



MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Somersworth, NH  
December 16, 2019  
7:00 P.M.

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**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by His Honor, the Mayor, Dana S. Hilliard, and upon roll call the following Council members were present: Pepin, Vincent, Dumont, Austin, Michaud, Witham, Sprague, Cameron, and Levasseur.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE**

Councilor Michaud led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Ordinance No. 13-20** - To Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 13.3.1-D, No Parking Anytime  
No Comments

Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive Program Application, City Ordinance Chapter 31, Cylon LLC., 1 John Parsons Drive  
Patrick Wilson, Pediatric Dentist, stated that Cylon is the real estate company that purchased the property. They are redeveloping the building into a new pediatric dentist office that will be opening in the spring. They applied for tax relief, which was an attractive feature for moving the practice to Somersworth. It is a really neat old building. It is going to look great. There will be about 7 dental chairs. Currently, the practice serves about 20-25 patients a day with 2 chairs. They will be able to see more patients and bring more people to the downtown area. Revitalizing that area.

**COMMENTS BY VISITORS**

None

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Approve Minutes of the City Council Workshop - BETA Pavement Management Program held on November 18, 2019

Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting held on November 18, 2019

***Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Austin, made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Calendar. The motion passed, 9-0.***

**COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCILORS**

Councilor Witham questioned status of some previously discussed items. There is a large fence on corner of Lil-nor and Tates Brook Road. Residents in the neighborhood are concerned about sight lines. 2 Utility poles were installed on Indigo Hill Road as part of the

project. The old poles were supposed to be removed. There are still utility poles in the middle of the sidewalk. There are many street lights out around the city. Pike Contracting still has 3-4 street signs and traffic cones throughout the city.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

None

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

None

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

#### **Mayors Report for City Council Meeting December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Honorable members of the Council, I submit to you the Mayors report for Monday December 16th, 2019**

- This evening we are joined by 8th grader Karter Brogan and 8<sup>th</sup> grader Brooke Tuthill. Both Karter and Brooke won the Teamwork competition at the RIZE Robotics Queen City Kickoff Tournament in Manchester recently. You may recognize 8<sup>th</sup> grade student Karter from his second – place win at last year's state tournament, and he is joined this year by fellow eight grade student Brooke. This was Brooke's first tournament ever and she truly showed her might with this win.

The award qualifies the team to compete at the NH State Tournament later this winter, and also provides them an official invite to the National Tournament! The entire Hilltopper community is proud of their continued accomplishments and wishes them the best as they continue. Tonight we welcome them to show off some of their skills.

- Special thanks to Old Rail Pizza Company for offering the free Thanksgiving dinner over the recent holiday. The free dinner continues to ensure all will be thankful and reflects a true partnership with the city and the Hilltopper spirit. Thank you Old Rail for continuing to be an active, caring member of Somersworth.
- The holiday season was in full swing at the recent "Shop with a Cop" event sponsored by the Somersworth Police Department and Target. The annual event continues to inspire and build partnerships between our Hilltopper youth and law enforcement. In addition to our own men and women in blue, various agencies throughout the county and Tri-City area were represented, helping make the holiday season magical for all. Thank you to all the volunteers and Somersworth Pizza restaurants who donated the food. The annual event continues to be a favorite for all who participate and truly reflects our communities "***Bright Future.***"
- Each year my Mayors duties allow me one of the highest distinguished honors one could achieve, welcoming Santa Claus to our community. I was once again humbled and on my best behavior as I welcomed from the North Pole Mr. Clause to the Hilltop

City on Friday December 6<sup>th</sup> for the annual Recreation department flashlight candy cane hunt.

- Santa was escorted to the event by our brave members of the Somersworth Fire Department and partook in the packed activity, as youth from our city hunted in the snow for candy canes. Thanks to the Recreation Department, Fire Department and all volunteers for making the event successful. Special thanks to Santa Claus for taking time during his busy season to visit the Hilltop city. He assured me that he knows who has been naughty and nice (Mr. City Manager) and that he will return on the evening of December 24<sup>th</sup>.
- There is still time for you to let that inner Hilltopper Spirit shine by partnering with the Somersworth Fire Department and donating a toy for the annual toy drive. The event helps local children experience the magic and joy of the holiday season. All donations can be dropped off at the station. Make this holiday season bright for all children, and donate today.
- I am looking forward to continuing to build a successful partnership with my two Mayoral colleagues from Dover and Rochester. The Tri-City Mayors recently met at Aroma Joes in Somersworth to discuss ways we can continue to collaborate and work as a united team. Present at the meeting was Dover Mayor Elect Bob Carrier. The four of us agreed to re-fire the Tri-City coalition as a means of continuing communication and erasing barriers. I am happy to announce this evening, that after I raising his name, all three Mayors and Mayor Elect Carrier agreed that Councilor Dumont would be the perfect fit to head the coalition as Chair. Congratulations Councilor.
- As the Tri - City feudality commission continues their work of oversight, ensuring that the three cities move in a united direction on issues involving homeless. As a caring community we must also continue to do our part to meet the adopted master plan within our city borders. The recent press over the discussion of cold weather shelters has again raised the complexity of short term and long term solutions. While the opening of temporary shelters within each community will not resolve the issue of homeless, it will keep those who are experiencing hardship within the most affluent nation on earth, safe. It will also in good faith meet the conditions of the master plan we approved.

Offering shelter is not as simple as opening municipal doors, to those within need. There are several complex questions which reside within taking on the task and responsibility. This evening I am calling upon the members of the Government Operations committee and Public Safety Committee to meet jointly to develop a plan on how Somersworth can proceed forward with offering shelter.

With the official date of winter starting on Saturday and temperatures continuing to drop, expatiated work on this topic is necessary. I will invited the members of the feudality commission to attend and participate in the meetings so they can offer their insight and report back to the full commission. As always, I appreciate the hard work, insight, and solutions both committees will come up with. Together as a united team, we will continue to lead with compassion and the Hilltopper spirit.

