

City of Somersworth  
City Council Meeting Agenda  
City Council Chambers  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024  
7:00 p.m.

---

1. Roll Call of Members
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Recognition of Indigenous People – Our Native Ancestral Americans
  - This meeting takes place on N'Dakinna (n-DA-ki-na), which is the unceded traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki (a-BEN-a-ki), Pennacook and Wabanaki Peoples past and present. We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the land, waterways, living beings and the Aln8bak (Al-nuh-bak), the people who have stewarded N'dakinna throughout the generations.
4. Public Hearing
  - A. **Ordinance 8-24** – Amend Chapter 34, Exemptions and Credits, Section 34.6, Solar Exemption, To Re-Adopt the Provisions of RSA 72:62 and Limit the Solar Exemption to a Maximum Amount of \$25,000
5. Comments by Visitors
6. Consent Calendar
  - A. Approve Minutes of the City Council & Somersworth School Board Joint Budget Workshop held on February 5, 2024
  - B. Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting held on February 5, 2024
7. Comments by City Councilors
8. Communications
9. Presentations of Petitions and Disposal Thereof by Reference or Otherwise
10. Mayor's Report
11. Report of Standing Committees
12. Report of Special Committees, City Officers and City Manager
13. Nominations, Appointments and Election

Nominations Being Introduced for a Council Vote:

  - A. Donna Donovan for re-appointment to the Library Board of Trustees with a term to expire February 2029

City Council Vote to fill the Vacancy of the Ward 5 School Board Member until the next Municipal or State Election (Roll Call Vote Required by City Charter)

A. Gemma Soldati

Mayoral Appointments Not Requiring Council Vote:

A. Jenne Holmes as a Member of the Traffic Safety Committee

B. Paul Robidas as a Member of the Traffic Safety Committee

14. Lay on the Table

15. Unfinished Business

ORDINANCES

A. **Ordinance 8-24** – Amend Chapter 34, Exemptions and Credits, Section 34.6, Solar Exemption, To Re-Adopt the Provisions of RSA 72:62 and Limit the Solar Exemption to a Maximum Amount of \$25,000

RESOLUTIONS

A. **Resolution 31-24** – To Notify the City Tax Collector that the City Council Shall Not Accept a Tax Deed on Properties Located on Wexford Lane and Blackwater Road Subject to an Unredeemed Tax Lien

B. **Resolution 32-24** – To Notify the City Tax Collector that the City Council Shall Not Accept a Tax Deed on Certain Properties Subject to an Unredeemed Tax Lien

C. **Resolution 33-24** – To Authorize the City Manager to use Funding from the American Rescue Plan Act and Contract with ENE Systems of New Hampshire, Inc. of Bow New Hampshire to Replace the Air Conditioning System at the Somersworth Police Station

D. **Resolution 34-24** – To Authorize the City Manager to Contract with GMI Asphalt, Inc. of Belmont, New Hampshire for Fiscal Year 2024 Road Resurfacing Improvements and to Repair and Reconstruct the Sidewalk on the East Side of Maple Street

E. **Resolution 35-24** – To Accept Whipoorwill Way and Sandlot Lane as Public Ways

16. New Business

OTHER

A. Vote to Ratify a 3-Year Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the Somersworth School Board and the Somersworth Association of Clerical and Aides (SACA)

17. Comments by Visitors

18. Closing Comments by Council Members

19. Future Agenda Items

20. Nonpublic Session (as necessary, pending roll call vote by Council)

21. Adjournment

Somersworth City Council  
c/o Office of the City Clerk, City Hall  
One Government Way  
Somersworth, NH 03878

Feb. 8, 2024

Dear Somersworth City Council,

This is a letter of intent and interest to join the Somersworth School Board for Ward 5.

I am a current registered voting resident of Ward 5 and also grew up here in Somersworth. While I do not have children attending schools in Somersworth, I myself went through the Somersworth School District first at Hilltop Elementary and then at the middle school. I did not attend the high school at the time, as I didn't see enough resources being made available to young artists like me.

I'm interested in serving on the School Board as an avid supporter of the arts in education and the role that play and social emotional learning have in a classroom setting for all ages. I am a teaching artist that has taught performing classes to children and adults. I also worked as a part time sub for the school district, filling in classes at the middle school and maplewood in 2019.

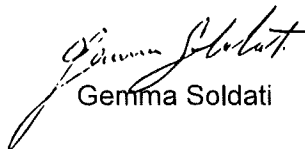
I believe I would be an asset to the board for the reasons above and also because I am an outspoken, collaborative individual who believes in change and more importantly believes in young people and the power of community.

