



MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Somersworth, NH
June 15, 2020
7:00 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY DEPUTY MAYOR WITHAM

As Deputy Mayor of the Somersworth City Council, I, David A. Witham, Deputy Mayor find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Council have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously watch by way of our local public access Comcast channel 22 or via live streaming available at our City website Somersworth.com.

Please note that **all votes** that are taken during this meeting shall be done by **roll call vote**.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by His Honor, the Deputy Mayor, David A. Witham, and upon roll call the following Council members were present: Councilors Pepin, Vincent, Dumont, Austin, Michaud, Gerding, Cameron and Paradis, who were all by themselves.

Deputy Mayor Witham announced that City Manager Bob Belmore, Deputy City Manager/Finance Director Scott Smith, Fire Chief George Kramlinger, and Deputy City Clerk Kelly Gagne were in the Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Michaud led the Pledge of Allegiance.

After the Pledge of the Allegiance, Deputy Mayor Witham noted that he would like to hold a moment of silence for two important people of the Hilltopper community. The first being Mary Shaw, she was an administrative assistant for the Department of Public Works for more than 20 years. Even after retiring she stayed involved with the community serving on the Cemetery Trustees most recently as its chair. The second for Gordie Hilliard, who is the father of our Mayor. Gordie was a long time athletic director at Somersworth Middle School was very involved with youth athletics here in the community. Involved with youth softball and was just a Somersworth man.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. **Ordinance No. 21-20** - Add to Chapter 19 Zoning Ordinance, Section 19.20.D.2.f, Somersworth Plaza Signage

No Comments

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting held on June 1, 2020

Councilor Austin, seconded by Councilor Cameron made a motion to approve all items on the Consent Calendar. The motion passed 9-0, by roll call vote.

COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCILORS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

None

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND DISPOSAL THEREOF BY REFERENCE OR OTHERWISE

None

MAYOR'S REPORT

Deputy Mayor Witham noted the passing of Gordie Hillard, father of Mayor Hilliard who is not with us tonight.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – Deputy Mayor Witham noted that the Finance Committee met on June 9th @ 3:30pm all members were present via zoom.

-First item on the agenda was a discussion on auditor proposals. Director Smith stated that went out to bid and two firms were the finalists and were interviewed, Vachon Clukay and Plodzik & Sanderson. We have been with Vachon & Clukay for about 10 years now. The Committee felt a change was needed of auditing firms and recommend that we move to a contract with Plodzik & Sanderson of Concord, NH. He requested that when that agenda item comes up tonight we would entertain for a second reading so that we can begin the process.

He noted that we have been very happy with Vachon & Clukay, as well as City staff we just felt like it was time to switch it up.

-There was a discussion on the Town of Berwick emergency water supply. This was brought up by the Public Works & Environment Committee earlier in the month. Basically the Town of Berwick is looking to contract with an engineering firm to research interconnectivity with Somersworth so that we could provide water to Berwick in the event of an emergency. City staff reiterated that there is no benefit to the City of Somersworth; we would probably never get water from Berwick. Their system is just not big enough. All Councilors on the Finance Committee were fine with exploring providing water to Berwick. This idea came up in 2014, when we constructed the new bridge; it chosen to not done at that time.

-Nadeau Street is not a City street although we have been plowing that street for many, many years. The three residents of the street are interested in creating a Betterment District in order to pay for the improvements with a 10 year amortization schedule, with a round number just shy of \$100,000 to improve this to a street so that the City would accept it.

-Field lighting at Millennium Park. One light pole to the right of home plate blew over this past winter, which is being covered by insurance at approximately \$31,000 to replace that particular pole. After that pole was identified City Staff evaluated the other poles, and discovered that other poles there have some compromised bases with a bit of rusting. City staff found that there was a retrofit kit available in lieu of replacing them. The retrofit kits will cost just shy of \$1000 per pol. The Finance Committee authorized repairs in the amount of \$38,355 to repair the compromised poles and to replace the pole that has fallen down. There is one additional pole out in left field pole is leaning, the retrofit kit will not work on that particular pole. The cost to replace an outfield pole would cost more money. We would at this time defer that to a future budget expenditure and just have it removed at this time. The new pole being replaced will have an LED light.

- Blackwater Road by the new Cumberland Farms, there is some work that needs to be done after some Planning Board action and consultation with Cumberland Farms to improve the shoulder. The bid was awarded to Boulanger Paving of Berwick, ME in the amount of \$13,500.

- City Hall parking lot, which is in the CIP for FY2021 and after a number of bids that was also awarded to Boulanger Paving of Berwick ME in the amount of \$12,300. Work will begin after July 1, 2020.

- Blackwater Road where it transitions to Old Rochester Road. Pike has been back several times to do some repairs but the repairs have not held up so we are looking for a more substantial repair in the amount of \$10,600 which also includes a patch up the street from a water break.

-Highland Street a short section from Grand Street to Prospect Street, Chinburg Builders had an escrow of \$2500 to go towards the road resurfacing. Pike has indicated that they could do that work for an estimated cost of \$15,000, minus the \$2500 from Chinburg.

-Franklin Street High Street transition this was flagged at the Public Works & Environment Committee. City Engineer Lemay and Director Bobinsky worked with Pike to secure an estimate for that work. Pike will be in town this month or early next month to do a bunch of punch list items from last year's road paving so we are leveraging that with them. This will cost \$10,040, Finance Committee authorized that expenditure.

-Resolution 49-20 regarding Firefighter staffing. Manager Belmore stated that the Public Safety Committee embraced the idea of moving to 4 Firefighters on duty at all times. There was a discussion as to funding and the costs; motion was to support the Resolution 3-1.

-Chapter 4 personnel rules regarding nonunion wages. The water/wastewater union has a “me too” clause, if we grant raises to non-union employees, the water/wastewater unions would have a raise as well. The Finance Committee supported a 2.5% raise increase.

-Director Smith did sort of an end of year summary as we are close to the end of the fiscal year. The great news is we are going to end up in the black and there will be money going money to the General Fund. For the first time in recent memory we are not going to require a budget transfer Ordinance

Recreation is scheduled to have a meeting on June 24th @ 4pm.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER

JBC – Councilor Pepin stated that they met on June 4th @ 8am. There was a project update on Maplewood School which was the first thing we discussed regarding the music room addition and does it have adequate storage. The library is almost done just picking out paint colors now. There was a lot of discussion on carpeting and being able to replace as much as possible within the school. There was also lengthy discussion on the Middle School elevator with the water issue that has been found in the shaft, engineers came up with a plan to dig it up, has to be hauled out through the school with a lot of the hand labor. They had to approve the budget so that they could start to work on it. The total cost of the elevator is \$526,156.00. The construction management team stated that this was a worst case scenario and is trying to come up with cost saving ideas.

Historic District Commission – Councilor Gerding stated that they met on May 27th which was their first meeting after a few months due to COVID-19. Due to the long absence they had 6 applications that were all approved.

1. 56-58 High Street was seeking to remodel the entry way & marquee, replace the storm door and install a sign.
2. 97 High Street was seeking to replace the front door, replace a rear window with a door and add a ‘dog house’ style shed onto the bulkhead.
3. 21 Linden Street was seeking to construct a 916 S.F. addition to the existing carriage house (apartment.)
4. 7-9 Prospect Street was seeking to replace the front door and complete vinyl siding.
5. 24 Maple Street was seeking to remove and replace brick steps and aluminum railing with two vertical overhanging-roof supports.
6. 38 Highland Street was seeking to remove and replace stair boards, hand rails and porch rail.