- A heart filled thank you to all members of the Somersworth/Berwick Christmas parade committee for another fantastic parade and block party. The parade continues to grow each year, and has become one of the largest on the seacoast celebrating the strong renewed partnership between our two great communities. I was touched as walked through the packed downtown area and witnessed families and neighbors commemorating together. Planning is already in the works for the 2020 parade, and family friendly events after. Once again congratulations to all members of the committee on your great success.
- “On the Move!” of continuing to revitalize our downtown area with the proposed “Little Indonesia” concept. I enjoyed hosting the Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia Mr. Arfi Salman, as we continued our discussions on the “Little Indonesia” and “Welcoming Gate” project. I look forward to future meetings at the Embassy in Washington DC and keeping the project “On the Move!” Upon the swearing in of the new Council in January I will be forming a commission comprised of Councilors, city personnel, business leaders and members of the ICC and Mayors office to continue to work on the concept and prepare a draft proposal for Council approval. It is my hopes that by the fall of 2020 we will be moving forward with officially endorsement by the Council for the project.
- An enjoyable afternoon was recently spent, spending time with our seniors and sipping tea and singing holiday carols at the annual Somersworth Youth Connect and Recreation Department holiday tea. Despite inclement, the strong turnout celebrated each other’s company and the holiday spirt. Thanks to all who participated, planned and attended.
- Thank you, Mayor Marc-Alexandre Brousseau for the recent holiday wishes from our sister city Thetford Mines Quebec. On behalf of the City of Somersworth we wish you and all your citizens a joyous holiday season and peaceful 2020. I look forward to an official visit again in 2020.
- “On the Move” a preserving our proud past. Congratulations to the Cemetery Board of Trustees for the recent awarding of a \$30,000 Land and Community Heritage grant to replace the slate roof of the Furber memorial chapel. The chapel continues to be an icon within our community and the grant will ensure its “Bright Future” continues.

- Serve to community is one of the greatest tributes one can give of themselves. Despite party officiation or political ideology, when individuals step forward in the name of progress and dedication it is to be respected and admired. This evening we first honor Councilor Dale Sprague, who has served the Hilltop City as both a City Councilor and member of the legislative delegation in the House of Representatives for over a decade. Under Representative Sprague’s leadership, our Hilltop city was able to secure 6 million dollars in funding from the state to renovate the CTC center. On the Council, Dale was able to bring this knowledge and background of the construction industry to help the city develop meaningful approaches and long term commitments to our infrastructure.

Because of his dedication, Somersworth’s improved infrastructure continues to lead to our economic revival. On behalf of the City of Somersworth, thank you Dale for your tireless efforts over the last decade in the name of continuing to honor Somersworth’s “Proud Past” while ensuring it will forever have a “Bright Future”.

While only being part of the team for a short time, this evening we also thank Ed LeVasseur for his service to our community. We hope that your time on the Council was meaningful and that your first term in public service equated to an educational of the value of working as part of a team. We wish you the best on your new role as a member of the School Board.

**Legislative Recommendations and Actions**

I respectfully request this evening that the Council take the following actions. Suspend Council rules to allow a Second reading on the following and respectful request that Council adopt.

- **Resolution No. 19-20** - Proclamation Declaring January Diversity Month in the City of Somersworth
- **Ordinance No. 14-20** – City Council Meeting Schedule for 2020

I have assigned **Resolution No. 23-20** - Proclaiming Somersworth a Welcoming City to the **Government Operations Committee** for future review and recommendation.

**Item 12 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;

- **William Poole** Alternate member to the **Historic District Commission** with a term to expire in **December 2022**
- Also, under nominations, appointments and Elections; **In accordance with Council Rule 17 Appointments**, the following are being brought forward this evening and placed in nomination;

- **Ronald LeHoullier**, Re-Appointment as a Member of the Planning Board with a term to expire January 2023
- **Harold Guphill**, Re-Appointment as a Member of the Planning Board with a term to expire January 2023

**In accordance with Council Rule 17 Appointments, the nomination shall remain open until the next scheduled Council meeting**

**This respectfully concludes the Mayors report for Monday December 16th, 2019**

### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance Committee – Councilor Witham reported that the Committee met on November 26, 2019 at 8:00am. The Committee discussed:

- CDBG grant for Somersworth Housing. The City is a agent for the grant. The grant is for \$500,000 to replace windows and doors.
- Plan for engraved bricks for the Veterans Memorial Park. Staff recommends Polar engraving. Bricks and Pavers can be ordered through Polar’s website, and will be able to take credit cards. Dover used this same company. Finance Committee endorsed using Polar for the bricks and pavers.
- Potential location of a Dog Park, which will be funded through the cable fund. It is a robust fund. Consensus was to move forward with funding through the cable fund. This will be reviewed by the Recreation Committee.
- Chapter 31 application for Cylon LLC, at 1 John Parsons Drive. The committee supported 5 years of tax relief.
- Annual discussion of property tax deeds. These properties are in arrears because of taxes. There are currently 17 properties that are behind on taxes, which is significantly less than a few years ago. They city will be taking 2 mobile home properties. There is a list of properties that the City will not be taking, including the properties on Wexford lane.
- Discussion about bonding for capital projects. Cemetery Road Complete Streets Project.
- Fire Station project, which will cost approximately \$6-7mil. No action was taken at this time.
- Reporting, Director Smith distributed a spreadsheet, for the amount of taxation for the next fiscal budget. The budget might increase by about 1.2 million.
- Current fiscal year budget will be slightly over in the Fire Department budget and solid waste. Additional testing needs to be done at the superfund site, which will cost about 40k.
- Ongoing roadwork by Pike industries.

Public Safety – Councilor Pepin reported on the Police Department report. They reviewed the mission statement, the organization of the department. They reviewed the staffing and vehicles. They need to replace the undercover vehicles. They reviewed the shift coverage, number of calls of service, policies and activities and their work with the elderly.

Their recommendations are to increase the manpower. City Manager is working on that in the budget. They also recommend increasing the IMC police database use, upgrade the unmarked vehicles, upgrade computers and increase the training budget. He commended the Chief, keeping up with the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Councilor Witham said he would like to see recommendation of how many increased staffing, etc. He would like more detail.

Mayor Hilliard stated that Council will take that information and dive deeper. They will use this document as a base guide. Continue to move forward with 21<sup>st</sup> century policing, and to have an approach to move the department forward.