My father was a member and then chair of the Somersworth School Board when I was a child and I would be honored to follow in his footsteps and be considered for this position to contribute to the town that raised me.

My teaching and performance touring opportunities do take me out of town from time to time, but would not impede my ability to be a present and vocal member of the board.

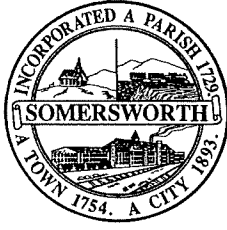
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gemma Soldati

77 Buffumsville Rd. Apt B  
Somersworth, NH  
03878



## City of Somersworth – Ordinance

Ordinance No: **8-24**

**AMEND CHAPTER 34, EXEMPTIONS AND CREDITS, SECTION 34.6, SOLAR EXEMPTION, TO RE-ADOPT THE PROVISIONS OF RSA 72:62 AND LIMIT THE SOLAR EXEMPTION TO A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$25,000**

February 5, 2024

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

Amend Chapter 34, Exemptions and Credits, by deleting Section 34.6, Solar Exemption, in its entirety, and replace it with the following:

### Section 34.6 Solar Exemption

The City re-adopts the provisions of RSA 72:62, an exemption from the assessed value for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property which is equipped with a solar energy system as defined in RSA 72:61. Such Solar property tax exemption shall be in an amount of \$25,000 or equal to the added assessed value of the qualifying solar energy system equipment as defined in RSA 72:61, whichever is less. This exemption shall be effective for the tax year that begins on April 1, 2024.

### Authorization

*Sponsored by Councilors:*

David A. Witham  
Denis Messier  
Martin Pepin

*Approved:*

City Attorney

**City of Somersworth – Ordinance 8-24**

<b>History</b>			
First Read Date:	2/5/2024	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

**Discussion**

2/5/2024

*Deputy Clerk Ramsey performed a first reading of Ordinance 8-24.*

*Ordinance 8-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.*

<b>Voting Record</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson		
Ward 4 Councilor	Paradis-Catanzaro		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Messier		
At Large Councilor	Goodwin		
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			
<b>On</b>	<b>Ordinance 8-24</b>	<b>PASSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>



## City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: 31-24

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

February 5, 2024

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

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

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

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

### Authorization

*Sponsored by Councilors:*

David A. Witham  
Denis Messier  
Martin Pepin  
Kenneth Vincent

*Approved:*

City Attorney

**City of Somersworth – Resolution 31-24**

**History**

First Read Date:	2/5/2024	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

**Discussion**

2/5/2024

*Deputy Clerk Ramsey performed a first reading of Resolution 31-24.*

*Resolution 31-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.*

<b>Voting Record</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson		
Ward 4 Councilor	Paradis-Catanzaro		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Messier		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Goodwin		
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			
<b>On</b>	<b>Resolution 31-24</b>	<b>PASSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>



## City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: 32-24

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

February 5, 2024

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

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

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

<u>Location</u>	<u>Tax Map/Lot</u>
30 Blackwater Road	35-14
79 Crystal Springs Way	82-43M
113 Sherwood Glen	87-113M
325 Sherwood Glen	87-325M
409 Sherwood Glen	87-409M
510 Sherwood Glen	87-510M
691 Sherwood Glen	87-691M
4 Ringer Drive	88-2M
5 Ringer Drive	88-10M

### Authorization

*Sponsored by Councilors:*

David A. Witham  
Denis Messier  
Martin Pepin  
Kenneth Vincent

*Approved:*

City Attorney



**City of Somersworth – Resolution 32-24**

<b>History</b>			
First Read Date:	2/5/2024	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

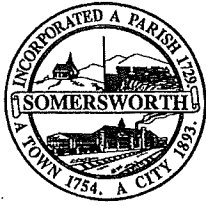
**Discussion**

2/5/2024

*Deputy Clerk Ramsey performed a first reading of Resolution 32-24.*

*Resolution 32-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.*

<b>Voting Record</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson		
Ward 4 Councilor	Paradis-Catanzaro		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Messier		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Goodwin		
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			
<b>On</b>	<b>Resolution 32-24</b>	<b>PASSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>



## City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: **33-24**

**TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO USE FUNDING FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT AND CONTRACT WITH ENE SYSTEMS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, INC. OF BOW NEW HAMPSHIRE TO REPLACE THE AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM AT THE SOMERSWORTH POLICE STATION**

