



MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Somersworth, NH

February 3, 2020

7:00 P.M.

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, Austin, Michaud, Witham, Gerding, Cameron, and Paradis. Councilor Dumont was excused.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

Councilor Pepin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

NONE

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

Asa McGowan commented on the crosswalks on High Street, at Bartlett Ave and Memorial Drive, stating that cars are not stopping for pedestrians at crosswalks. He stated that he went to Somersworth Now and Then on Facebook and was advised that he should attend the Council Meeting and he was also told that there are things in progress to address the intersections. He stated that he is concerned because it seems that the drivers cannot see the people waiting to cross. He watched a pedestrian wait for 40 cars to pass then he pulled out to blocked traffic with his vehicle.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approve Minutes of the City Council Workshop – New Fire Station Design presented by Port One Architects held on January 21, 2020

Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting held on January 21, 2020

Councilor Austin, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Calendar. The motion passed, 8-0.

COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCILORS

Councilor Witham stated that intersection of High Street, Franklin Street and Memorial Drive is in line for a significant upgrade, with flashing crossing signs.

Councilor Vincent said it is funny that this was brought to our attention tonight. He recently noticed that on Franklin Street at High Street, there is a 6ft end that is in rough shape. Franklin Street was recently paved. It frustrates him sometimes when a company does these things. He went on to say that he attended the ZBA meeting. An applicant brought up an issue with a sign. He'd like to address the sign ordinance again. Some have found loopholes in the ordinance, especially up on Rt. 108 and High Street.

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COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND DISPOSAL THEREOF BY REFERENCE OR OTHERWISE

NONE

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayors Report for City Council Meeting February 3rd, 2020

- Next Tuesday voters throughout our great city and state will take place in a foundational block of our American democratic system, the New Hampshire primary. Being first in the nation is a great responsibility which has been afforded to all granite stators. Nowhere else throughout our nation is any candidate put through the rigor by citizens in the process of gaining the nomination to complete as President of The United States.

Our state continues to keep the process real, by demanding contact with the candidates and having meaningful conversations surrounding the issue confronting each of us. Despite the out of control influence of money which keeps plaguing our system of democracy, in NH it is the citizens who make the final determination of who has the experience to lead not the dollar. This upcoming Tuesday, regardless of your party affiliation or political ideology, let your voice be heard in helping to continue to keep our city, state and nation "On the Move!" vote. Remember, democracy is a participatory sport, so don't sit on the sidelines, be active in the greatest system of governing ever created, democracy.

Join me this Tuesday in our right of self-determination, our right of self-governing, vote.

- Since its creation, Citizens Place continues to be a microcosm of the values which represent the Hilltop Spirit, celebrating and honoring our differences and building one united community. Each year the Mayor's office and the Cultural Commission sponsor the raising of flags at citizens place. The scheduled 2020 flag raisings are as follows;

March

Monday, March 16th Flag of Ireland St Patrick's Day (Celebrated March 17th)
Monday, March 23rd Flag of Greece for Greek Independence Day (Celebrated March 25th)

April

Monday April 20th Earth Flag Day (Celebrated April 22nd)
Monday April 20th English Union Jack Flag of England for St. Georges Day
(Celebrated April 23rd)

Wed., April 22nd Arbor Day (Celebrated April 24th)

Friday, April 24th Israel Independence Day (Celebrated April 25th)

May

Friday, May 15th Police Memorial Flag (Celebrated May 15th)

June

Monday, June 1st Pride Flag (Celebrated June 1 – 30)

Friday, June 12th Army Flag (Celebrated June 14th)

Wed, June 24th Flag of Quebec St Jean Baptiste Day (Celebrated June 24th)

Monday, June 29th Flag of Canada for Canada Day (Celebrated July 1st)

July

August

Monday, August 3rd Coast Guard Flag (Celebrated August 4th)

Monday, August 17th Indonesian Flag (Celebrated August 17th)

