input regarding the reuse of the 1 Winter Street City-owned property. At the meeting Councilor Goodwin plans to share the past discussions of the property as well as its restrictions; he hopes to gain a sense of what the Community would like to see in that space.

Councilor Goodwin reported that the Committee reviewed the list of goals identified at their previous meeting and determined levels of prioritization. He stated that the Revision of Chapter 31, Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive which adopts the provisions of NH RSA 79-E, housing, City rebranding and signage, and parking enforcement and assessment were labeled as high priority. Councilor Goodwin also discussed the Committee's suggestions on how to obtain feedback from developers regarding their experience with the City of Somersworth Boards.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

Lamprey Regional Cooperative – Councilor Messier reported that the Board met on February 27th where they reviewed the proposed 2024 Operating Budget and approved a Public Hearing to be scheduled on Tuesday, March 19th at 2:00 p.m. at the Stratham Municipal Center, Hutton Hearing Room, 10 Bunker Hill Avenue, Stratham, NH.

Traffic Safety Committee – Councilor Vincent reported that the Committee met on February 21st and began by discussing the request for additional street lighting on Interstate Drive, the Committee tabled the discussion until the costs of the lighting has been determined.

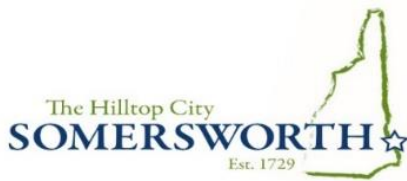
The Committee discussed adjusting the speed limit on Noble Street from 30 to 20 mph. Captain Duval confirmed that there have been no recorded accidents or incidents in the location of the Noble Pines Park. Lowering the speed limit requires a process and the Committee denied the request. Councilor Vincent confirmed that the Police Department will use their digital sign enforcement trailer to make vehicles aware of their speed near the park.

Councilor Vincent reported that the Committee discussed changing parking from 1 to 2 hours on Main Street from Indigo Hill Road to Wiggins Court. It was mentioned that a repair garage uses the street to park cars and sometimes repairs them while they are parked on the street. He reported that the Committee denied the parking ordinance change and City staff will continue to work with code to monitor the area.

Councilor Vincent shared the request for additional street lights on Francoeur Drive, he noted that the area is rural and that the Police Department has not received any calls for service over the last three years. The request was denied by the Committee.

The Committee had a brief discussion regarding the intersection of Washington Street, High Street and West High Street. Councilor Vincent stated that City Manager Belmore shared concern of the intersection being blocked by vehicles due to traffic congestion along High Street through to the Berwick bridge. It was decided that the Police Department would increase patrol of that intersection during peak travel times.

City Manager's Report



Office of the City Manager

TO: Mayor Matt Gerding and City Council Members
FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager
DATE: Friday, March 1, 2024
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for March 4, 2024 City Council Meeting

Unfinished Business (under Section 16 of Agenda)

Resolutions

- A. Resolution 36-24: To Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire Cost Sharing Agreement/Member Services Contract and to Approve the Associated Policies for Risk, Rates, Reserves, and**

Data Security and Privacy. The Finance Committee met on February 21st and voted to support this Resolution. Attached are materials that were provided to the Committee. Mr. Henry Herndon from the Coalition will be in attendance at the March 18th Council meeting to answer any questions. Should you have questions before the meeting, please send them to me.

- B. Resolution 37-24: To Authorize the City Manager to Contract with N. Granese and Sons of Salem, Massachusetts to Construct the Constitutional Way Complete Streets Project.** The Finance Committee met on February 21st and voted to support this Resolution. Attached is Wright Pierce's Project Engineer Britt Eckstrom's Letter of Recommendation to contract with N. Granese and Sons. As you will see, this company was the lowest of the three (3) bids received.
- C. Resolution 38-24: City Council Vote to Authorize a Bond to Construct the Constitutional Way Complete Streets Project.** The Finance Committee met on February 21st and voted to support this Resolution. Attached is a Memorandum from Finance Director Scott Smith that spells out the various cost allocations regarding estimated project costs and the funding breakdown between the General Fund and Utility Funds.
- D. Resolution 39-24: To Authorize the City Manager to Sign a Contract with Wright-Pierce Engineers of Portsmouth, New Hampshire to Provide Resident Inspection and Construction Engineering Services Associated with the Constitutional Way Complete Streets Project.** The Finance Committee met on February 21st and voted to support this Resolution. Attached is a copy of the Proposed Contract.
- E. Resolution 40-24: To Authorize the City Manager to use Funding from the American Rescue Plan Act and Contract with 2-Way Communications of Portsmouth, New Hampshire to Replace the Radio Repeater and Update the Public Works Department Base Station.** The Finance Committee met on February 21st and voted to support this Resolution. Attached are materials that were supplied to the Committee. The Public Safety Committee also voted to support this action item. Council may want to consider waiving Council Rules to allow for a second reading and vote this evening. We may want to act swiftly to avoid any price escalation of equipment as well as making note of a possible lengthy timeline to receive the equipment.