City Manager Belmore stated for the unmarked units, it is in the CIP. As far as staffing, we have developed a CIP plan.

Councilor Pepin said in past meetings, there was discussion and there are a lot of needs and the City Manager needs to balance the budget and the tax payer needs to pay the taxes. There is a lot of progress.

Public Works & Environment – Councilor Sprague said they have not had a meeting, but he had a question regarding the Ordinance 15-20. It seems that all of the amendments were not made to Chapter 12 as was discussed in the Committee Meeting.

City Manager Belmore stated that this will be taken in a 2-step approach. This is the first step, and we will be going back to address other changes.

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

### Special Committees

Traffic Safety – Councilor Vincent stated that the Committee met on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 2:00pm. They discussed the parking ordinance, which was tabled to look at in more detail. Trio investment, The Hall at Great Falls, is looking to expand to have a capacity of up to 300 people. This could cause traffic and crossing problems when events let out. The recommendation was to put up a lighted pedestrian crossing sign. The suggestion is that the City will purchase one and the Hall will purchase one. The committee also discussed the removal of the flashing red light at the intersection of Green Street and Franklin Street. There have been no safety accidents or concerns.

JBC – Councilor Pepin reported that the Committee is in the final wrap up of the project. They are trying to get the finances and make sure all is paid. They are finishing up the few things that are still on the punch list, namely a dedication plaque and access panel. With the extra funds, they are looking at furniture or key carded access doors on the back.

COAST – Councilor Pepin reported that COAST ended the fiscal year \$122,000 in the red. The fiscal year ended in September. There was discussion about route changes. There have been Public Hearings in Somersworth, Rochester and Dover regarding the route changes. There was discussion about increasing the fees. There was discussion regarding the fact that the disabled would not be serviced if routes are discontinued. The Committee also reviewed the drug, alcohol and med policy, prescribed drugs.

School Board – Councilor Pepin shared a copy of a poster, “look what we’re doing to our schools”, which shows what has been added to the curriculum through the years.

They also discussed one on one guiding the curriculum. They also discussed, since Mark Richardson is no longer on the school board or JBC, Jerri Cannon and Tom McCallion, were appointed to the JBC.

Councilor Sprague said to pass on to Coast bus, that the service has been exemplary. It is the State that is not working and providing the support that is needed.

Planning Board – Councilor Vincent stated that the Board met on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The Capital improvement plan was passed. They discussed Trio Investment allow them to address the traffic safety concerns. The Board approved the request. The board also discussed the road deterioration at the intersection of Rt 108 at Blackwater Road by the Cumberland Farms, caused by tractor trailer trucks. The Board also discussed the extension of the permit for Avis Goodwin.

Veterans Park Committee – Councilor Dumont reported that the Committee is gaining momentum. Bricks and Pavers are falling into place. They are about to open up announcing the activity that is going on as it rolls in. Hilltop Chevrolet had record auto sales in the month of November, and has pledged to give a percentage of sales to the Veterans park. Dumont stated that they are getting a lot of calls about bricks and pavers. He is compiling a listing of requests.

#### 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, December 13, 2019**  
**SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, December 16, 2019  
City Council Agenda**

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*6:00 pm: Council Workshop  
Re: Form Based Codes – Downtown Zoning  
Presented by Steve Whitman from Resilience Planning & Design*

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#### *Unfinished Business (Under Section 14 of Agenda)*

##### Ordinances

- A. Ordinance No. 13-20: To Amend Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 13.3.1-D, No Parking Anytime.** Again, this Ordinance request was from Councilor David Witham.

*New Business (Under Section 15 of Agenda)*

**Ordinances**

- A. Ordinance No 14-20: City Council Meeting Schedule for 2020.** Mayor Dana Hilliard has proposed the following 2020 City Council regular meeting calendar. City Council will need to consider waiving Council Rules to act on the meeting calendar this evening.
- B. Ordinance No. 15-20: To Amend Chapter 12, Street and Sidewalks.** The Public Works & Environment Committee voted at their November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting to support this Ordinance change. Attached is a *red-line* version that depicts the proposed changes as well as a memorandum from Director Mike Bobinsky further detailing the changes.  
*A Public Hearings Scheduled January 8<sup>th</sup>. 2020, without objection.*

**Resolutions**

- A. Resolution No. 19-20: Proclamation Declaring January Diversity Month in the City of Somersworth.** Mayor Hilliard and City Council have introduced this Resolution in accordance with City Ordinance, Ch.6.7.3.
- B. Resolution No. 20-20: To Notify the City Tax Collector that the City Council Shall Not Accept a Tax Deed on Certain Properties Subject to an Unredeemed Tax Lien.** The Finance Committee took up this matter at their November 26<sup>th</sup> meeting and voted to support Resolution No. 20-20 & Resolution No. 21-20 to the full Council. This recommendation is based on the past practice to deed the most delinquent properties and allow more time for others to come into tax payment compliance.
- C. Resolution No. 21-20: To Notify the City Tax Collector that the City Council Shall Not Accept a Tax Deed on Properties Located on Wexford Lane Subject to an Unredeemed Tax Lien.** Attached is a copy of a map that shows this location. The recommendation of ‘not to accept’ is based on the land containing buried debris; i.e., potential contamination.
- D. Resolution No. 22-20: To Authorize the City Manager to Sign an Application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to Upgrade the Windows at the Albert J. Nadeau Homes and Filion Terrace, and Replace Apartment Doors at Filion Terrace and Charpentier Apartments, and to Sign the Adopted 2020 City Housing and Community Development Plan and 2020 Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan.** The Finance Committee met on November 26<sup>th</sup> and voted to support this Resolution. Somersworth Housing Authority (SHA) is looking for approval from the City Council to apply for CDBG funds as the City would act as a sub-recipient of the grant request totaling \$500,000. The City Council will need to adopt the Housing Relocation and Community Development Plan as this is an application requirement. This grant will be used to replace windows at Albert J. Nadeau

Homes, the windows in the buildings on Bartlett Ave/Verona St, and the windows at Filion Terrace on Washington St. The last building improvement would be to replace the apartment doors at Filion Terrace and Charpentier Apartment. This will require a ***Public Hearing at the next regular Council meeting on Wednesday, January 8, 2020.*** Attached is a copy of the SHA Executive Director Debbie Evan's letter of request.