September

Friday, Sept. 18th Airforce Flag (Celebrated September 18th)

October

Monday, Oct. 12th Navy Flag (Celebrated October 13th)

Monday, Nov. 9th Marines Flag (Celebrated November 10th)

TBA: Vatican Flag

- As a united community we continue to celebrate and honor all who have served our great nation as members of the armed forces. This May we will gather as for every grateful Hilltoppers as we break ground for the new Veterans Park. To date we have been very successful in raising capital for the construction of the park. There is still time for business and citizens to donate and be part of our cities efforts. Tonight, I would like to thank the following business who joined in making a living tribute to all Veterans:

VETERANS PARK DONATIONS

| | | |
|--|---|------------|
| Stratham Tire | | \$200.00 |
| Greater Seacoast Community Health | | \$250.00 |
| Chinburg Management, LLC | 3 Penstock Way, Newmarket, NH 03857 | \$1,000.00 |
| General Linen Service, LLC | 75 Centre Road, Somersworth, NH 03878 | \$500.00 |
| Somersworth Housing Authority | 25 Bartlett Ave., Ste A., Somersworth, NH | \$500.00 |
| Hilltop Fireworks, LLC | 345 Rte 108, Somersworth, NH 03878 | \$500.00 |
| Fraternal Order of Eagles | 4 Somersworth Plaza, Somersworth, NH 0 | \$500.00 |
| Stewart's Ambulance Service LLC | PO Box 1399, Meredith, NH 03253 | \$500.00 |
| Eastern Propane Gas, Inc | PO Box 1800, Rochester, NH 03866-1800 | \$500.00 |
| Donald Roberge Post 1755 CWV | 24 Drew Rd., Somersworth, NH 03878 | \$1,000.00 |
| Dept. of New Hampshire Catholic War Veterans | | \$1,000.00 |

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| | | |
|------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Matthew Gerding | 157 High St., Somersworth, NH 03878 | \$150.00 |
| Label Tech, Inc. | 16 Interstate Drive, Somersworth, NH 038 | \$500.00 |
| Dead River Company | 82 Running Hill Rd., S. Portland, ME 04106 | \$250.00 |
| Hilltop Chevy - pledge | \$10,000 + | |
| Eversource - pledge | not received yet | |
| Total | | \$7,350.00 |

- Thank you to members of the St. Ignatius parish and all who came out last Wednesday evening to give warmth and comfort to some of our most vulnerable citizens. While we did not resolve the issue of homelessness last Wednesday, we did offer hope and compassion to those in need. By continuing to be united and leading by our heart and soul, and following the spirit of the Master Plan adopted by all three Councils as part of the efforts of the Tri-Cities Mayors task force on homelessness, we will continue to make differences one step at a time.
- The next Mayors Community forum will take place Saturday, February 15th, from 9:00-10:30 at City Hall. This forum will be a training for all citizens interested in aiding in the cold weather temporary warming center in Somersworth and the Tri-City area. The training is designed to prepare volunteers to assist at the local level (City or Town Warming Center or any entity opening under the special permit process listed above (Church/etc) and/or at the County's Extreme Cold Emergency Shelter. It provides an excellent overview of resources available to homeless residents in our region. The training also includes a brief Narcan training and introduction and practice of practical conflict de-escalation techniques. I urge anyone interested in aiding at the warming centers to attend the training.