Other

- A. Vote to Authorize the City Manager to Take all Necessary Action for the City to Participate in the New Hampshire Department of Justice State Settlement Agreement regarding Opioid Litigation against Five Companies. Three are Major Pharmacy Chains; CVS, Walmart, and Walgreens, the other Two are Opioid Manufacturers; Allergan and Teva.** I received an email from Deputy Attorney General James Boffetti's office asking the City to consider taking this action. If approved the City is agreeing NOT to seek separate legal action against these companies. As a participant, the City will be able to seek certain reimbursements from the Fund for expenses incurred related to opioid responses. Legislation was enacted to establish an Opioid Abatement Trust Fund and an Advisory Commission to oversee it. Attached are documents I received from Attorney Boffetti's office. This vote is similar to the votes taken by City Council on December 13, 2021 and September 26, 2022.

Informational Items

A. Upcoming City Council Workshops & Special Meetings.

- Monday, March 18 at 6:00 p.m. - *State of the City Address before the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.*
- Monday, April 1 at 6:00 p.m. - *City Manager Presents FY 2025 Proposed Budget 7:00 p.m. - FY 2025 Budget Public Hearing and Regular Council Meeting*
- Saturday, April 6 at 8:30 a.m. – *Community Support Organizations & City Departments Budget Review*
- Monday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m. – *Special City Council Budget Meeting (if needed)*

Attachments

1. City Attorney Certification Five (5)

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTION

There were no Nominations, Appointments and Elections.

LAY ON THE TABLE

There were no items under Lay on the Table.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

- A. **Resolution 36-24** – To Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire Cost Sharing Agreement/Member Services Contract and to Approve the Associated Policies for Risk, Rates, Reserves, and Data Security and Privacy

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 36-24.

Resolution 36-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.

Mayor Gerding requested to be added to the list of sponsors.

- B. **Resolution 37-24** – To Authorize the City Manager to Contract with N. Granese and Sons of Salem, Massachusetts to Construct the Constitutional Way Complete Streets Project

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 37-24.

Resolution 37-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.

- C. **Resolution 38-24** – City Council Vote to Authorize a Bond to Construct the Constitutional Way Complete Streets Project

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 38-24.

Resolution 38-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.

- D. **Resolution 39-24** – To Authorize the City Manager to Sign a Contract with Wright-Pierce Engineers of Portsmouth, New Hampshire to Provide Resident Inspection and Construction Engineering Services Associated with the Constitutional Way Complete Streets Project

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 39-24.

Resolution 39-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.

- E. **Resolution 40-24** – To Authorize the City Manager to use Funding from the American Rescue Plan Act and Contract with 2-Way Communications of Portsmouth, New Hampshire to Replace the Radio Repeater and Update the Public Works Department Base Station

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 40-24.

Councilor Witham made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow for a second reading of Resolution 40-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier and passed 9-0 by voice vote.

Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Resolution 40-24.

Councilor Gibson made a motion to adopt Resolution 40-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

OTHER

- A. Vote to Authorize the City Manager to Take all Necessary Action for the City to Participate in the New Hampshire Department of Justice State Settlement Agreement regarding Opioid Litigation against Five Companies. Three are Major Pharmacy Chains; CVS, Walmart, and Walgreens, the other Two are Opioid Manufacturers; Allergan and Teva.

Councilor Witham made a motion to Authorize the City Manager to Take all Necessary Action for the City to Participate in the New Hampshire Department of Justice State Settlement Agreement regarding Opioid Litigation against Five Companies. Three are Major Pharmacy Chains; CVS, Walmart, and Walgreens, the other Two are Opioid Manufacturers; Allergan and Teva. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gibson.

Discussion:

Councilor Vincent questioned if there is money linked to the City participating in the Settlement Agreement. City Manager Belmore confirmed that the State of New Hampshire will receive the funds, the fund will be placed into a trust fund and an advisory committee has been established to distribute the funds through a grant process.

The motion passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items under New Business

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

There were no comments by visitors.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Michaud commented on the former Somersworth Hotel, he noted that it is expected to come down within the next couple of weeks if people would like to witness the process.