***The public hearing was scheduled without objection.***

- E. Resolution No. 23-20: Proclaiming Somersworth a Welcoming City.** As noted, this Resolution's sponsor is Councilor Ed LeVasseur.

### **Other**

- A. Vote on Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive Program Application, City Ordinance Chapter 31 – Cylon LLC., Johns Parsons Drive.** The Finance Committee met on November 26<sup>th</sup> and voted to recommend acceptance of this application for 1 Johns Parsons Drive owned by Patrick Wilson, Cylon LLC. A copy of the application as well as Director Shanna Saunders memorandum determining the application is complete is provided.
- B. Set Polling Times for the February 11, 2020 Presidential Primary**

### ***City Manager's Items (under section 11 of Agenda)***

#### **A. Informational Items.**

- a. **CIP Fiscal Year 2021-2026.** In accordance with the City Charter, I have submitted a proposed Capital Improvement Program for City Council consideration. I look forward to Council direction for future review and discussion opportunities.
- b. **Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget Preparation.** Attached is a memorandum directing City Department Heads to begin their preliminary Budget requests for FY 2020-2021. I welcome any specific Council direction as I prepare the City Manager's Proposed Budget for submittal to the Mayor & Council by the Charter deadline of March 15.
- c. **Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) Grant.** The City has been awarded a \$30,000 Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) Grant award which will provide funding for preservation improvements to the Furber Chapel at Forest Glade Cemetery. The project will involve the replacement of the slate roof on the chapel. City Staff worked with the Cemetery Trustee Board in submitting this grant application. Attached is a copy of the announcement that you may have already seen. Congratulations to All involved and thank you, Land and Community Heritage Investment Program.

d. **Upcoming City Council 2020 Workshops.** The following Workshops are being scheduled:

- **Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6:00p.m. - New Fire Station Design, Port One Architects**
- **Monday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:00p.m. - Cemetery Rd. Complete Streets Design, Wright Pierce Engineers**

**Attachments**

- 1. City Attorney Certifications Seven (7)**
- 2. Department Head Reports**
- 3. Debt Service Memorandum submitted to Finance Committee regarding Proposed Projects**
- 4. City Staff meeting with Commissioner Caswell**

**NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS**

1. Nominations, Appointments and Elections

Nominations for Council Confirmation Vote

A. William Poole, Alternate Member of the Historic District Commission, with a term to expire December 2022

*Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Austin, made a motion to approve the nomination. The motion passed, 9-0.*

Nominations requiring Council Confirmation Vote

A. Ronald LeHoullier, Re-Appointment as a Member of the Planning Board with a term to expire January 2023

B. Harold Guptill, Re-Appointment as a Member of the Planning Board with a term to expire January 2023

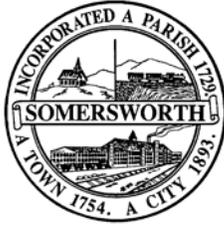
*These nominations will remain open until the January 8, 2020 City Council Meeting.*

**LAY ON THE TABLE**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCES**



## City of Somersworth – Ordinance

Ordinance No: **13-20**

**TO AMEND CHAPTER 13, POLICE OFFENSES, SECTION 13.3.1-D, NO PARKING ANYTIME**

November 18, 2019

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the Ordinances of the City of Somersworth, as amended, be further amended as follows:

Amend Police Offenses, Section 13. 3.1-D, No Parking Anytime, by adding:

Blackwater Road, 250 feet westerly from Route 108, on the north side of the street

Blackwater Road, 250 feet westerly from Route 108, on the south side of the street

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilor:</i> David A. Witham	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

## City of Somersworth – Ordinance 13-20

### History

First Read Date:	11/18/2019	Tabled:	NA
Public Hearing:	12/16/2019	Removed From Table:	NA
Second Read:	12/16/2019		

### Discussion

*Councilor Austin, seconded by Councilor Witham, made a motion to approve Ordinance 13-20.*

Councilor Witham stated that several Councilors have been contacted about degradation of roadway near Cumberland Farms on Rt 108, mostly because of tractor trailers and heavy trucks, and cars turning left. By putting up the no parking signs, they are looking to avoid further deterioration to the roadway.

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	X	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent	X	
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont	X	
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin	X	
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham	X	
At Large Councilor	Sprague	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Levasseur	X	
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>
On 12/16/2019 Ordinance 13-20		<b>PASSED</b>	

### NEW BUSINESS

### ORDINANCES



## City of Somersworth – Ordinance

Ordinance No: **14-20**

### **CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2020**

December 16, 2019

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT, in accordance with Chapter 3.7 of the City Charter which provides that the City Council's "regular meetings shall be held on the first and third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise designated by ordinance..." and Chapter 6, City Officials, Section 6.8.2 of the City Ordinances which also provides that the "City Council shall meet in regular session on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise agreed on by a majority of the members of the Council" that the City Council Meeting schedule for 2020 shall be as follows:

- Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>
- Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>
- Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> and Monday March 16<sup>th</sup>
- Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> and Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>
- Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>
- Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup> and Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>
- Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>
- Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> and Monday September 21<sup>st</sup>
- Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> and Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>
- Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>
- Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by:</i> Mayor Dana S. Hilliard	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

**City of Somersworth – Ordinance 14-20**

<b>History</b>			
First Read Date:	12/16/2019	Tabled:	NA
Public Hearing:	NA	Removed From Table:	NA
Second Read:	12/16/2019		

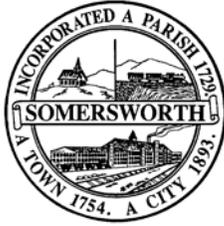
**Discussion**

*Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to waive Council Rules to allow for a second read of Ordinance 14-20. Motion passed, 9-0.*

*Councilor Sprague, seconded by Councilor Levasseur, made a motion that Council meet on Mondays, regardless of a Holiday. Motion failed, 7-2, with Councilors Sprague and Levasseur in favor.*

*Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Vincent, made a motion to approve Ordinance 14-20, with no amendments.*