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;
 - Mark Richardson, appointment as an Alternate member of the Planning Board, with a term to expire January 2023
 - Pius Murray, appointment as an Alternate member of the Planning Board with a term to expire January 2023
- 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;
 - Richard Brooks, as a Member of the Historic District Commission, with a term to expire February 2023

- Kenneth Vincent, as a Citizen Alternate to the Zoning Board of Adjust, with a term to expire February 2023 (Planning Board Recommendation to Council)

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

- Also, under nominations, appointments and Elections; in accordance with Council rule 15 I am naming the following Mayoral appointments:
- David Baker, appointment to the Little Indonesia Commission

This respectfully concludes my February 3rd, 2020 Mayors Report

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance Committee – Councilor Witham reported that the Committee met on January 29th, 2020. The committee discussed:

- Bond for replacement of the elevator at the middle school. It needs to be replaced due to age, and they are not sure how long it will last. The bond will be for \$650,000 and 15 years, which would make the payment approximately \$59,000 a year. The motion to endorse a Resolution passed, 3-0.
- Fire Department brush truck bid. The City has already acquired a 4wd truck. This bid is to outfit the back of the truck with equipment. They received a bid from Eastern Apparatus, at a cost of \$45,286.15. It is within the Committees spending authority. The Committee approved, 3-0.
- SHA Queensbury Mill 1996 CDBG Project, City mortgage note & loan agreement. This is a note between the Housing Authority and City of Somersworth. There is no money owed to the City of Somersworth. It shows as a liability to the Housing Authority. The City and Housing Authority is looking to get this cleaned up. This process may require some legal fees, which the Housing Authority will cover. The Committee sponsored a
- Bobinsky reported on the standpipes on the Pines and Rocky Hill Road. Proposals will be offered soon. No action was taken by the Committee.
- Reporting, Finance Director Smith stated that things are in line across the board. They are monitoring solid waste and recycling. It is estimated that we will be over spent by \$70,000. Regarding the surcharge on the trash bags, to date, have generated \$13,000 in the account. It is estimated that we take in \$20-25,000 annually. They are still watching winter maintenance. We did have a few storms early on, and we are on track, in the middle of the snow budget.
- Miscellaneous. Chief Kretschmar brought forward a proposal to begin work on a COPS grant. This will offset the cost of adding additional officers to the department. This helps to offset the cost to the city. The grant covers 75% with 25% covered by the City. This will then lessen over a few years. Once the city is fully responsible, we would keep these officers on board. The Committee endorsed a Resolution to continue in the application process for the COPS Grant for 2 new Officers, 3-0.

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- Backup generator for the Public Works Department. Bear Hill Electric out of Hollis Maine, to install a propane generator. If there is ever natural gas, the propane can be converted. The Committee endorsed a Resolution for the purchase and installation of a generator, amount not to exceed \$50,000, 3-0.

Government Operations – Councilor Michaud reported that the Committee met on January 22, 2020. They discussed becoming a Welcoming City. There is a \$6000 (reduced from \$12,000) filing fee, and the filing period which could take up to 6 months. The Committee decided not to pursue joining the network. The Committee voted to amend Resolution 23-20. A redline version is in the City Managers packet.

Public Safety – Councilor Pepin reported that a meeting is scheduled February 12th at 4:30pm.

Recreation – Councilor Cameron reported that a meeting is scheduled February 5th at 4:30.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

Special Committees

COAST – Councilor Pepin reported that the Board met on January 28th, 2020. They reviewed the financial reports, and received a report on the annual reports, all was perfect, no recommendations or changes. The Board adopted audit report. They reviewed the new system launch, which will include new brochures, website, training for new stops. Signage will need to be changed. This will have to be reviewed by staff, to be in compliance with sign ordinance.

School Board – Councilor Pepin they met on January 28th, 2020. They discussed the food service deficit of students are receiving lunch without paying. The account is getting high, looking how to get funding from those who aren't paying. They have frozen the budget.

School Board Budget Workshop – Councilor Witham said he attended the meeting. Superintendent Gadowski gave an overview of the FY21 of the School Board. They are able to maintain all of the positions that were added last year. There will be some trimming and some reallocation. They are looking at the revenue side of the budget. Revenues are not all that great. They are pleased with the amount that the tax cap will allow them to spend. The funds that they may receive from the state is one-time money, and they cannot use that to balance the budget. It will leave a hole if not available next year. They are looking to tackle CIP items with the extra funds.