Councilor Witham commented on his report of the Finance Committee, he added that he inquired about whether the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire and participating communities as well as residents are covered in the case of a data breach occurring and Mr. Herndon was going to report back with the answer. Councilor Witham requested data pertaining to parking enforcement revenue and if it has historically been enough to cover the part-time position and could be enough to cover a second part-time position. He believes that the parking time limits downtown are good, but only good enough if they are being enforced. He also added that the parking lines in the downtown area needs to be repainted. Councilor Witham concluded his comments by stating that he understands the weather has been nice and people want to be outside as they should, but he is asking that the public abide by the signs that state to keep off of the Noble Pines baseball field because they are still soft and any activity on the fields can be damaging until they are fully dry.

Councilor Goodwin commented that he disagrees that the crosswalk on High Street is outside of the scope of the Constitutional Way Complete Streets Project, and that perhaps similar to the private retaining walls, it may be more cost effective to have the crosswalk done in coordination with the Complete Streets Project. Councilor Goodwin noted that there was a crosswalk in that location prior to the reconstruction and he feels that it is feasible to add a safe and compliant crosswalk for pedestrians. He also stated that he agrees with encouraging the property owners that now is the time to reconstruct the private retaining walls, and he suggested providing the property owners with any available resources or potential grant opportunities to assist with funding of the reconstruction of the walls.

Councilor Goodwin commented on the parking in downtown, he stated that it is great that other communities such as Portsmouth, Rochester and Dover are walking communities and that parking a few blocks away does not deter customers from visiting those local businesses, however, he feels that that expectation is not in Somersworth yet. Councilor Goodwin noted that there are a number of reasons for that expectation including traffic calming, wayfinding, parking education and parking enforcement to monitor the turnover of spaces. He spoke about the parking perception in the City and he also noted that there is an on- and off-street municipal parking survey that will be conducted in the near future by the Strafford Regional Planning Commission that will provide valuable data. Councilor Goodwin also shared that the Economic Development Committee is interested in pursuing signage to direct drivers to available City parking spaces and as well as looking into the current part-time parking enforcement position for the possibility of allocating hours different in order to support peak business in the Downtown or bring in additional services by either making the position full-time or another option could be to share parking enforcement services with a neighboring community.

Councilor Goodwin commented on the Willand Warming Center, he stated that he supports the Center and he would rather work towards finding solutions for the negative externalities is something that he is interested in being a part of as opposed to threatening an organization that provides those important services. He added that we are working towards a better and more permanent solution and should continue to do so but not at the expense of the much-needed services that the Center provides.

Councilor Cameron shared that through the Eyes on 30 Committee, the program *Don't Trash Somersworth* is coming to fruition and there are plans for a Facebook page to promote the program to the public. She stated that cleanup days will be the third Saturday of each month from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. She confirmed that the first cleanup day is scheduled on Saturday, April 20th from 2:00- 3:00

p.m. and the meeting place is at the upper parking lot of the Home Depot. Councilor Cameron stated that she will provide a calendar and list of meet up locations via the Facebook page through December and hopes that the public will join in the cleanup effort.

Councilor Messier requested a copy of the Housing Chapter draft proposal for the City's Master Plan. He also inquired about the shed behind the new Fire Station and the City's shed both needing attention. Councilor Messier stated that he is interested hearing more about the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments pertaining to limiting car-oriented services because he is questioning the reasoning for the limitation. Regarding downtown parking, Councilor Messier shared that he has been approached by a downtown business owner that has expressed interest in purchasing a parcel of land to provide additional parking to the area or work with the City on that and he hopes that the City will be receptive to that. Councilor Messier spoke about the addition of the crosswalk on High Street that has been discussed with the Constitutional Way Complete Streets Project, he reiterated why the crosswalk was originally removed due to the flow of the rain water and he worries that it will again cause flooding.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items were brought forward.

