



Minutes of City Council Workshop
Budget Presentation – Fiscal Year 2023-2024
Monday, April 3, 2023 6:00 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

The City Council Workshop was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Dana Hilliard and the following Council members were present: Pepin, Vincent, Gibson, Austin, Michaud, Witham, Gerding, Cameron and Messier.

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP – Budget Presentation Fiscal Year 2023-2024

City Manager Belmore welcomed all and thanked the City Departments, Department Heads and Staff for all of their efforts throughout the entire budget process. He also thanks Finance Director Scott Smith for his assistance in developing the City's Proposed Budget.

Manager Belmore continued his presentation by sharing the focus of the budget presentation and to provide an overview to the proposed budget City and School Department Budget. The tax cap summary is estimated to be \$1,337,343 under the City's tax cap. There were budget notes reviewed including the City's overall budget increase of \$873,681 or 5.69% and the one proposed staffing change to add a full-time Deputy Fire Chief effective January 1, 2024.

Manager Belmore presented proposed fiscal year 2023-2024 revenue estimates, the budget structure and appropriations, expenditures, and Capital Improvements. He shared the estimated tax rate impact under the Proposed Budget noting that for the City, School (local and State), and the County, the rate currently sits at an increase of \$1.68.

Manager Belmore presented the Wastewater Fund with a proposed budget of \$4,183, 996, noting the anticipated revenues, operating deficits and highlights. The Water Fund's proposed budget is set at \$3,236,505 again sharing the funds anticipated revenues, operating deficits and highlights. Manager Belmore reviewed the Solid Waste (pay-per-bag) Fund with a proposed budget of \$597,857 which is a \$49,403 or 8.26% increase. Bag rates were approved to increase effective July 1, 2023 and has an anticipated revenue of approximately \$660,000.

Superintendent Lori Lane presented the Somersworth School District 2023-2024 Budget. She shared estimated revenues for fiscal year 2023-2024 is \$8,824,681 which is a decrease of approximately \$776,227. She shared reasons of the decrease in revenue noting reductions decreases and increases to the School's estimated revenue, the most impactful being a reduction in State of New Hampshire Adequacy Education Aid of \$895,802.

Superintendent Lane shared the School's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 is \$29,109,022 which is an increase of \$249,436. She reviewed general expenditure item increases and decreases including insurances, New Hampshire Retirement, salary increases, First Student transportation and

utility expenses. She also shared reductions to the School's Proposed budget including staffing positions, bus routes, legal fees and fuel surcharge.

Superintendent Lane presented the School's total budget summary and noted the total net budget increase to be \$1,025,663 with an estimated tax rate impact of \$0.90. The proposed increase the School's Budget remains under the tax cap by \$940,031.

Manager Belmore mentioned that the Proposed Budget document is available on the City's website within City News and a hard copy available at both the City Clerk's Office and Library. There is a Public Hearing for the Proposed Budget scheduled at 7:00 p.m. during the City Council meeting following the presentation and the City Council has a budget workshop scheduled for Saturday, April 8th at 8:30 a.m. Additionally, the City Council has a Special Budget Meeting scheduled on Monday, April 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

The workshop adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen LaPanne, City Clerk