Councilor Paradis asked a question to Finance Committee Chairman Witham that during the Recreation Committee meeting there was discussion on the leaning light pole and the possibility of insurance covering it. Chairman Witham stated that City staff did report on that and that is not covered by insurance it is considered a maintenance issue.

Election Review Planning Commission – Councilor Paradis stated that she met June 10th @ 4pm. It was the first meeting so Mayor Hilliard gave a little extra clarity on the parameters of the Commission. We talked about how we could better recommend any changes to protect

our voters and election workers are safe. The mayor reminded us that we have to follow State laws and are sort of limited in what we can do. We discussed concerns around a couple polling places in particular. We identified Ward 2, 4 and 5, that due to size, proximity it would be difficult to practice safe social distancing. We discussed that the State is potentially exercising allowing the change of the ward locations where in instances they might not be in their actual ward. The City of Portsmouth had asked the Secretary of State to waive that and allow for polling places to be moved. We discussed potentially moving to a school location in Ward 4 being Idlehurst Elementary School as that is in the same ward we would need to discuss with the Superintendent about closing school that day. This led to a conversation about asking teachers to help out at the polls. We also discussed the possibility of raising pay for election workers. We will need more training for poll workers with absentee ballots which we are expected to have more this year, we are also sending out an informational flyer in the July water bills. Absentee ballots can be opened currently at 1pm, but ask to move the time to two hours after opening polls. We discussed the possibility to providing transportation to and from the polls. We discussed deadlines to when we need to submit all funding requests as it is specific to COVID related. We finished with action items at end of meeting: - Bring to Council the Resolution regarding moving polling locations.

- Whether or not we could use schools
- Election worker pay increase

Set our next meeting date for June 24 @ 4pm.

She believes that the Recreation meeting is on June 23 @ 4pm, not the 24th as previously stated.

Chairman Witham stated that we are looking for flexibility on Resolution No. 52-20 and would be appropriate to suspend rules to allow for a second reading. So that we can get that off to the State as it is an active discussion.

Traffic Safety – Councilor Vincent stated that there are no plans to meet at this time or anytime soon. We have some things that are on the agenda that have been on there since March.

Councilor Cameron stated that yes Recreation Committee will meet on Tuesday, June 23rd not the 24th.

Councilor Dumont stated that at the Joint Commission was asked by the Mayor to set up a meeting. Now Mayor has asked that we hold off on that.

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, June 12, 2020

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, June 15, 2020

City Council Meeting
June 15, 2020

6:00 p.m. City Council Zoom Workshop

Re: New Fire Station - Presentation by Port One Architects

Attached are the revised Design Changes - Port One Architect Kelly Davis will participate remotely.

Unfinished Business (Under Section 14 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. **Ordinance No. 21-20: Add to Chapter 19 Zoning Ordinance, Section 19.20.D.2.f, Somersworth Plaza Signage.** Again, the Economic Development Committee supports this Zoning Ordinance Change. The Committee spent several months working with our Consultant and City Staff to get this Proposal to full Council.

Resolutions

- A. **Resolution No. 49-20: Vote to Adopt a Policy of Staffing the Fire Department With a Minimum of Four (4) Firefighters on Each Shift.** The Finance Committee met on June 9th and voted 3-1 to recommend this Resolution's adoption. Deputy Mayor Witham favored a different approach and asked for further information regarding the Fire Department mobile radios that are funded in next fiscal year's budget (states portable, in error). After discussing options with the Fire Chief, we have developed an alternative option for Council's consideration in order to add more Firefighter overtime funding up front while addressing the need for new mobile radios. Attached is a Memorandum that outlines this optional course of action for Council's consideration.

New Business (Under Section 15 of Agenda)

Ordinances

- A. **Ordinance No. 22-20: To Amend Chapter 4, Personnel Rules & Regulations, Section 11.2, Retirement Plan, Regarding when Benefits Begin. – Compensation Schedule.** The Government Operations Committee met on June 3rd and voted to move forward with this recommended Ordinance amendment for full Council review. Attached is a copy of the Memorandum provided to the Government Operations Committee. This is really a housekeeping action as State Law mandates enrollment into the NHRS takes place upon hire. I recommend a Public Hearing be scheduled for the next regular City Council meeting.

B. Ordinance No. 23-20: To Amend Chapter 4, Personnel Rules and Regulations, Section 11.2.1, Health/Dental Insurance, Regarding Spouses Employed by the City. The Government Operations Committee met on June 3rd and voted to move forward with this recommended Ordinance change for full Council review. We do have similar language in some of our Union contracts. I recommend a Public Hearing be scheduled for the next regular City Council meeting.

C. Ordinance No. 24-20: To Amend Chapter 4, Personnel Rules and Regulation – Compensation Schedule. The Government Operations met on June 3rd and voted to recommend a 2.5% Cost of Living Increase (COLA) be forwarded to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee met on June 9th and voted to support a 2.5% Cost of Living Increase.

This action, if approved, would carry over to provide members of the Water/Wastewater Collective Bargaining Unit with the same COLA increase to their pay scale. Their CBA/ Union Contract has language that provides for wage adjustments in accordance with the City's Personnel Rules & Regulations as may be approved by the City Council. In the past, funding for non-union raises have been covered within the department's budget or by the contingency line in the General Fund. Wage increases for the Union employees would be covered by the respective Utility Budgets. I recommend a Public Hearing be scheduled for the next regular City Council meeting.

Resolutions

A. Resolution No. 50-20: Vote to Authorize a Bond to Construct a New Fire Station at the Location of the Current Fire Station on Maple Street. The Finance Committee met back on February 18th and voted to move this Bond authorization to full Council. Attached are copies of the potential Bond Amortization schedules prepared by Finance Director Scott Smith. As required by the City Charter, I recommend a Public Hearing be held at the next regular scheduled Council meeting.

Deputy Mayor Witham stated that without objection we will schedule the 4 public hearings at the next Council meeting at the call of the chair.

B. Resolution No. 51-20: To Authorize the City Manager to enter into a Three Year Contract with Two One-Year Options with Plodzik and Sanderson, P.A. of Concord, NH for Municipal Auditing Services. The Finance Committee met on June 9th and voted to recommend the switch to a new Auditor Firm after 10 years with Vachon, Clukay, & Co.. Attached is a copy of information provided by Finance Director Scott Smith regarding the four (4) proposals received. City and School Staff interviewed these Auditing Firms as well as our present Auditing firm; please note that all four firms that submitted proposals are well known in the State and have solid reputations. Please consider waiving Council rules for a second reading and vote.

- C. Resolution No. 52-20: The Somersworth City Council to Vote to Encourage the State of New Hampshire to Allow Communities Flexibility on the Location of Polling Places During the September Primary and November General Elections.** If approved this Resolution would be sent to the State Officials noted as well as to our State Legislature Representatives.