HDC – Councilor Gerding reported one case that returned, regarding residing a house that had asbestos. The application was denied, because they wanted to put vinyl siding and cover the asbestos. Another application was approved for residing with hardy board, because it was a newer house and not really historic. An application was submitted for the Old Noble House, which looking to reside the carriage house, to return it to more like as it was originally built. Another after-the-fact application was submitted for a chimney which was removed.

Cultural Commission – Councilor Gerding reported that he Commission will be meeting on February 19th, 2020.

City Manager's Report

Office of the City Manager

TO: Mayor Dana S. Hilliard and City Council Members
FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager
DATE: Friday, January 31, 2020
**SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, February 3, 2020
City Council Agenda**

6:00 pm: City Council Workshop

***Re: Cemetery Road Complete Street Design - Presented by Ryan Wingard from
Wright-Pierce Engineering***

Attached is a copy of the PowerPoint presentation. We will have hard copies for you on Monday.

Old Business (Under Section 14 of Agenda)

Resolutions

- A. Resolution No. 23-20: Proclaiming Somersworth a Welcoming City.** The Government Operations Committee met on January 22nd and voted to amend this Resolution. Attached is a **red-line** copy of their proposed amendments. I have also attached a copy of the email from former Councilor Ed LeVasseur that provided a link to the organization's website.
- B. Resolution No. 27-20: Displaying a Permanent Photo of Former Mayor James McLin in the City Council Chambers.** Again, this Resolution follows the same format as the Resolution Council passed for former Mayor Fred Brown's Photo in Council Chambers.

New Business (Under Section 15 of Agenda)

Resolutions

- A. Resolution No. 28-20: Vote to Support House Bill 1111, an Act Relative to the Removal and Replacement of Telephone and Electric Poles.** The Public Works & Environment Committee met on January 15th & discussed House Bill 1111. This HB will establish rules and regulations that require a schedule for the

removal and replacement of telephone and electric poles. Attached is a copy of the Bill that was brought to City Staff's attention by NH State Rep. Gerri Cannon. There is also a copy of several double pole locations in the City prepared by Director Mike Bobinsky; please note there are others not yet listed. The Committee recommends the full Council vote to support this Bill. I suggest Council consider waiving Council Rules to act on this Resolution this evening so that the Resolution can be presented to the House Municipal & County Government Committee at their hearing on Tuesday, February 4th in Concord.

- B. Resolution No. 29-20: Vote to Authorize a Bond to Replace the Elevator at the Somersworth Middle School.** The Joint Commission of Council & School Board voted at their January 16th meeting to support this action as did the Council's Finance Committee on January 29th. Attached is a copy of Finance Director Scott Smith's financial summary regarding a potential bond issuance and the project estimate provided by Superintendent Robert Gadomski. The Finance Committee is recommending a 15-year Bond, and also accepted staff's recommendation to round the estimate up to \$650,000. Once final costs are determined, the City will only Bond the actual amount needed to complete the project.

A public hearing was scheduled for Resolution 29-20, on February 18, 2020, without objection.

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

A. Informational Items.

- a. **Veterans Memorial Bricks Available.** The City has launched the Veterans Memorial Brick sales campaign. There is a total of 800 Bricks available to be purchased for \$50.00 each. Please visit the City's website www.somersworth.com and click on the "Somersworth Veterans Memorial Bricks" tab on the homepage.
- b. **Somersworth-Dover Emergency Water Interconnection.** Attached is a copy of Public Works Director Mike Bobinsky's memorandum that provides an update of the project and the recent Interconnection testing completed this past Wednesday.
- c. **Upcoming City Council 2020 Workshops.** The following Workshop has been moved to a new date:
 - **Tuesday, March 2nd at 6:30 pm:** Somersworth Housing Authority (SHA), Executive Director Debbie Evans will update the Council on the SHA upcoming RAD project.