<b>Voting Record</b>			<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	*	X	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		X	
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont		X	
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin		X	
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		X	
At Large Councilor	Witham		X	
At Large Councilor	Sprague		X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron		X	
At Large Councilor	Levasseur		X	
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>On 12/16/2019 Ordinance 14-20</b>			<b>PASSED</b>	



## City of Somersworth – Ordinance

Ordinance No: 15-20

### **TO AMEND CHAPTER 12, STREETS AND SIDEWALKS**

December 16, 2019

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the Ordinances of the City of Somersworth, as amended, be further amended as follows:

Delete Chapter 12, Streets and Sidewalks in its entirety, and replace with the following:

#### CHAPTER 12 STREETS AND SIDEWALKS

##### SECTION 12.1 - Excavate, Obstruct or Encumber

**PERMIT REQUIRED:** No person, firm or corporation, or any agent or servant thereof, shall excavate, obstruct, or in any way encumber any street, sidewalk or other City-owned property or right-of-way in the City of Somersworth without first having obtained a written permit to do so from the Director of Public Works, or designee, except where such licensing power is particularly vested in the City Council (see RSA 231:184). Any person, persons, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this section shall be fined not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$1,000.00 for each violation, pay for any repairs necessary to bring the trench into compliance, and may subject the Permittee/contractor to revoked digging privileges.

**EXCEPTION, PER RSA 236:9:** The exception to the above shall be in cases of emergency where the public health or safety is endangered. Such immediate action as may be necessary may be taken without such permission, but in such cases the person directing or taking such action shall at once notify the Director of Public Works, or designee.

**REGULATIONS:** Permittees shall obtain a copy of and adhere to all provisions of the Somersworth Construction Standards by the Department of Public Works and Utilities.

**WORK SCHEDULE:** Except for emergencies as may be deemed essential by the Department of Public Works and Utilities, no person, firm or corporation or any agent or servant thereof, shall excavate, obstruct, or in any way encumber any street, sidewalk, or other City-owned property or right-of-way in the City of Somersworth between the 15<sup>th</sup> of November and the

15<sup>th</sup> of April. The Director of Public Works, or designee, must approve the schedule of work. Scheduling will be such as to not unreasonably interfere with traffic.

**FEES:** Every permit will require the Permittee to pay a fee to the City to cover the City's cost of reviewing, processing, inspecting, and executing the permit. The amount of the fee will be established by the Department of Public Works and Utilities.

**BONDS AND LETTERS OF CREDIT:** Every Permittee will be required to furnish one of the following:

- Bonds - Permittees who regularly work in the City can opt to provide an annual bond to the City, with the approval of the City Engineer. The amount of the bond will be established by the Department of Public Works and Utilities.
- Letters of Credit - Permittees who regularly work in the City can opt to provide a Letter of Credit from a New Hampshire bank to the City, with the approval of the City Engineer. The amount of the Letter of Credit will be established by the Department of Public Works and Utilities.

**BACKFILLING, PAVING, DUST CONTROL, AND TRAFFIC CONTROL:** These items will be done in accordance with the Somersworth Construction Standards.

**INSPECTIONS:** The Director of Public Works and Utilities or his/her designee may inspect the site prior to the commencement of backfill, during the backfill operation, prior to the commencement of paving and during the paving operation. It shall be the responsibility of the licensee to arrange for these inspections during normal working hours, and he/she shall provide a 24-hour notice.

**MORATORIUM PERIOD:** In an effort to protect the City's investment in its infrastructure, excavations in newly constructed, reconstructed, rehabilitated, or overlaid pavements anywhere within the public right-of-way or on City property, to include streets and sidewalks, are prohibited as follows:

- For pavements that have been overlayed, the excavation moratorium shall be three (3) years after the effective date of completion or acceptance.
- For pavements that have been reclaimed, reconstructed, rehabilitated, or are newly constructed, the moratorium period shall be five (5) years after the effective date of completion or acceptance.

**INSURANCE:** As a condition of this permit, the Permittee shall agree to provide insurance to indemnify the City of Somersworth and the Department of Public Works and Utilities, including all officials and employees thereof. Required policies shall include, but not be limited to. Comprehensive General Liability and Workman's Compensation. The requirements of the policies will be according to the Somersworth Construction Standards.

**REVOCAION OF PERMIT:** The City of Somersworth, Department of Public Works and Utilities, or the City Engineer may revoke any permit issued under this regulation at any time.

## Section 12.2 - Use of Sidewalks

No person shall drive any vehicle or equipment on any sidewalk in the City, except for strollers, wagons, carriages, or other methods of transporting small children.

## Section 12.3 – Signs and Awnings

No person shall place, establish or maintain any sign, awning or shade before his/her place of business, dwelling house or tenement, over any part of any street or sidewalk, unless the same be safely fixed and supported so as in no way to incommode or endanger persons passing upon such street or sidewalk and so that the lowest part of such sign, awning or shade shall be at least seven and one-half feet above the sidewalk; nor shall any person hang, affix, fasten, place or allow to remain upon the outer edge of any sidewalk, any sign or showcase except in conformance with the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance. (Amended 7/18/1994.)

## Section 12.4 - Rubbish, Refuse and Garbage

(See Chapter 7 - STREETS, SIDEWALKS, SEWERS).

## Section 12.5 - Snow and Ice

- 1) No person shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, any ice or snow that has been removed from private property in or upon any street, sidewalk or public place in the City, nor shall such snow or ice be put or placed in a public road so as to block access to hydrants or sidewalks maintained by the City during snow events.
- 2) No person shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, including, but not limited to deposits from roof and/or foundation drains/pumps, any liquid from private property in or upon any public road, sidewalk, or City property, in such a manner so as to cause a condition hazardous to pedestrian movements and/or to the normal and reasonable flow of vehicle traffic.

## Section 12.6 - Transporting Buildings

No person shall move, or assist in moving, any house, shop, or other building through any street, lane or alley, without first obtaining a written license therefore in the manner prescribed in Section 1 of this chapter.

When the City Engineer shall, as aforesaid, grant permission to any person, firm or corporation, to encumber any street sidewalk or public square, for the purpose of erecting, altering or moving buildings, or to dig up or encumber the same in any other manner, he may, as a condition to granting such permission, require the party obtaining the same to furnish a bond of indemnity to the City of Somersworth in such sum and with such sureties as he may deem proper.