Other

- A. Set Polling Times for the September 8, 2020 State Primary Election.**

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

A. Informational Items.

- 1. Wi-Fi Being Added at the Summersworth Historical Society Building.** I have moved forward to install a Comcast drop at the Summersworth Historical Society building to provide Wi-Fi access to visitors at the new Veterans Memorial.
- 2. CIP Fiscal Year 2022-2027.** FYI - I will be starting the six (6) year Capital Improvement Program process with City Department Heads this month. This plan takes several months to complete and the CIP is presented to the Planning Board for review and comment prior to submittal to the City Council.
- 3. Department Head Reports.** As a reminder, in your meeting packets are copies of Department Head reports sent to me on a Monthly basis. I would also point out that from time to time I include copies of additional information provided by the Department Head as I have done this month in regards to Chief David Kretschmar's Memorandum to me regarding on-going Police Officer Training.
- 4. Bretons Site.** Attached are copies of recent email correspondence from our Environmental Consultant, Credere Associates. As you will read, we are close to a point where the Council should consider next steps on determining the site's future use.
- 5. Upcoming City Council Meeting Workshop Item – As Approved by Mayor Hilliard.**

➤ **Monday, July 13**

- 6:30pm: City Council Workshop regarding Form Based Codes
Presented by Director Shanna Saunders

Attachments

- 1. City Attorney Certifications Five (5)**
- 2. Department Head Reports**

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3. **City Department Operations – Updates on COVID-19-Memorandum emailed on June 11th**
4. **General Fund Year End Budget Projections**

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Nominations being introduced for Council Confirmation Vote:

- A. Charles Wayne Preston, for Appointment as a Member of the Board of Library Trustees, with a term to expire June 2025.

Remain until the next meeting.

Nominations Requiring Council Confirmation Vote:

- A. Jeremy Rhodes, for Re-Appointment as a Member of the Conservation Commission, with a term to expire June 2023.

Councilor Gerding, seconded by Councilor Cameron made a motion to accept the applicant. Motion passed 9-0, by roll call vote.

Mayoral Appointment

- A. Rebecca England, for Appointment as a Member of the Somersworth Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, with a term to expire June 2025.


Mayoral Appointment has been granted.

LAY ON THE TABLE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCE

	City of Somersworth – Ordinance
	<p>Ordinance No: 21-20</p> <p>ADD TO CHAPTER 19 ZONING ORDINANCE, SECTION 19.20.D.2.f, SOMERSWORTH PLAZA SIGNAGE</p>

June 1, 2020

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:

City Council Meeting
June 15, 2020

Add to Chapter 19 Zoning Ordinance, Section 19.20.D.2.f Somersworth Plaza Signage:

19.20.D.2.f Somersworth Plaza Signage

19.20.D.2.f.i The Somersworth Plaza is owned by the City and is a significant part of the Main Street economic community. For that reason, the City of Somersworth has direct jurisdiction over both freestanding signs and signs on the façade of buildings that are part of the Plaza. The City encourages sign designs that enhance the aesthetic quality of Downtown and the Main Street economic sector. Applications shall include the Development services Sign application, renderings of the proposed signs and pictures of the façade showing sign placement. Applications shall be submitted to the City Manager's office for acceptance and subsequent review by the City Council Economic Development Committee.

19.20.D.2.f.ii The structural aspects of signs that are part of the Plaza, such as poles, supports and cabinets should be constructed of colors and materials related to the principal building. Signs shall be constructed of durable materials. Paper, cloth, canvas and plastic sheet signs are prohibited.

19.20.D.2.f.iii When signs are removed or replaced with a sign of a different shape or size, all holes shall be patched and surfaces repainted or refinished to match surrounding wall surfaces. Business logos are encouraged when combined with business names.

19.20.D.2.f.iv Freestanding signs shall be as follows:

19.20.D.2.f.iv.a One (1) free standing identification sign shall be allowed for the entire plaza;

19.20.D.2.f.iv.b The maximum sign area allowed shall be twenty (20) square feet for site/building/center identification and address plus an additional four (4) square feet for each business to a maximum of fifty-six (56) square feet (10 businesses).

19.20.D.2.f.iv.c Max sign height is 12 feet. Landscaping is required around the freestanding sign to reduce the emphasis on the mechanical and support aspects of the sign.

Site/Building/Center
Identification

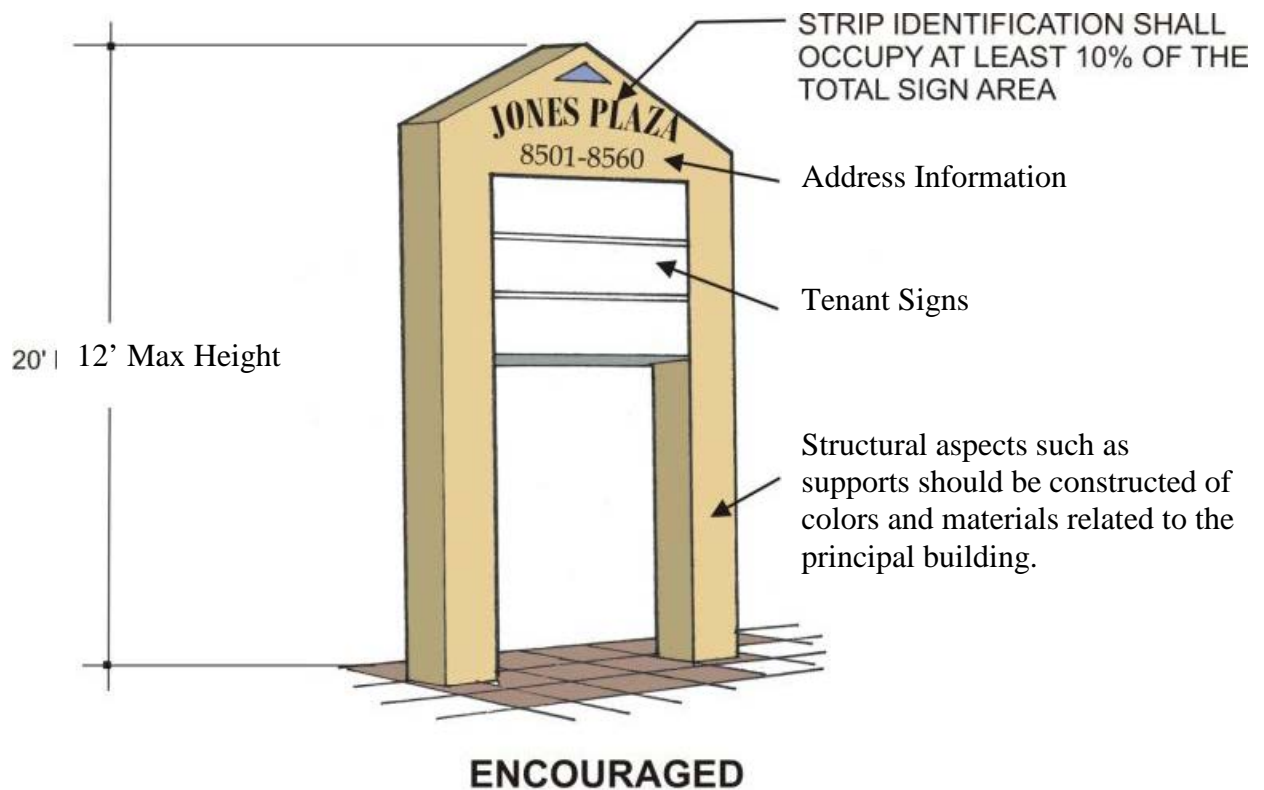


Figure 1

19.20.D.2.f.v In addition, wall signs are permitted to have a sign area of up to 1 sf per linear foot of the principal business frontage. Wall signs shall be placed on the beige stucco horizontal panel between the round light fixtures. Units directly under each of the two towers may place signage on the tower itself in a location approved by the City.

19.20.D.2.f.vi Window signs are permitted and must follow Zoning Ordinance Section 19.20.C.3.w, "Window Signs".

19.20.D.2.f.vii Special Event signs are permitted and must follow Zoning Ordinance Section 19.20.C.3.r, "Special Use/Event Signs".

This Ordinance will take effect upon passage.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> Martin P. Dumont, Sr. Richard R. Michaud Crystal Paradis	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Ordinance 21-20

History

First Read Date:	06/01/2020	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:	06/15/2020	Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	06/15/2020		

Discussion

Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Cameron made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 21-20. Motion passed 9-0, by roll call vote.