Attachments

1. City Attorney Certifications Two (2)

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Nominations Requiring Council Confirmation Vote

Mark Richardson, as an Alternate Member of the Planning Board, with a term to expire January 2023

Councilor Austin, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to approve the nomination. The motion passed, 8-0.

Pius Murray, Re-appointment to the Historic District Commission, with a term to expire January 2023

Councilor Cameron, seconded by Councilor Gerding, made a motion to approve the nomination. The motion passed, 8-0.

Nominations Introduced for Council Confirmation Vote

Richard Brooks, appointment to the Historic District Commission, with a term to expire February 2023

Kenneth Vincent, as an Alternate Member to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, with a term to expire February 2023 (Explanation: Nominated as a Citizen Appointment; not as a Council Representative)

These nominations will remain open until the February 18th, 2020 City Council meeting.

Mayoral Appointment

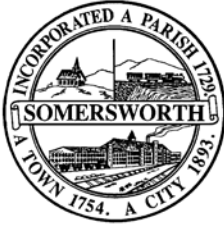
David Baker to Little Indonesia Commission.

LAY ON THE TABLE

NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS



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 21st 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
Kenneth S. Vincent
Martin P. Dumont, Sr.
Donald Austin
Richard R. Michaud

Approved:

City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Resolution 23-20

History

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|--|----|
| First Read Date: | 12/16/2019 | Tabled: | NA |
| Public Hearing: | NA | Removed From Table: | NA |
| Second Read: | 01/08/2020 | Remained in Government Operations until 02/06/2020 | |

Discussion

On January 8, 2020, Councilors Witham, Sprague, Cameron, Vincent, Austin, and Michaud 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.

On January 21, 2020 Councilor Dumont asked that his name be added as a sponsor to Resolution 23-20.

On February 4, 2020, Councilor Michaud, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to amend Resolution 23-20, in accordance with the recommendation of the Government Operations Committee.

Councilor Witham asked if this basically removes fees to join the nationwide organization.

City Manager Belmore stated that the amendment was to amend the title, remove fifth paragraph that requires the City to join the network.

Councilor Paradis said the fee to just join is between 200 and 500, which puts us on the local map. She would like to see us join.

Councilor Pepin said he originally had his name on to sponsor the Resolution and asked that it be removed. In the next few Saturdays, the non-profit organizations will be asking for funding from the City, and a many of the requests of the non-profits are never fully funding. He stated that he has a problem with spending money on organizations that he doesn't really know what it does for us. We already are a welcoming City.

Councilor Vincent said he agrees with Councilor Pepin; he is really trying to watch the money.

Councilor Austin stated that Somersworth has done an outstanding job as being a welcoming community.

Councilor Cameron stated that the members of the Committee were all in agreement that we were a welcoming city. There was concern with the cost and stipulations of being put on the map, and what we could and could not do.

Councilor Witham stated, in regard to what we are dealing with right now, he suggested that they move forward with the suggested amendment, then if there is an appetite to spend the \$250 to join the network, it could be introduced at another time. We pass resolutions like this all the time; it is what he likes to call a "feel good" resolutions. We are a welcoming city. Let's profess it. To pay a fee for it is a separate conversation.

Councilor Cameron stated that we are very proud that we are a welcoming city, we just didn't want to attach a fee.

Councilor Gerding explained that in that meeting, they were unsure as to what the benefits were. It was a bit unclear. At the very least, the intent of the resolution, was that we are very welcoming and accepting of all.

Councilor Paradis stated that she would like this to go back to committee for more discussion and she would like to hear what other committees who have joined the network have found.

Vote to amend Resolution 23-20 in accordance with Government Operations Committee's recommendation, passed 7-2.

Councilor Paradis made a motion to amend Resolution 23-20 to pay the fee of \$250-\$500 to join the Welcoming Cities and Counties Network, with a second by Councilor Witham, for sake of discussion.