## Section 12.7 - Driveways

**PERMIT REQUIRED:** It shall be unlawful to construct, or alter in any way that substantially affects the side or grade of, any driveway, entrance, exit, or approach within the limits of any street, sidewalk or other City-owned property or right-of-way in the City of Somersworth without first having obtained a written permit to do so from the Director of Public Works and Utilities, or designee, except where such licensing power is particularly vested in the City Council (see RSA 236:13). Any person, persons, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this section shall be fined not less than \$500.00 or more than \$1,000.00 for each violation, pay any late fees as part of an after-the-fact the permit application, and pay for any repairs the City deems necessary.

**REGULATIONS:** Permittees shall obtain a copy of and adhere to all provisions of the Somersworth Construction Standards by the Department of Public Works and Utilities.

**FEES:** Every permit will require the Permittee to pay a fee to the City to cover the City's cost of reviewing, processing, inspecting, and executing the permit. The amount of the fee will be established by the Department of Public Works and Utilities.

Section 12.10

The Director of Public Works and Utilities, or designee, shall issue permits in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the Planning Board. June 6, 1972.

Amended 06/18/2001  
Amended XX/XX/2019

This Ordinance will take effect upon passage.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> Dale R. Sprague David A. Witham Kenneth S. Vincent Martin P. Dumont, Sr.	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

***Ordinance 15-20 will remain in first read until the January 8, 2020 City Council Meeting. A Public Hearing is scheduled for January 8, 2020.***

RESOLUTIONS



## City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: **19-20**

### **PROCLAMATION DECLARING JANUARY DIVERSITY MONTH IN THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH**

December 16, 2019

WHEREAS, January 15, 2020 will mark the 91<sup>st</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 243 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, 2020 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

*Sponsored by:*

Mayor Dana S. Hilliard

*Councilors:*

David A. Witham

Dale R Sprague

Nancie Cameron

Edward LeVasseur

Martin Pepin

Kenneth S. Vincent

Martin P. Dumont, Sr.

Donald Austin

Richard R. Michaud

*Approved:*

City Attorney

**City of Somersworth – Resolution 19-20**

<b>History</b>			
First Read Date:	12/16/2019	Tabled:	NA
Public Hearing:	NA	Removed From Table:	NA
Second Read:	12/16/2019		

**Discussion**

*Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to waive Council Rules to allow for a second read. Motion passed, 9-0.*

*Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to approve Resolution 19-20.*

<b>Voting Record</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	X	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent	X	
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont	X	
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin	X	
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham *	X	
At Large Councilor	Sprague	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Levasseur	X	
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>
On 12/16/2019 Resolution 19-20		<b>PASSED</b>	



## City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: **20-20**

**TO NOTIFY THE CITY TAX COLLECTOR THAT THE CITY COUNCIL SHALL NOT ACCEPT A TAX DEED ON CERTAIN PROPERTIES SUBJECT TO AN UNREDEEMED TAX LIEN**

December 16, 2019

WHEREAS, RSA 80:76 directs the Tax Collector, after 2 years, to execute to the City a deed of the land subject to the real estate tax lien and not redeemed, and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of a municipality may refuse to accept a tax deed on behalf of the municipality because in its judgment, acceptance and ownership of the real estate would subject the municipality to undesirable obligations or liability risks, or for any reason that would be contrary to the public interest,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Tax Collector be notified that for those reasons the City shall refuse to accept the tax deeds on property located at the following locations:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Tax Map/Lot</u>
47 Colonial Village	81-47M
90 Colonial Village	81-90M
37 Crystal Springs Way	82-12M
48 Crystal Springs Way	82-19M
47 Crystal Springs Way	82-22M
65 Crystal Springs Way	82-57M
16 Dudley Court	83-29M
114 Sherwood Glen	87-114M
208 Sherwood Glen	87-208M
312 Sherwood Glen	87-312M
338 Sherwood Glen	87-338M
629 Sherwood Glen	87-629M
687 Sherwood Glen	87-687M
703 Sherwood Glen	87-703M
5 Ringer Drive	88-10M

### Authorization

*Sponsored by Councilors:*

David A. Witham  
 Martin Pepin  
 Martin P. Dumont, Sr.  
 Richard R. Michaud

*Approved:*

City Attorney

**City of Somersworth – Resolution 20-20**

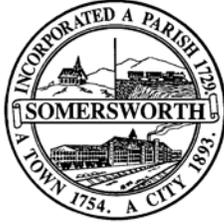
<b>History</b>			
First Read Date:	12/16/2019	Tabled:	NA
Public Hearing:	NA	Removed From Table:	NA
Second Read:	12/16/2019		

**Discussion**

*Councilor Witham, Seconded by Councilor Vincent made a motion to request that the Resolution be read, omitting the Tax Map and Lot numbers. The motion passed 9-0.*

*Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to waive Council Rules to allow for a second read. Motion passed, 9-0.*

<b>Voting Record</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	X	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent	X	
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont	X	
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin	X	
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham	X	
At Large Councilor	Sprague	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Levasseur	X	
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>On 12/16/2019 Resolution 20-20</b>		<b>PASSED</b>	



City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: 21-20

**TO NOTIFY THE CITY TAX COLLECTOR THAT THE CITY COUNCIL SHALL NOT ACCEPT A TAX DEED ON PROPERTIES LOCATED ON WEXFORD LANE SUBJECT TO AN UNREDEEMED TAX LIEN**

December 16, 2019

WHEREAS, RSA 80:76 directs the Tax Collector, after 2 years, to execute to the City a deed of the land subject to the real estate tax lien and not redeemed, and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of a municipality may refuse to accept a tax deed on behalf of the municipality because in its judgment, acceptance and ownership of the real estate would subject the municipality to undesirable obligations or liability risks, or for any reason that would be contrary to the public interest,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Tax Collector be notified that for those reasons the City shall refuse to accept the tax deeds on property located at the following locations:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Tax Map/Lot</u>
5 Wexford Lane	35-12A
7 Wexford Lane	35-12B

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> David A. Witham Martin Pepin Martin P. Dumont, Sr. Richard R. Michaud	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