Councilor Paradis thanks Shanna Saunders for putting this together. We discussed this at our Economic Development Committee and are excited about moving forward with the signage.

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	Gerding	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Paradis	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On 06/15/2020 Ordinance 21-20		PASSED	

RESOLUTIONS



City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: **49-20**

VOTE TO ADOPT A POLICY OF STAFFING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WITH A MINIMUM OF FOUR (4) FIREFIGHTERS ON EACH SHIFT

May 18, 2020

WHEREAS, the current policy of the City of Somersworth is to staff a minimum of four (4) firefighters on each night shift and a minimum of three (3) firefighters on each day shift, and

WHEREAS, after review of this policy the recommendation is to increase minimum staffing to four (4) firefighters on all shifts which will benefit the City by improving efficiency and response capability of the Fire Department; and

~~WHEREAS, the recommendation to change this policy has been reviewed by the Public Safety Committee and they support this change and further recommend that the City Manager cover any incremental cost increases due to this policy change from the current FY2020 budget and the FY2021 approved budget through City Charter Transfer of Appropriations authorizations outlined in Ch. 7.6 (D);~~

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City adopt a policy of staffing the Fire Department with a minimum of four (4) firefighters on each shift, ~~and~~

~~NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager shall cover any incremental cost increase due to this policy change from the current budget as outlined in the City Charter, Transfer of Appropriations, Ch. 7.6 (D).~~

Authorization

Sponsored by Councilors:

Martin Pepin
Donald Austin
Kenneth S. Vincent
Crystal Paradis
Martin P. Dumont, Sr.

Approved:

City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Resolution 49-20

History

First Read Date:	05/18/2020	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

Discussion

May 18, 2020 - Mayor referred Resolution No. 49-20 to the Finance Committee

Deputy Mayor Witham asked a question to the City Manager that if we wanted to move forward with the idea to use the portable/mobile radio line what level of amendment would we need to make that happen.

Manager Belmore responded that you could do one of two things you could just do the first two paragraphs and restructure the last paragraph. Or just change the second paragraph to “Now therefore be it resolves by the City Council of the City of Somersworth that the City Manager. He requested a minute to work it out.

Deputy Mayor requested that without objection if we could entertain a recess for a few minutes while the City Manager works on that. Seeing no objection we will move to a recess.

Deputy Mayor stated that the amendment offered would be to strike the third and fifth paragraph and to strike the last and in the fourth paragraph. He noted that we would be looking to do a transfer Ordinance from the portable/mobile radio allocation in the budget to the overtime portion of the Fire Department budget. It is almost dollar for dollar so it worked out conveniently. We all have a memo that was very clear that we could do it that way.

Councilor Vincent stated that he is going to be in total agreement to this. However, he wants to send out a message, very clear, he has no problem with using this money for the four Firefighters but he doesn’t want to toy with our call department. He is in favor of this, but wants to be very clear that he is not in favor of dismantling our call department.

Deputy Mayor Witham, seconded by Councilor Pepin made a motion to amend Resolution 49-20 by striking the third and fifth paragraph and striking the last “and” in the fourth paragraph. Motion passed 9-0, by roll call vote.

Councilor Pepin stated just to give a little highlight on this the Mayor asked us over a year ago to review the operations of the Fire Department. We met several times with the Public Safety Committee members to go over this with the chief and this was one of our recommendations that we upgrade and make this four firefighters at all times. Other

recommendations were to add an assistant fire chief and make the secretary a full time position. As far as he knows we have been able to upgrade the secretary position to a full time position. He thanked the City Manager for this and said that he is all for this and didn't care where funding came from he just wanted to get it on board for the safety of the firefighters and the citizens.

Councilor Vincent stated that he is totally on board with this. It meets the requirements for 2 firefighters in and 2 firefighters out; having four firefighters is a huge improvement not only in fires but in rescues also. He would like to elaborate on this last comment for the amendment sometimes when we do this we want to cut here and there. We try to find what we can cut and he understands it but he just wants to make it clear that he is favor of this. He is also in favor of keeping our personnel on the call department as well. A lot of the times you will see management try to make it better by having the four firefighters but then there are cuts along the way. He is not telling anyone how to run their department; he just wants to make it clear that he would like to keep our call department the way it is.

Deputy Mayor Witham added a couple things he was in support of the end goal of the Resolution which was to make sure that we stay at full staffing during the day. To be very clear, we are not adding any firefighters, we are increasing the overtime. He had some heartburn on the original Resolution regarding the funding. He really wanted an identified funding source. He thanked the Fire Chief and the City Manager for being amenable moving the portable radio line to the overtime.

Councilor Vincent asked a point of order, he understood there are four firefighters on but at times we went down to 3, so we are really essentially adding a firefighter.

Councilor Pepin stated that he came from the call department and his heart is with them that is how he got onto the department; Councilor Vincent did the same thing. Firefighters used to have to live within Somersworth, now they can live anywhere. He has been on many fires in his career where you can't always depend on mutual aid. There are times when extra people can't come in. We still need a call department who is properly trained.


Councilor Dumont questioned parliamentary procedure. When you sit on as Mayor are you allowed to vote and make amendments? The Mayor doesn't vote unless there is a tie. Deputy Mayor Witham stated yes he can, that it has been reviewed by the City Attorney.

Councilor Austin, seconded by Councilor Cameron made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 49-20 as amended. Motion passed 9-0, by roll call vote.

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	Gerding	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Paradis	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On 06/15/2020	Resolution 49-20	PASSED	FAILED

NEW BUSINESS
ORDINANCES

	City of Somersworth – Ordinance
	Ordinance No: 22-20 TO AMEND CHAPTER 4, PERSONNEL RULES & REGULATIONS, SECTION 11.2, RETIREMENT PLAN, REGARDING WHEN BENEFITS BEGIN

June 15, 2020

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:

1. Amend Chapter 4, Personnel Rules and Regulations, Section 11.2, Retirement Plan, by deleting the last sentence and adding:

Retirement benefits will begin on date of hire.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> Richard Michaud Nancie Cameron Donald Austin Matt Gerding	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Ordinance 22-20

History

First Read Date:	06/15/2020	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:	07/13/2020	Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

Discussion

Ordinance No. 22-20 will remain in first read until the call of the chair.

Public Hearing scheduled at the call of the chair.

Voting Record		YES	NO
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	Gerding		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Paradis		
TOTAL VOTES:			
On / / Ordinance 22-20		PASSED	FAILED



City of Somersworth – Ordinance

Ordinance No: **23-20**

TO AMEND CHAPTER 4, PERSONNEL RULES & REGULATIONS, SECTION 11.3.1, HEALTH/DENTAL INSURANCE, REGARDING SPOUSES EMPLOYED BY THE CITY

June 15, 2020

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:

1. Amend Chapter 4, Personnel Rules and Regulations, Section 11.3.1, Health/Dental Insurance, by adding to the last paragraph:

This benefit shall not be available to any employee whose alternative health insurance is provided through a spouse's plan through either the City or the School District.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Authorization

Sponsored by Councilors:

Richard Michaud
Nancie Cameron
Donald Austin
Matt Gerding

Approved:

City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Ordinance 23-20

History

First Read Date:	6/15/2020	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:	07/13/2020	Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

Discussion

Ordinance No. 23-20 will remain in first read until the call of the chair.

Public Hearing scheduled at the call of the chair.