Councilor Witham asked what the financial obligation was and where does the money go.

City Manager said he does not know.

Councilor Michaud stated that the money goes to the network, but not sure why.

Councilor Gerding, stated that he would like to find out more from other communities, as the website is not very clear. Passing an amendment to join seems a bit rushed.

Councilor Paradis withdrew her amendment.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Austin made a motion to adopt Resolution 23-20 as amended. The motion passed,

**Councilor Levasseur and Councilor Sprague were City Councilors when this Resolution was introduced on December 16, 2019. The new members of the City Council, Councilors Gerding and Paradis, took their place at the beginning of January 2020.*

| Voting Record | | YES | NO |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Ward 1 Councilor | Pepin | | X |
| Ward 2 Councilor | Vincent | X | |
| Ward 3 Councilor | Dumont | - | - |
| Ward 4 Councilor | Austin | X | |
| Ward 5 Councilor | Michaud | | X |
| At Large Councilor | Witham | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Gerding | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Cameron | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Paradis | X | |
| TOTAL VOTES: | | 6 | 2 |
| On 02/04/2020 | Resolution 23-20 | PASSED | |



City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: **27-20**

TO DISPLAY A PERMANENT PHOTO OF FORMER MAYOR JAMES McLIN IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

January 21, 2020

WHEREAS, James McLin was a lifelong citizen of the City of Somersworth; and

WHEREAS, James McLin was elected Mayor of the City of Somersworth; and

WHEREAS, James McLin served as Hilltop City's longest Serving Mayor from 1988-2006;
and

WHEREAS, James McLin inspired generations of Hilltoppers to celebrate and be proud of
their Hilltopper Heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Somersworth High School gymnasium has been dedicated to the Honorable
James McLin of Somersworth for his decades of support for Somersworth Sports and
Education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT in honor of his accomplishments and the
Hilltopper pride bestowed upon our Community by his service, that a permanent photo of
James McLin will be displayed in the Somersworth City Council Chambers.

Authorization

Sponsored by:

Mayor Dana S. Hilliard

Councilors:

Martin Pepin

Kenneth S. Vincent

Martin P. Dumont, Sr.

Donald Austin

Richard Michaud

Matt Gerding

Nancie Cameron

Approved:

City Attorney

City Council Meeting

February 3, 2020

City of Somersworth – Resolution 27-20

History

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|---------------------|----|
| First Read Date: | 1/21/2020 | Tabled: | NA |
| Public Hearing: | NA | Removed From Table: | NA |
| Second Read: | 02/03/2020 | | |


Discussion

Councilor Austin, seconded by Councilor Vincent, made a motion to approve Resolution 27-20. The motion passed, 8-0.

| Voting Record | | YES | NO |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------------|----------|
| Ward 1 Councilor | Pepin | X | |
| Ward 2 Councilor | Vincent | X | |
| Ward 3 Councilor | Dumont | - | - |
| Ward 4 Councilor | Austin | X | |
| Ward 5 Councilor | Michaud | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Witham | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Gerding | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Cameron | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Paradis | X | |
| TOTAL VOTES: | | 8 | 0 |
| On 02/04/2020 Resolution 27-20 | | PASSED | |

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

| | |
|---|---|
|  | City of Somersworth – Resolution |
| | Resolution No: 28-20 VOTE TO SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 1111, AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF TELEPHONE AND ELECTRIC POLES |

February 3, 2020

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth has expressed concern over how the utility companies leave old poles in place long after new replacement poles have been installed; and

WHEREAS, double utility poles on streets and sidewalks restricts access for pedestrians, impedes sidewalk snow clearing equipment, contributes to safety concerns and impacts aesthetics of neighborhood streets; and

WHEREAS, HB 1111 establishes a required schedule for the completion of the removal and replacement of telephone and electric poles by a distribution, electric, or telephone company;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Council supports HB 1111 and encourages the New Hampshire Legislature to adopt this bill and the Governor to sign said act into law.