**City of Somersworth – Resolution 21-20**

<b>History</b>			
First Read Date:	12/16/2019	Tabled:	NA
Public Hearing:	NA	Removed From Table:	NA
Second Read:	12/16/2019		

**Discussion**

*Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to waive Council Rules to have Resolution 21-20 read by title only. Motion passed, 9-0.*

*Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Michaud, made a motion to waive Council Rules to allow for a second read of Resolution 21-20. Motion passed, 9-0.*

*Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Vincent, made a motion to approve Resolution 21-20.*

<b>Voting Record</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin	X	
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent	X	
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont	X	
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin	X	
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud	X	
At Large Councilor	Witham	X	
At Large Councilor	Sprague	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Levasseur	X	
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>
On 12-16-2019 Resolution 21-20		<b>PASSED</b>	

**City of Somersworth – Resolution**



Resolution No: **22-20**

**TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN AN APPLICATION FOR A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) TO UPGRADE THE WINDOWS AT THE ALBERT J. NADEAU HOMES AND FILION TERRACE, AND REPLACE APARTMENT DOORS AT FILION TERRACE AND CHARPENTIER APARTMENTS, AND TO SIGN THE ADOPTED 2020 CITY HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND 2020 RESIDENTIAL ANTIDISPLACEMENT AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PLAN**

December 16, 2019

WHEREAS, a public hearing will be held on January 8, 2020,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Council authorizes the City Manager to sign an application for a CDBG grant to upgrade the windows at the Albert J. Nadeau Homes on Bartlett Avenue and Filion Terrace on Washington Street, and to replace the apartment doors at Filion Terrace on Washington Street and Charpentier Apartments on Franklin Street. The estimated cost of the improvements is up to \$500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand dollars) and the City Council authorizes the following:

1. Authorizes the Somersworth Housing Authority to continue as the Authorized Agent of the City of Somersworth in all matters relating to Community Development for this project until it is completed.
2. Authorizes the City Manager to enter into a contract with the Somersworth Housing Authority for the administration and supervision of this project until it is completed.
3. Authorizes the City Manager to execute any and all other documents with the State of New Hampshire, Office of Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA), which will be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Council hereby adopts the 2020 Housing and Community Development Plan and the 2020 Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan.

Authorization	
<p><i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> David A. Witham Martin P. Dumont, Sr. Martin Pepin Richard R. Michaud</p>	<p><i>Approved:</i> City Attorney</p>

**City of Somersworth – Resolution 22-20**

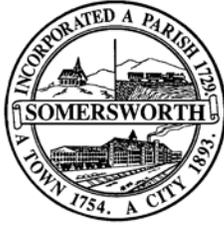
<b>History</b>			
First Read Date:	12/16/2019	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:	NA	Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

**Discussion**

*Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to waive Council Rules to allow for Resolution 22-20 to be read by title only. Motion passed, 9-0.*

<b>Voting Record</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont		
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Sprague		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Levasseur		
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			
<b>On / / . Resolution 22-20</b>		<b>PASSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>

*Resolution 22-20 will remain in first read until the January 8, 2020 City Council Meeting.*



## City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: 23-20

### **PROCLAIMING SOMERSWORTH A WELCOMING CITY**

December 16, 2019

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth has long been recognized as a hospitable and welcoming place where people, families and institutions thrive and the contributions of all are celebrated and valued; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth is committed to building a welcoming and neighborly community, where all individuals, regardless of race, color, creed, place of origin, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, political affiliation, marital / parental status or military service are welcome, accepted and integrated; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth is committed to enhancing its cultural fabric, economic growth, global competitiveness and overall prosperity for all individuals in the current and future generations who choose to make their home in the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth desires to create an environment that strategically positions our City as a globally competitive 21<sup>st</sup> century leader; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth is pleased to join the Welcoming Cities and Counties initiative to help unite our community and ensure that all are welcome here;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City of Somersworth hereby proclaims Somersworth a Welcoming City.

#### Authorization

*Sponsored by Councilors:*

Edward LeVasseur  
David A. Witham  
Dale R. Sprague  
Nancie Cameron  
Martin Pepin  
Kenneth S. Vincent  
Martin P. Dumont, Sr.  
Donald Austin  
Richard R. Michaud

*Approved:*

City Attorney

**City of Somersworth – Resolution 23-20**

<b>History</b>			
First Read Date:	12/16/2019	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

**Discussion**

*All Councilors asked that their names be added as sponsors to Resolution 23-20.*

*Mayor Hilliard referred Resolution 23-20 to the Government Operations Committee for further review.*

<b>Voting Record</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Dumont		
Ward 4 Councilor	Austin		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Sprague		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	LeVasseur		
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			
<b>On / / Resolution 23-20</b>		<b>PASSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>

*Resolution 23-20 will remain in first read until the January 8, 2020 City Council Meeting.*

**OTHER**

Vote on Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive Program Application, City Ordinance Chapter 31, Cylon LLC., 1 John Parsons Drive

Councilor Witham stated that the owner, Patrick Wilson, captured several points during the opening Comments by Visitors. This building been vacant several years. This will increase current client base, with added chairs and increase foot traffic in the downtown area. The entire block on John Parsons in revitalization.

Councilor Cameron said she supports this application for tax relief. This will add to our City and their business.

Councilor Levasseur stated that he was happy to see another application. These renderings of the proposed dental office are very nice. He stated that he is excited to see this in our downtown.

Councilor Witham specified that it is for the requested for the 5 year time frame.

VOTE: passed, 9-0.

Set polling times for the February 11, 2020 Presidential Primary

Councilor Witham made a motion to set the polling hours from 7am to 7pm.

VOTE: passed, 9-0.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS BY VISITORS**

None

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

Councilor Levasseur stated that this is his last Council meeting. He appreciated the time that he was able to serve. He is looking forward to serving in a new capacity as a School Board Member. He is putting effort in aiding in the growth of the community. He will be around and will be at future Council meetings.