Voting Record		YES	NO
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	Gerding		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Paradis		
TOTAL VOTES:			
On / / Ordinance 23-20		PASSED	FAILED



City of Somersworth – Ordinance

Ordinance No: **24-20**

TO AMEND CHAPTER 4, PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS - COMPENSATION SCHEDULE

June 15, 2020

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

Amend Chapter 4 by deleting the Compensation Schedule in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

Personnel Rules and Regulations							
FY2020-2021 Compensation Schedule							
(2.5% Increase effective July 1, 2020)							
GRADE		HIRE	1	2	3	4	5
6	A	24,195.85	25,228.60	26,177.34	27,237.79	28,326.18	29,414.56
	H	11.6326	12.1291	12.5853	13.0951	13.6184	14.1416
7	A	25,368.03	26,316.98	27,489.16	28,577.33	29,610.07	29,972.72
	H	12.1962	12.6524	13.2159	13.7391	14.2356	14.4100
8	A	26,651.71	27,684.45	28,772.83	29,972.72	31,200.75	32,456.50
	H	12.8133	13.3098	13.8331	14.4100	15.0004	15.6041
9	A	27,991.24	29,107.77	30,279.73	31,507.76	32,735.58	34,102.83
	H	13.4573	13.9941	14.5576	15.1480	15.7383	16.3956
10	A	29,358.92	30,530.88	31,703.05	33,042.59	34,298.34	35,777.73
	H	14.1149	14.6783	15.2419	15.8859	16.4896	17.2008
11	A	30,865.82	32,121.56	33,321.67	34,661.20	36,084.53	37,535.78
	H	14.8393	15.4431	16.0200	16.6640	17.3483	18.0460
12	A	32,428.57	33,712.46	34,996.14	36,419.25	37,786.93	39,293.83
	H	15.5907	16.2079	16.8251	17.5093	18.1668	18.8913
13	A	34,047.40	35,386.72	36,837.98	38,345.09	39,824.27	41,498.53
	H	16.3689	17.0128	17.7106	18.4351	19.1463	19.9512

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14	A	35,666.01	37,089.12	38,568.09	40,186.92	41,777.61	43,424.36
	H	17.1471	17.8313	18.5424	19.3206	20.0854	20.8771
GRADE		HIRE	1	2	3	4	5
15	A	37,535.78	39,070.61	40,605.43	42,196.33	43,787.02	45,517.35
	H	18.0460	18.7839	19.5218	20.2867	21.0515	21.8833
16	A	39,321.76	40,884.51	42,531.27	44,401.25	46,047.58	47,973.20
	H	18.9047	19.6560	20.4477	21.3468	22.1383	23.0640
17	A	41,359.09	43,033.57	45,935.86	46,521.95	48,363.99	50,289.62
	H	19.8842	20.6892	22.0845	22.3663	23.2519	24.1777
18	A	43,424.36	45,154.48	46,884.81	48,838.15	50,791.92	52,912.62
	H	20.8771	21.7089	22.5408	23.4799	24.4192	25.4388
19	A	45,517.35	47,387.11	49,340.66	51,378.00	53,359.27	55,536.04
	H	21.8833	22.7823	23.7215	24.7010	25.6535	26.7000
20	A	47,945.27	49,898.82	51,768.58	53,861.78	56,010.62	58,187.40
	H	23.0506	23.9898	24.8887	25.8951	26.9282	27.9747
21	A	50,289.62	52,271.10	54,447.87	56,569.00	58,829.34	61,117.62
	H	24.1777	25.1303	26.1769	27.1966	28.2833	29.3835
22	A	52,884.90	54,922.03	57,126.73	59,303.50	61,815.42	64,271.27
	H	25.4254	26.4048	27.4648	28.5113	29.7190	30.8997
23	A	55,480.40	57,712.81	59,889.59	62,373.58	64,857.36	67,480.57
	H	26.6733	27.7465	28.7931	29.9873	31.1814	32.4426
24	A	58,187.40	60,531.74	62,931.74	65,499.09	68,038.73	70,801.80
	H	27.9747	29.1018	30.2556	31.4899	32.7109	34.0393
25	A	61,117.62	63,657.04	66,113.11	68,848.04	71,666.75	74,485.47
	H	29.3835	30.6043	31.7851	33.1000	34.4552	35.8103
26	A	64,243.56	67,257.14	69,322.41	72,141.12	75,155.35	77,973.85
	H	30.8863	32.3352	33.3281	34.6832	36.1324	37.4874
27	A	67,313.21	70,159.64	72,894.79	75,908.58	78,950.73	81,992.46
	H	32.3621	33.7306	35.0456	36.4945	37.9571	39.4195

28	A	70,717.80	73,592.38	76,383.16	79,480.96	82,746.12	86,011.28
	H	33.9989	35.3810	36.7227	38.2120	39.7818	41.3516
29	A	74,234.11	77,248.33	80,262.34	83,443.92	86,960.02	90,364.82
	H	35.6895	37.1386	38.5877	40.1173	41.8077	43.4446
(2.5% increase of minimum and maximum effective July 1, 2020)							
Grade							
25	A	62,568.38			79,749.68		
	H	30.0810			38.3412		
30	A	79,438.45			96,852.81		
	H	38.1916			46.5639		
31	A	86,781.50			105,586.69		
	H	41.7219			50.7628		
32	A	87,594.18			106,720.93		
	H	42.1126			51.3081		
33	A	92,034.83			111,916.22		
	H	44.2475			53.8059		
34	A	96,678.66			117,604.90		
	H	46.4801			56.5408		
35	A	101,525.67			123,438.72		
	H	48.8104			59.3455		
36	A	106,633.87			129,620.81		
	H	51.2663			62.3177		
37	A	111,858.19			136,006.06		
	H	53.7780			65.3875		

This Ordinance will take effect upon adoption.

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

City of Somersworth – Ordinance 24-20

History			
First Read Date:	06/15/2020	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:	07/13/2020	Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

Discussion

Councilor Austin, seconded by Councilor Paradis made a motion to suspend Council rules to allow for Ordinance No. 24-20 to be read by title only. Motion passed 9-0, by roll call vote.

Ordinance No. 24-20 will remain in first read until the call of the chair.

Public Hearing scheduled at the call of the chair.

Voting Record		YES	NO
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	Gerding		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Paradis		
TOTAL VOTES:			
On / / Ordinance 24-20		PASSED	FAILED

RESOLUTIONS



City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: **50-20**

VOTE TO AUTHORIZE A BOND TO CONSTRUCT A NEW FIRE STATION AT THE LOCATION OF THE CURRENT FIRE STATION ON MAPLE STREET

June 15, 2020

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 1-20 to authorize the City Manager to contract with Port One Architects of Portsmouth, NH to provide conceptual design services and a preliminary cost estimate for a new Somersworth Fire Station, and

WHEREAS, Port One Architects has completed the conceptual designs and has estimated the cost to construct a new Fire Station at the present location on Maple Street to be \$7,700,000 (Seven Million Seven Hundred Thousand dollars), and

WHEREAS, the project costs include architecture, engineering, and construction of a new Fire Station at the location of the current Fire Station on Maple Street, as well as other associated ancillary costs (collectively, the “Project”);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT an amount not to exceed \$7,700,000 (Seven Million Seven Hundred Thousand dollars) is appropriated for the Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

- (a.) the City Manager is authorized to borrow up to \$7,700,000 (Seven Million Seven Hundred Thousand dollars) under the Municipal Finance Act and issue bonds and notes payable within 25 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 25 years.

This Resolution requires a public hearing and requires a 2/3 majority vote of the City Council after the public hearing (Sections 7.13 and 7.14 City Charter).