| Authorization | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> David A. Witham Martin P. Dumont, Sr. Kenneth S. Vincent Matt Gerding | <i>Approved:</i> City Attorney |

City of Somersworth – Resolution 28-20

History

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|---------------------|----|
| First Read Date: | 02/03/2020 | Tabled: | NA |
| Public Hearing: | NA | Removed From Table: | NA |
| Second Read: | 02/03/2020 | | |

Discussion

On February 3, 2020, Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Paradis, made a motion to suspend Council Rules to allow for second reading of Resolution 28-20. The motion passed 8-0.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Paradis, made a motion to approve Resolution 28-20.

Councilor Witham stated that he recently took a ride through the City, finding all of the double poles; at that time there were about 88. On Noble Street there is a new poll with no wires attached to it. There is a pole in the middle of the sidewalk on Indigo Hill Road. He is thrilled that they are signing legislation at the State House regarding this issue.

Councilor Vincent said according to the House records, this will be heard tomorrow at 1:00pm, by the Municipal and County Government Committee. This bill is co-sponsored by Representative Gerri Cannon. He said he will be attending the meeting and will tell them about the 88 poles in hopes to shoot down any amendments.

Councilor Gerding said he seconds what Councilors Witham and Vincent said. Now that he is aware of these double polls, he sees them everywhere. These polls are haunting him.

Vote to approve passed, 8-0.

| Voting Record | | YES | NO |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------------|----------|
| Ward 1 Councilor | Pepin | X | |
| Ward 2 Councilor | Vincent | X | |
| Ward 3 Councilor | Dumont | - | - |
| Ward 4 Councilor | Austin | X | |
| Ward 5 Councilor | Michaud | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Witham | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Gerding | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Cameron | X | |
| At Large Councilor | Paradis | X | |
| TOTAL VOTES: | | 8 | 0 |
| On 02/04/2020 Resolution 28-20 | | PASSED | |



City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: **29-20**

VOTE TO AUTHORIZE A BOND TO REPLACE THE ELEVATOR AT THE SOMERSWORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

February 3, 2020

WHEREAS, the elevator at the Somersworth Middle School is essential to providing access for every student to all sections of the Middle School; and

WHEREAS, School Officials recommend replacing the elevator due to its age, concern of its reliability, and lack of access to replacement parts that may be required to repair the elevator should it stop working, and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost to replace the elevator is \$650,000 (Six Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars), and

WHEREAS, the project costs include architecture, engineering, construction, 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 \$650,000 (Six Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars) is appropriated to replace the elevator at the Somersworth Middle School; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

- (a) the City Manager is authorized to borrow up to \$650,000 (Six Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars) under the Municipal Finance Act and 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

Sponsored by Councilors:

David A. Witham
Martin Pepin
Donald Austin

Approved:

City Attorney

Resolution 29-20 will remain in first read until the February 18th, 2020 City Council Meeting.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY VISITORS

None

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Pepin thanked the volunteers at St Ignatius for opening the warming shelter. They served and fed 28 people. This shows how much the community needs this. Next Level Church has also stepped up. Shout out to Richard Brooks for re-applying to be a member of the Historic District Commission. Councilor Pepin said he asked Mr. Brooks to re-apply. He has passion.

Councilor Vincent said Mr. Brooks is dedicated to what he does for the HDC. Best wishes to Councilor Dumont, hope you are feeling better. He attended an information session on waste and recycling. The reason why the cost is so high is because China isn't taking some of the recycling. Separating the recycling is the key. But they don't want us to give up. It is going to change. They are saying they will come out of this. He said he is happy to hear the Public Works Department is getting a generator with propane and natural gas. There are many toxins in diesel that can be released into the environment.