NONPUBLIC SESSION


There were no nonpublic sessions scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Vincent made a motion to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilor Paradis-Catanzaro and the motion passed 9-0 by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen LaPanne, City Clerk

	City of Somersworth – Resolution
	<p>Resolution No: 36-24</p> <p>TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE COMMUNITY POWER COALITION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE COST SHARING AGREEMENT/MEMBER SERVICES CONTRACT AND TO APPROVE THE ASSOCIATED POLICIES FOR RISK, RATES, RESERVES, AND DATA SECURITY AND PRIVACY</p>

March 4, 2024

WHEREAS, the Somersworth City Council adopted Resolution 26-24 on December 11, 2023 to adopt the Somersworth Community Power Aggregation Plan and to authorize the City Manager to submit the plan with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (NHPUC) for review and approval; and

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2024 the City was notified by the NHPUC that the Somersworth Community Power Aggregation Plan has been reviewed and approved; and

WHEREAS, now that the Somersworth Community Power Aggregation Plan has been approved, the City is required to execute the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire Cost Sharing Agreement/Member Services Contract, and approve the associated policies for risk, rates, reserves, and data security and privacy; and

WHEREAS, the City Council would like to designate Deputy City Manager/Finance Director Scott Smith as the Authorized Officer for Member Service Decisions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to execute the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire Cost Sharing Agreement/Member Services Contract; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Council approves the associated policies of the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire Cost Sharing Agreement for risk, rates, reserves, and data security and privacy, and to designate Deputy City Manager/Finance Director Scott Smith as the Authorized Officer for Member Service Decisions.

Authorization	
<p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Mayor Matt Gerding</p> <p><i>Councilors:</i> David A. Witham Denis Messier Martin Pepin Kenneth S. Vincent</p>	<p><i>Approved:</i> City Attorney</p>

City of Somersworth – Resolution 36-24

History

First Read Date:	3/6/2024	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

Discussion


3/6/2024

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 36-24.

Resolution 36-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.

Mayor Gerding requested to be added to the list of sponsors.

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	Goodwin		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Messier		
TOTAL VOTES:			
On Resolution 36-24		PASSED	FAILED

	City of Somersworth – Resolution
	Resolution No: 37-24 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH N. GRANESE AND SONS OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS TO CONSTRUCT THE CONSTITUTIONAL WAY COMPLETE STREETS PROJECT

March 4, 2024

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution 18-18 on December 4, 2017 authorizing the City Manager to contract with Wright-Pierce Engineers to provide engineering services for the design of various complete streets projects including Constitutional Way; and

WHEREAS, the Constitutional Way complete streets project design was completed and bid specifications were prepared and released requesting bids from qualified contractors to construct the project; and

WHEREAS, the City received bids on February 8, 2024, which were reviewed by Wright-Pierce Engineers, and they raised no objections to awarding the contract to N. Granese and Sons of Salem, Massachusetts for an amount of \$2,073,006 (Two Million Seventy-Three Thousand Six dollars); and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has reviewed the bids received with City staff and recommends contracting with N. Granese and Sons of Salem, Massachusetts for an amount of \$2,073,006 (Two Million Seventy-Three Thousand Six dollars); and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee recommends including an amount of \$103,650 (One Hundred Three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty dollars) with the project total for contingencies, and authorize the City Manager to increase the contract to an amount not to exceed \$2,176,656 (Two Million One Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Six dollars) if needed and determined to be in the best interest of the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to contract with N. Granese and Sons of Salem, Massachusetts to construct the Constitutional Way complete streets project for an amount of \$2,073,006 (Two Million Seventy-Three Thousand Six dollars); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT an amount of \$103,650 (One Hundred Three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty dollars) is included with the project total for contingencies and the City Manager is authorized to increase the contract to an amount not to exceed \$2,176,656 (Two Million One Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Six dollars) if needed, and it is determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> David A. Witham Denis Messier Martin Pepin Kenneth S. Vincent	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Resolution 37-24

History

First Read Date:	3/6/2024	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			


Discussion

3/6/2024

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 37-24.

Resolution 37-24 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	Goodwin		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Messier		
TOTAL VOTES:			
On Resolution 37-24		PASSED	FAILED

	City of Somersworth – Resolution
	Resolution No: 38-24 CITY COUNCIL VOTE TO AUTHORIZE A BOND TO CONSTRUCT THE CONSTITUTIONAL WAY COMPLETE STREETS PROJECT

March 4, 2024

WHEREAS, the City requested and received bids for the construction of the Constitutional Way Complete Streets Project; and

WHEREAS, the project costs include construction of water infrastructure, sewer infrastructure, drainage infrastructure, sidewalk and roadway improvements, lighting and other streetscaping improvements, construction engineering and inspection, and any other ancillary costs associated with the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT an amount not to exceed \$2,367,256 (Two Million Three Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-Six dollars) is appropriated to construct the Constitutional Way Complete Streets Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

- (a.) the City Manager is authorized to borrow up to \$2,367,256 (Two Million Three Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-Six dollars) under the Municipal Finance Act and to issue bonds and notes payable within 15 years from their dates, and
- (b.) the City Manager is authorized to issue temporary notes in anticipation of the issue of these bonds or notes, and
- (c.) the City Manager is authorized to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project, and
- (d.) the estimated useful life of this project is expected to exceed 15 years.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> David A. Witham Denis Messier Martin Pepin Kenneth S. Vincent	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Resolution 38-24

History

First Read Date:	3/6/2024	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			


Discussion

3/6/2024

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 38-24.