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

City of Somersworth – Resolution 50-20

History			
First Read Date:	06/15/2020	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:	07/13/2020	Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

Discussion

Resolution No. 50-20 will remain in first read until the call of the chair.

Public Hearing scheduled at the call of the chair.

Voting Record		YES	NO
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	Gerding		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Paradis		
TOTAL VOTES:			
On / / . Resolution 50-20		PASSED	FAILED



City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: **51-20**

TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A THREE YEAR CONTRACT WITH TWO ONE-YEAR OPTIONS WITH PLODZIK AND SANDERSON, P.A. OF CONCORD, NH FOR MUNICIPAL AUDITING SERVICES

June 15, 2020

WHEREAS, article 7.11 of the Somersworth City Charter requires an independent audit of all accounts of the City Government at least annually, and

WHEREAS, City staff solicited proposals from certified public accountants qualified and experienced in municipal accounting, and

WHEREAS, City staff interviewed two firms as finalist for this contract and informed the Finance Committee that either firm is well qualified to perform this service for the City, and

WHEREAS, the City Council's Finance Committee has reviewed the proposals received with City staff and recommends authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Plodzic and Sanderson, P.A. of Concord, NH for this purpose,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to enter into a three year contract with two, one-year options, with Plodzic and Sanderson, P.A. of Concord, NH for municipal auditing services.

Authorization

Sponsored by Councilors:

David A. Witham
Donald Austin
Martin Pepin
Martin P. Dumont, Sr.

Approved:

City Attorney

City Council Meeting

June 15, 2020

City of Somersworth – Resolution 51-20

History

First Read Date:	06/15/2020	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	06/15/2020		

Discussion

Councilor Austin, seconded by Councilor Paradis made a motion to suspend Council rules to allow for a second reading of Resolution No. 51-20. Motion passed 9-0, by roll call vote.

Councilor Austin, seconded by Councilor Cameron made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 51-20. Motion passed 9-0, by roll call vote.

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	Gerding	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Paradis	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On 06/15/2020	Resolution 51-20	PASSED	FAILED



City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: **52-20**

THE SOMERSWORTH CITY COUNCIL TO VOTE TO ENCOURAGE THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE TO ALLOW COMMUNITIES FLEXIBILITY ON THE LOCATION OF POLLING PLACES DURING THE SEPTEMBER PRIMARY AND NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTIONS

June 15, 2020

WHEREAS, on June 1st, 2020, Mayor Dana S. Hilliard announced the formation of the Election Review Planning Commission with the following objectives:

- Examine and develop a plan consistent with NH State Law and examine any present COVID-19 restrictions to ensure the fidelity of our upcoming primary and general elections for all Somersworth voters.
- Ensure the safety of all voters and poll workers for the upcoming primary and general election.
- Develop a plan which Council will approve and endorse, and, if required, seek the approval from the Secretary of State that meets the needs of all Hilltop voters.
- Develop a plan which the Council can approve and endorse, informing all voters on how the primary and general election will meet their safety needs, and

WHEREAS, the Election Review Planning Commission reviewed the current locations for voting for each of the five (5) City Wards and has expressed concern about the possible limitations these may have due to facility size; and

WHEREAS, it is the understanding of the Election Review Planning Commission that current State Law requires each Ward to provide a polling place located in the Ward for which that polling place is intended, and

WHEREAS, a need exists to be innovative during the present COVID-19 Pandemic in our efforts to ensure the safety of all voters and election workers; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council endorses the Commission's recommendation and furthermore, the City Council votes to encourage NH State Officials to include the Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General to allow waivers for Somersworth, and other communities that request them, to locate polling places to a more suitable location that may not be situated in the Ward for which that polling place was established,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the Somersworth City Council respectfully encourages the State of New Hampshire through its Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General to take the necessary action to enable communities flexibility on the location of polling places **so long as**

City Council Meeting

June 15, 2020

they remain accessible to residents during the upcoming September Primary and November General Elections.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> Crystal Paradis David A. Witham Matt Gerding Nancie Cameron Martin P. Dumont, Sr. Richard Michaud	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Resolution 52-20

History			
First Read Date:	06/15/2020	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:	N/A	Removed From Table:	
Second Read:	06/15/2020		

Discussion

Councilor Gerding, seconded by Councilor Paradis made a motion to suspend Council rules to allow for a second reading. Motion passed 9-0, by roll call vote.

Councilor Paradis further explained that since this is an encouragement to allow for polling places outside of a ward, imagining in bigger cities not wanting to take away a polling location in a ward that would then cause undo transportation burden or such. That wouldn't be a concern here in Somersworth as our polling locations are within walking distance from each other.

Councilor Cameron asked if this is going to possibly create two polling locations in one ward for accessibility if we had to. Councilor Paradis stated that this Resolution is encouraging flexibility so that we can relocate our wards into places such as schools. Currently the state law requires us to have one polling place within each ward, since we only have a few of the larger schools we would like to relocate our polling locations. The idea of adding additional polling locations for each ward is a separate idea.

Councilor Cameron stated that if we still had to stay in the same wards finding another location to spread them out would be adequate to make sure the people could get to the polling place.

Deputy Mayor Witham stated that this Resolution just seeks us to have the flexibility to have the details worked out by the Commission.

Councilor Gerding added that a part of the discussion was to consolidate polling locations in the middle or high school. This discussion isn't really necessary for this Resolution but it was discussed that we would possibly have different entrances for each ward so that there would be less confusion.

Councilor Dumont stated that he is confused regarding with how specific our Charter is that this will a lot of confusion. One of the major concerns in an election is where people are showing up to the wrong ward. This adds a lot of detail to prepare for, for the value added. The way he understands the charter is that we have five wards and we need five polling places with each polling place has to be in their specific ward. With the Governor or District Attorney possibly waiving that to allow that we could move the polling locations. The evaluation of using schools, which someone had mentioned which was not accurate we can use schools and other cities do. So that would open up the opportunity to allow for some of our wards to use schools as a polling location.

Deputy Mayor Witham stated that he half joked that this Resolution is verbose but it simply asks the Governor and Secretary of State to give us more flexibility. Right now we have very few options at our disposal, this looks to provide us with flexibility. It doesn't seek to allow for more or less polling locations or polling locations outside of the ward.

Councilor Pepin asked if this is just because of the pandemic or for all the elections.

Deputy Mayor Witham stated yes just to deal with the pandemic, but some of the changes from the pandemic may stick. There have been a lot of changes due to Covid-19 that have been interesting discoveries that people might want to stick with for example outdoor dining.

Councilor Paradis agreed with Deputy Mayor Witham's comments. That this Resolution is just speaking to flexibility.

Councilor Paradis, seconded by Councilor Gerding made a motion to amend Resolution No. 52-20 by adding "so long as they remain accessible to residents" to the last paragraph. Motion passed 9-1, by roll call vote. Councilor Dumont voted no.

Councilor Vincent stated that he has been involved with Bill Gardner for the past four years this is a tough position, he is going to do what he thinks is right. He understands the request and he is not trying to downplay it or anything he is just trying to say that he is stuck in his ways. He has a tremendous amount of authority and has to deal with a lot of towns and cities.

Councilor Gerding, seconded by Councilor Paradis made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 52-20 as amended. Motion passed 9-0, by roll call vote.

Councilor Austin agreed with Councilor Vincent and getting the state of New Hampshire to change this. We need to prepare to keep the polls within each ward and push the absentee ballot process.

Councilor Pepin stated that he would feel more comfortable with this being a Charter Amendment. He believes that absentee ballots are for people who are sick or out of town. He thinks that going to the polls, putting the ballot in the ballot box and showing an ID is important, which is his personal opinion.