Councilor Austin echoed the comments about people in cross walks; drivers are ignoring the crosswalks and are not yielding to people in crosswalks. People don't slow down even when you start to cross. There are laws that require motorists to stop for pedestrians. Public education and enforcement is required. Regarding the upcoming primary, you have a right to vote for your choice. Make your voice heard. There is no more important piece of democracy than coming to the polls and voting. Congratulations to the Kansas City Chiefs, and the Red Sox truck left for Florida today.

Councilor Michaud said he also sees pedestrians in cross walks, and the problem is the drivers not stopping. He thanked St. Ignatius for opening the shelter. He wished Councilor Dumont a speedy recovery. He encouraged all to get out and vote.

Councilor Witham stated regarding the warming shelter at St. Ignatius parish, 28 people were served by the parish and volunteers. This just shows that we can act swiftly when needed. He was surprised with just how young some of the people were. We won't solve all of the problems in our community, but we can do our part.

Regarding the crosswalk issue, he said he is reminded, last year, when he was umpiring a baseball game in Goffstown, as he was leaving, he stopped at a Cumberland Farms for a beverage, and while sitting there in his car, he was watching a person cross back and forth along the street. A few minutes later he sees a car was pulled over by an officer. It was a sting operation, for vehicles not stopping for pedestrians in crosswalks. There are possibly grants available, and maybe this something we could pursue. He noticed that the new lamp posts have gone up at the former Hilltop School. Part of the condition was that the large floodlights would be removed. Maybe it is time that this happens. City staff should follow up on this.

Councilor Gerding said he hopes Councilor Dumont is doing well, and he misses his Market Basket updates. He agrees with Councilors Pepin and Vincent, about Richard Brooks; he is an asset to the HDC and he hopes Mr. Brooks comes back. At the Schools, a family game

night is scheduled at Idlehurst. He wanted to let people know that he went to a Farm-to-school meeting. There are a bunch of projects in the works; maple sugar project, pollinator gardens at Malley Farm, a bed at Malley Farm and composting. There is a grant for \$100,000 in the works and he hope they get it. In thinking on municipal waste, composting is successful, and some of the schools participate in this. He hopes it becomes city wide, as it could lower some cost with waste management. Go Vote! Primaries are coming up next week.

Councilor Cameron said she hopes Councilor Dumont is doing well. Her son went shopping Sunday morning hoping to see Councilor Dumont at Market Basket. Go Sox! She is glad Mr. Brooks didn't give up and is re-applying for the HDC. She reminded the Community that this Saturday, the Somersworth Festival Association is hosting Breakfast with Frosty.

Councilor Paradis stated that she was happy to volunteer at the warming center. There were 12-20 volunteers there to set up and serve dinner. She was impressed with the operation. There is a band of volunteers that travel to different locations to work at these warming centers. She thanked St. Ignatius, and gave kudos to the city for getting the permitting together so quickly. She encouraged other facilities, we need more places to step up and open these temporary warming centers. As it gets colder, for those who are experiencing housing insecurity, it can be really cold. She said she met a mother at the shelter, with some of her kids who had commented that it was so cold and they were upset that there wasn't a place for people to go, so she called the city. They organized some people from their school and put together some packets for people to take with them as they left. There is a training for people interested in volunteering at warming centers on February 15th, 2020 here at Somersworth, and there are others in Rochester and Dover. Then you will be on the list and you will get a notification anytime a center is opening. Councilor Paradis stated that she attended the round table hosted by the Falls Chamber; it was a great event. They discussed how to come together and support the festivals and come together to bring more business into the City. Coffee with a Councilor just happened last Saturday. Cross walks were a big thing. Hopefully the Traffic Safety and Public Safety Committees will look into these. The library has accessibility issues and improvements that are needed. It currently has no ramps or elevators inside. There will be a Recreation Committee meeting this Wednesday at 4:30 and they will be talking about the dog park.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Michaud, made a motion to adjourn. Motion passed 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Trish Harris, City Clerk

Dana Hilliard, Mayor

City Council Meeting
February 3, 2020