Resolution 38-24 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	Goodwin		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Messier		
TOTAL VOTES:			
On Resolution 38-24		PASSED	FAILED

	City of Somersworth – Resolution
	Resolution No: 39-24 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH WRIGHT-PIERCE ENGINEERS OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE TO PROVIDE RESIDENT INSPECTION AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL WAY COMPLETE STREETS PROJECT

March 4, 2024

WHEREAS, Wright-Pierce Engineers of Portsmouth, New Hampshire have provided the City with pre-construction services such as engineering, design, and development of bid specifications for the Constitutional Way complete streets project; and

WHEREAS, the City has received bids from qualified contractors for the construction of the Constitutional Way complete streets project and will require resident inspection and construction engineering services associated with the construction of this project; and

WHEREAS, Wright-Pierce Engineers have provided a proposal in the amount of \$190,600 (One Hundred Ninety Thousand Six Hundred dollars) to provide resident inspection and construction engineering services for this project;

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has reviewed the proposal with City staff and recommends contracting with Wright-Pierce Engineers for resident inspection and construction engineering services associated with the construction of this project for an amount of \$190,600 (One Hundred Ninety Thousand Six Hundred dollars);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to sign a contract with Wright Pierce Engineers of Portsmouth, New Hampshire to provide resident inspection and construction engineering services associated with the construction of the Constitutional Way complete streets project for an amount not to exceed \$190,600 (One Hundred Ninety Thousand Six Hundred dollars), and to take any other action related to this contract determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> David A. Witham Denis Messier Martin Pepin Kenneth S. Vincent	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Resolution 39-24

History

First Read Date:	3/6/2024	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			


Discussion

3/6/2024

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 39-24.

Resolution 39-24 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	Goodwin		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Messier		
TOTAL VOTES:			
On Resolution 39-24		PASSED	FAILED

	City of Somersworth – Resolution
	<p>Resolution No: 40-24</p> <p>TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO USE FUNDING FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT AND CONTRACT WITH 2-WAY COMMUNICATIONS OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE TO REPLACE THE RADIO REPEATER AND UPDATE THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT BASE STATION</p>

March 4, 2024

WHEREAS, the Somersworth Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2025-2030 includes a project to replace the radio repeater housed at the former Hilltop School used for communications by Police, Fire, Ambulance and Public Works; and

WHEREAS, the Somersworth Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2025-2030 includes a project to update the communications Base Station at the Public Works Facility; and

WHEREAS, City Staff obtained a quote from 2-Way Communications of Portsmouth, New Hampshire for an amount of \$124,471 (One Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-One dollars) to replace this equipment; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee reviewed this project with City Staff and determined it is in the best interest of the City to utilize American Rescue Plan Act funds to start this project as soon as possible and recommends awarding a contract to 2-Way Communications for this project; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee also recommends adding an amount of \$5,529 (Five Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Nine dollars) to this project for contingencies and authorize the City Manager to increase the contract to an amount not to exceed \$130,000 (One Hundred Thirty Thousand dollars) if needed and determined to be in the best interest of the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager may use funding from the American Rescue Plan Act and contract with 2-Way Communications of Portsmouth, New Hampshire to replace the radio repeater housed at the former Hilltop School and update the communications Base Station at the Public Works Facility for an amount of \$124,471 (One Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-One dollars); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT an amount of \$5,529 (Five Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Nine dollars) is included with this project for contingencies and the City Manager is authorized to increase the contract to an amount not to exceed \$130,000 (One Hundred Thirty Thousand dollars) if needed and determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Authorization	
<p><i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i></p> <p>David A. Witham Denis Messier Martin Pepin Kenneth S. Vincent Crystal Paradis-Catanzaro</p>	<p><i>Approved:</i></p> <p>City Attorney</p>

City of Somersworth – Resolution 40-24

History

First Read Date:	3/6/2024	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

Discussion

3/6/2024

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 40-24.

Councilor Witham made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow for a second reading of Resolution 40-24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier and passed 9-0 by voice vote.

Clerk LaPanne performed a second reading of Resolution 40-24.

Councilor Gibson made a motion to adopt Resolution 40-24 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 9-0 by roll call vote.

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	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On 3/6/2024 Resolution 40-24		PASSED	FAILED