Councilor Gerding stated that with the discussion of absentee ballots you can print applications through our website.

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	Gerding	X	
At Large Councilor	Cameron	X	
At Large Councilor	Paradis	X	
TOTAL VOTES:		9	0
On 06/15/2020 Resolution 52-20		PASSED	FAILED

OTHER

- A. Set polling times for the September 8, 2020 State Primary Election

Councilor Paradis, seconded by Councilor Vincent made a motion to set the polling times for the September 8, 2020 Primary Election from 7am to 7pm. Motion passed 9-0, by roll call vote.

Councilor Paradis stated that 7am – 7 pm is a lot easier to remember for people to remember when you're out talking about when to vote and also it has been established as the election time for past multiple elections. We will also be talking further in our Commission about ways to get more people to work to include half shifts available will help increase people and help alleviate that it is a very, very long day.

Councilor Dumont stated that this is his annual appeal; he went along with is last year only to get some statistical time for people to vote in the state of NH is the 8am hour. We ask our poll workers to put in long days and it is naïve to think that getting people to fill in for other people, when we can't fill the positions one time, let alone for split shifts. It is a wonderful

idea if we get the people however we didn't get a very good response last year and the year before. He will go along with it, but the statistical data in Somersworth validates that the 8am hour is the best hour to start the voting.

Councilor Cameron stated that she would agree with Councilor Dumont that the 7am hour for the September election doesn't really dominate voters coming out, but the November Election at 7am would be better. Splitting shifts is great in theory but are difficult with the amount of volunteers we get.

Councilor Dumont noted that Councilor Cameron is accurate mentioning that and he would not recommend 8am start for the Presidential Election.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Pepin sent out his condolences to the Hilliard family. He has known Gordie for years. He had so many interactions with him over the years. One in particular was when he was plowing parking lots and Gordie was taking care of the dorms, he would be out there yelling at the kids to move their cars. With him working in the middle school with the basketball team, he was just a special person. The City of Somersworth will miss him.

Mary Shaw, who was a former City employee that he worked with for years, he knew her when he was younger because her brother was the first one that got him into the Fire Department. You couldn't ask for better and nicer person. Condolences go out to them as well.

Councilor Vincent agreed with Councilor Pepin. Gordie Hilliard was a great guy he would drive by his house and see him and toot the horn and we would yell to each other. Mary Shaw was also a very wonderful person who worked down at the Public Works. Condolences go out to both of their families. He commented about the Rita Road water break, he drove by the other day, and he wanted to know if the City Manager could procreate some funds to patch that up better, it seems to be sinking. We just had that road done and it would be a shame to have that road hole there. If not, he would like to have it put on the Public Works & Environment Committee agenda. He asked to be added to the Resolution for the Fire Station bond.

Councilor Dumont noted his condolences to the Hilliard household from the Dumont household. He was a great guy, to know Gordie is to love Gordie. He was a unique talent as a coach for the girls' basketball team. Mary Shaw who was his cousin, he hoped that everyone had a member of their family like a Mary Shaw. She was the oldest daughter in her family, so when we got together as kids and visiting the Bisson's and Dumont's on Sundays. When we were at the Bisson's Mary was there and she was the oldest one of us and would be the first one to run to her mother to tell everybody what we were doing wrong. We loved her and we will miss her because she was very active in our community and God Bless her.

He received a call this week and regarding Midway Park becoming a target for homeless people who are domiciled behind Target. The comments he received from 3 of the residents of Midway Park is that they don't feel safe in their neighborhood. He knows how that feels as at one time he didn't feel safe in his neighborhood either. It would be nice to know the policies because you could be in some serious jeopardy by not following the policies. In larger communities that he has lived in with his career the answer to the homeless is to provide territory for them to be homeless in. Ambulances are sent there to do blood pressure checks and the police come by and help them with some of the issues they may have, he doesn't know the answer for Somersworth. The residents of Midway Park are not comfortable over there, the police were called and had to respond yesterday. He spoke about Zoom meetings that we run; he is not very comfortable with the Zoom meetings. He thinks it is contrary to what the Council is supposed to do and when we have our Committee meetings. He saw an article today on one of the news shows he watches spoke about Zoom and TikTok and how Russia and China are attacking the sites. He is not sure if it is true or accurate, but he knows he is seeing an uptick from receiving stuff from China and Russia. His credit cards have been hit 3 times within the last 2 weeks, he can't say it's specifically Zoom, but it just so happens that he saw that on the news today. If it is true he wants to get out of Zoom meetings as soon as they can. He has no idea what TikTok is, he thought it was a clock. In the current environment that we have in the United States today he finds that the City of Somersworth is more like God's country than any of these other places. One of the things he is concerned with is the safety of all of our people who provide safety to the residents of Somersworth. He thinks that we are missing out on one item from our Police Department we need to add cameras on the cops would eliminate a lot of exposure to the criticism. He would support sending this topic to the Public Safety Committee. Last comment, is how long we can let 109 Indigo Hill Road to continue to be the largest junk yard in Somersworth, it is terrible. He hopes we get something done with this.

Deputy Mayor Witham stated that the address is 14 Indigo Hill Road and there is currently a legal proceeding with the City.

Councilor Austin sends his condolences both Mary Shaw and Gordie Hilliard families, from the Austin household. Both of them were very important members of the Somersworth community for a long time, they will be missed by a whole lot of people. He agreed with Councilor Dumont, the sooner we get out of Zoom environment the better. He wondered if that is something that is more likely now that the Governor has relieved the stay at home order and have allowed congregated groups of 10 or more. He congratulated the 2020 graduates of the Somersworth High School; the administration did an excellent job of the drive thru for their graduation ceremony. It allowed for each of the graduates to get their moment to shine and receive their diploma. With the parameters that we have to work with in this day and age Somersworth should be proud. Also want to congratulate Eris Hersey, the Idlehurst Elementary principal of the year for the State of NH. There is only awarded in the state every year and she was awarded that. She has done a lot of work over the year she brought it from a school that was on the "endangered species" list to a place that has been recognized nationally of a school that has programs and curriculum that should be emulated across the country.

Councilor Michaud extended his condolences to Mary Shaw and her family. He extended his condolences as well to the Mayor, his Mom Joanne and the entire Hilliard family. As one Councilor said to know Gordie is to love him. He was definitely a character and made him laugh and he will definitely be missed. He also congratulated the class of 2020 and wished them nothing but the best as they move on.

Councilor Gerding wished the Hilliard and Shaw families his condolences, their memories will live on within the City. He was happy to see as Councilor Austin shared that Eris Hersey won the Elementary School Principal of the year award which comes on the heels of last year Middle School of the year award. So now we have two well recognized teachers in our community. He knows Eris worked so hard to bring Idlehurst up to phenomenal 21st century standards. He is proud to be a teacher and a resident here in Somersworth. He congratulated the class of 2020, it was definitely not the ending they expected but they have made it through and the graduation was well deserved. Congratulations to all the teaching staff it is officially the start of our summer vacation now. Everyone worked extremely hard. He thanked Police Chief Kretschmar for providing the information in the Council notes that he answered some questions he had received via email. His letter to us in regards to some of the training that the police staff has done and really reiterates how phenomenal and well trained our police force is here in Somersworth. He mentioned at last Council meeting that he witnessed firsthand the de-escalation techniques and it was great to see in writing from the Police Chief with all of the hours that our police force goes through to make sure that we are top notch. He received some emails regarding defund the police discussion that is going on right now. This started as more of a protest chant but he thinks that it does seem to be more controversial however he thinks that the discussion is more about a community outreach program. People seem to be more curious as to what we do here in Somersworth. He is not in favor of stripping the funding for the Police Department. He wanted to address that people are asking for more and more community wellness, which is what this whole discussion is about. A lot of people are asking about creating housing services, addiction services and mental health services. He knows that our police force works extremely hard at handling situations, so having additional services would be useful. He thinks that this discussion requires an honest autopsy of how communities in NH are funded, particularly communities of color or high rates of low income individuals. In his personal opinion we are not given enough funding from the state of NH to be able to even address these needs. Any changes to add onto additional services would be a tough task. He understands that we already work on a tight, but well managed shoe string budget any changes to add on additional services would be a tall task. Anyone who is sending him emails regarding this he encouraged them to reach out to your state legislatures, representatives and the Governor to advocate for more funding for municipalities. He hears the voices and understands and loves that people are reaching out to him. He hopes they understand that this can only happen if people advocate for more additional state resources.