Councilor Sprague said this is his last meeting, for now. He thanked all of the employees that work for the City. It is a little bit different than when he first came to the City Council. The attitude of the employees has done a 360. He has been on the council for 10 years. The department heads are strong. The City is very fortunate. The City Manager has been nothing but helpful. We are very lucky to have the Employees, Department Heads and City Manager that we have. He thanked past councilors, the current council, and the City Clerk's office. He has worked with 3 mayors, and commended Mayor Hilliard for keeping order. We all have our different assets that we bring to council, and even when we debate and disagree, we leave as friends.

Councilor Sprague went on to say, when he first ran, he could see that there was a disconnect between the state and local government; he was a State Representative at the time. His mother passed away during the filing period. Hats off to his mom, when you think about heroes... his mother worked at GE, he never went without anything. When you get older, you start to realize the sacrifices that were made. His mom is his hero. It was the day of her funeral that he stopped into City Hall to file the paperwork to run for City Council.

Dave Witham has become a true friend. It has been a real honor to serve with Dave. We have really been like tick and tack, we drove to obtain what was best for the City, especially the downtown project. He thanked the other Committee members that he worked with; Councilors Pepin, Vincent, and Dumont.

He stated that he hopes the future council doesn't get into divisiveness about party lines. For 9 years he was a democrat, then changed party lines and changed to independent. He was the Democratic Floor Leader, but during his last year active, he filed as an independent. He didn't like that there was tension and that he couldn't talk to republicans as friends without being looked down upon. He thanked the Mayor and Members of Council again.

Councilor Cameron thanked Ed (Levasseur), who she also calls Junior, for his dedication to the city. She stated that he was the youngest Councilor and brought different views to the

Council. They didn't always agree, but respected each other. She said, now that Ed is on the School Board, she wished him well.

To Dale (Sprague), she thanked him for the expertise. Many times, he helped her and explained things so she could understand. She said she is sure the citizens have appreciated the many years of service and commitment. Merry Christmas and see you next year!

Councilor Witham stated that he has only known Ed (Levasseur) for short time and doesn't know him that well. "It's like we've been dating..." Councilor Witham went on to say that he couldn't think of a time when they didn't vote in alignment; we voted similarly more often than not. At the end of the day it has been a very positive experience having Ed on the Council. The good news is, you are going over to the School Board. That will be a strengthening the relationship. It seems that Ed has never been scared to share thoughts and opinions.

Councilor Witham went on to say that Dale (Sprague) has been a tremendous value to the Council and to the City. He understands the depth of issues and challenges all of us at the important moments. He has strong opinions and convictions, but his bark is worse than his bite. Looking back, he said he remembered saving Dale from a major pothole while walking in the Christmas Parade. Every road that we now walk on for parades, have all been repaired or repaved. It is because Dale has led that fight. Ten years ago, we were spending \$150,000 a year on the roads. We are now at over \$1 mil a year.

Councilor Witham presented a gift to Councilor Sprague. His very own mini Public Works Department. The Sidewalk tractor is in the shop getting repaired.

On occasion, we disagreed, like about the amount of fund balance to use in the current budget and on the sidewalk tractor. There have been some strong disagreements, but we leave shaking hands. Ed and Dale, you will be missed, but we know you are not far away.

Councilor Pepin said that he and Ed (Levasseur) served on Public Safety Committee. Although they don't have a real long connection, he wished Ed the best and thanked him for his dedication to the Council.

Dale, we go back quite a way. We worked construction together. We got to know each other early, when someone reported a person doing donuts on a motorcycle in the yard on Maple Street. They thought it was vandalism and called the cops. It was Dale...

Sometimes you T'd me off more than anything. You will be missed.

Councilor Pepin stated that Mark Richardson will be deeply missed on the School Board. It is a loss to the school board. He was very dedicated. His thoughts were always about the school. He is one heck of a person.

Councilor Vincent thanked Ed (Levasseur) for his dedication and he is sure the dedication will be equally true on the School Board as well.

Councilor Vincent when on to say of Dale (Sprague), that many don't know who he is behind closed doors. Your heart and soul were totally into the State and in the City. You will be missed. You think outside of the box. You are an icon. Thank you for your dedication. This is coming from the White Night of Roads.

Councilor Dumont stated that Councilor Levasseur gives him hope for the new generation. He never doubted the passion; he is in the upper 10%.

Councilor Sprague is one of those people who belong in this community. You get to know people, and time and time again, people related to the fact that you sit in one of these chairs,

and really act on behalf of the citizenry. Dale is a unique person to get to know. His knowledge was unsurpassed. He wished him the best.

The kids tonight, with the robotics, they are the next generation after Levasseur. He stated that he got excited over a fountain pen when he was in school. This was a great demonstration of what they are learning in the schools. Congratulations on the robotics award.

He stated that he is concerned about removing the light red at the intersection of Franklin and Green Streets. Just because nothing has happened, isn't a good reason to remove the light. Flashing red light means that you stop, and extend the curtesy to let someone cross. Be nice to people and take the time to stop and smell the roses.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Councilor Austin said that Ed (Levasseur) struck him as one of the social conscience of the community. He wished Ed luck on the School Board, and said he has experience, if Ed needs anything.

Councilor Austin continued by thanking Dale (Sprague) for cooperation between State and City in regards to the CTC funding, and other things that you helped the State provide for the City. He stated that they have not always agreed on things, but because Dale challenged, He is a better Councilor for that. He said Dale always gives pause that we look deeper and make sure the I's are dotted and the T's are crossed. He said Dale will be missed as a resource on this Council and wish him well in future endeavors.

Councilor Michaud thanked Ed (Levasseur) for service on the Council and he said he knows Ed will do well on School Board.

He Stated that Dale (Sprague) did a lot for the city; he was a wealth of knowledge. Because of Dale, he learned a lot on the Public Works Committee.

He thanked Mark Richardson for all that he did on the School Board.

Mayor Hilliard stated on behalf of the City of Somersworth, we wish all of the citizens and their families a very peaceful holiday season. Remove the lights, remove the presents, and the base for a Millennial is us humans coming together for a short period of time to celebrate the universal bond that links all of us together and the desire to live in a world where all will be validated, celebrated and where universal peace will be achieved.

From my family to yours, Merry Christmas!

## **ADJOURNMENT**

***Councilor Michaud, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:16pm. 8-1***

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Trish Harris, City Clerk

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Dana Hilliard, Mayor