Councilor Cameron sends her condolences to the Shaw family and Councilor Dumont as she was a relative to him as well. She congratulated the class of 2020 and she had the privilege of attending the graduation and the execution was flawless it went off without a hitch. It is amazing what you can do under these circumstances to make it so special for these kids. It even brought a tear to her eye. There was a rally Saturday at 12:30 for the Police Department to show support for them. She was unable to attend it, but on her way home she drove by and

saw a group still there and pulled in to see them. She thanked them and said it was wonderful to see them there. Speaking on the Zoom meetings a little bit ago she was booted from the meeting and that was the same day that another meeting was being hacked according to the paper. Hopefully we will be back in chambers very soon. She also received an email about Midway Park about not being safe in their neighborhood and Councilor Dumont and I were talking about this tonight and wondering how we can help them. She also sends her condolences to the Hilliard family, Gordie and she served on the school board together. They used to sit together which was probably not a good idea because a lot of times he'd make snide remarks to her and she'd give him snide remarks back. To know Gordie was to love him and Gordie always had a favorite saying to her and she is going to end with that, "Nancy, shut the hell up!"

Councilor Paradis extended her condolences to the Shaw family and the Hilliard family. Congratulations to our High School class, our Middle School graduating class and Kindergarten classes. Recently, she visited the City of Rochester and she noticed some interesting seating that they are allowing for restaurant seating. She noted that we are also doing that here as well and wanted to express her full support for that and supporting our local businesses. Speaking of Zoom if we do continue to meet she would be in support of allowing public comments to happen for people to submit them via video or allow public access to the building especially for public hearings. It is very important and we lose a lot by only allowing written comments right now. She thinks that we are doing a disservice to our constituents not allowing hearing their comments. She thinks that on the poll workers commitment is that we have a hard time finding people because at minimum it is a 14 hour shift, so saying we already have trouble finding people to fill that spot how can we possibly staff a second shift she thinks by cutting the price in half our customer base is going to rise. If we do split it up into shifts there are a lot of people that just can't do it right now because that is an entire more than a full day commitment. She certainly would be advocating for that. She addressed some of the things Councilor Gerding spoke about; she is so glad that he brought it up. She has received a few emails and she believed that is a lot as we don't hear from the constituents a lot. So when we hear from multiple constituents on a single issue she thinks that says that it is something our community is concerned about. She didn't know a lot about how different public safety approaches worked across different communities. She has done a lot of research over the last couple of weeks and talking more with our constituents and she wanted to reflect back on the stuff she has heard. Not only members of the community but people of the police department as well, as she was so grateful to go on some ride along. Concerns she has heard are from them and members of the community. The list of what we are asking our police to respond to are because they are the only department and response we have to all sorts of calls. When we think about what the police are viewed to do is to keep us safe, but they are sometimes going to calls that perhaps they shouldn't have to. There may be people who are more qualified in the mental health area and the substance abuse area. Other communities have set up different public safety departments outside of their police department. Expanding our view of what public safety means by looking outside of the police is actually supporting our police because it is alleviating some of the stress due to not having the training they need for substance abuse or mental health. We do a lot of department collaboration really well here in Somersworth of which she has heard in a different number of communities that are transforming their view on public safety. Minneapolis has created a permanent office of violence prevention so when there is gang violence in their City or other

things occur they have people that have many hours of training specific to de-escalating. They have seen incredible results and alleviated a lot of police hours. Here in Somersworth if we are looking at specific types of issues, we don't have a high number of violent crimes, but looking at something drug related what are the evidence based leads we can bring in such as substance abuse recovery professionals to help. We hear from the police that the high number of calls that they are going out on every single week are the same small group of people. If there is any way we can invest in a long term solution for that would be really good. She thinks Councilor Gerding touched on what she wanted to say in regards to de-fund the police. That phrase took her back a little bit, but the more she looked into it he is right on that it is really more of a look on our values and what we put into our budget. Here is Somersworth our police department, from her estimations, receives about 9% of the overall budget. Like all departments here they could do a lot more things with more money. She certainly wants to keep hearing from our community members and she hopes they keep writing into them. She wants to support our police by listening to them. She is inspired by the creativity we have seen on other communities doing this and really wants to have that conversation here in Somersworth. So she will offer everyone to consider how you want your community to address public safety and what do you want public safety defined as. We have three major department heads, police, fire and Stewart's Ambulance. Maybe we need to think about another issue in our community that we are struggling with and look to bring them in. We have a COPS hiring grant that will be coming up in July or maybe the next meeting and she wants to hear from people if this is where we want our money to go to right now and how can we best use this and are there other grants out there we can apply for to help with other situations within the community. She urged member of the community to keep reaching out.

Deputy Mayor Witham reminded Councilors that we have amended two items tonight, a parliamentary inquiry, and we're almost at 9:30pm so thank you for holding the Deputy Mayor to task this evening. He sent his condolences to Mayor Hilliard and his family. Gordie was a tremendously great guy; growing up he lived at the next block up so he would routinely see him. Up until recently he always just called him "Witham," he doesn't think he knew he had a first name he would always call him by his last name. He enjoyed many laughs with him and was truly a Somersworth man and will be missed by this community. Many condolences to Dana and your family never easy to go through what you're going through. Back in college he worked summers at the public works department doing a variety of odd jobs and would occasionally plow snow in the winter time and that is when he got to know Mary Shaw rather well. Her Husband's parents were across the street from him growing up, so he got to know Mary a little bit there but certainly when he worked at the public works. A very nice lady, you couldn't say a mean thing about her she was that sort of person, condolences to her family. Class of 2020, congratulations on your graduation as different as it was and exciting as it was. Tonight at the Noble Pines eight graduating players were recognized from the Somersworth baseball team, the field was prepped to look all game ready for them. He is very excited to report that tomorrow evening Somersworth Babe Ruth will start practicing we have 14 players and we are excited to get started. It will look a lot different than it normally has for example we can't use the dug outs, we have to stay 6ft apart. The players have to have a screening done before they come and we have to have hand sanitizer. They can't chew sunflower seeds or gum, the requirements are rather extensive so baseball is going to look different but it will still be baseball. He is excited about that, his son plays college baseball and he started yesterday up in Maine and just hearing the crack of the

ball off of the bat was somehow therapeutic for him. It shows maybe there is a light at the end of damn long tunnel of COVID-19.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

NONPUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Austin, seconded by Councilor Paradis made a motion to adjourn at the call of the chair. The meeting adjourned at 9:24pm, motion passed 9-0, by roll call vote.

Kelly Gagne, Deputy City Clerk

David A. Witham, Deputy Mayor