February 5, 2024

WHEREAS, the air conditioning system at the Somersworth Police Station has failed and no longer functions properly; and

WHEREAS, City Staff requested quotes from qualified contractors to replace the air conditioning system at the Somersworth Police Station; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee reviewed these quotes with City Staff and determined it is in the best interest of the City to utilize American Rescue Plan Act funds to start this project as soon as possible and recommends awarding a contract to ENE Systems of New Hampshire, Inc. of Bow, New Hampshire for an amount of \$55,240 (Fifty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Forty dollars); and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee also recommends adding an amount of \$4,760 (Four Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty dollars) to this project for contingencies and authorize the City Manager to increase the contract to an amount not to exceed \$60,000 (Sixty Thousand dollars) if needed and determined to be in the best interest of the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager may use funding from the American Rescue Plan Act and contract with ENE Systems of New Hampshire, Inc. of Bow, New Hampshire to replace the air conditioning system at the Somersworth Police Station for an amount of \$55,240 (Fifty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Forty dollars); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT an amount of \$4,760 (Four Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty dollars) is included with this project for contingencies and the City Manager is authorized to increase the contract to an amount not to exceed \$60,000 (Sixty Thousand dollars) if needed and determined to be in the best interest of the City.

### Authorization

*Sponsored by Councilors:*

David A. Witham  
Denis Messier  
Martin Pepin  
Kenneth Vincent

*Approved:*

City Attorney

**City of Somersworth – Resolution 33-24**

**History**

First Read Date:	2/5/2024	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

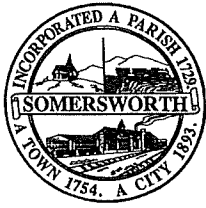
**Discussion**

2/5/2024

*Deputy Clerk Rasmey performed a first reading on Resolution 33-24.*

*Resolution 33-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.*

<b>Voting Record</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson		
Ward 4 Councilor	Paradis-Catanzaro		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Messier		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Goodwin		
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			
<b>On</b>	<b>Resolution 33-24</b>	<b>PASSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>



## City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: 34-24

**TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH GMI ASPHALT, INC. OF BELMONT, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 ROAD RESURFACING IMPROVEMENTS AND TO REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCT THE SIDEWALK ON THE EAST SIDE OF MAPLE STREET**

February 5, 2024

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution 18-24 on October 23, 2023, authorizing the City Manager to prepare and request bids from qualified contractors for road improvements to the following City streets:

West High Street (High Street to Cemetery Road) mill/overlay  
Pleasant Street (High Street to Green Street) mill/overlay  
Silver Street (Franklin Street to Pleasant Street) mill/overlay  
Fremont Street (Silver Street to Garden Road) mill/overlay  
Parkview Terrace (Maple Street to end of pavement) shim/overlay  
Trench patching due to water breaks; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 18-24 authorized including the repair and reconstruction of the sidewalk on the east side of Maple Street from the Maplewood School to Cemetery Road; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works and Environment Committee reviewed the results of the bids received with City staff and recommends contracting with GMI Asphalt, Inc. of Belmont, New Hampshire; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee reviewed the results of the bids received with City staff and recommends contracting with GMI Asphalt, Inc. of Belmont, New Hampshire for an amount of \$582,455 (Five Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Five dollars); and

WHEREAS, The Finance Committee recommends including a contingency in the amount of \$42,545 (Forty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Five dollars) for the project, and allow the City Manager to increase the contract to an amount not to exceed \$625,000 (Six Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand dollars) if needed, and it is determined to be in the best interest of the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to contract with GMI Asphalt, Inc. of Belmont, New Hampshire to make road improvements to the aforementioned City streets and sidewalk improvements as described on Maple Street for a cost of \$582,455 (Five Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Five dollars); and

BE IT FURTHERED RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT an amount of \$42,545 (Forty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Five dollars) is included with the project total for contingencies and the City Manager is authorized to increase the contract to an amount not to exceed \$625,000 (Six Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand dollars) if needed, and it is determined to be in the best interest of the City.

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

**City of Somersworth – Resolution 34-24**

<b>History</b>			
First Read Date:	2/5/2024	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

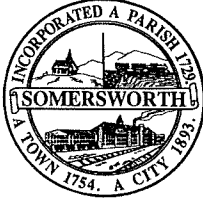
**Discussion**

*2/5/2024*

*Deputy Clerk Rasmey performed a first reading on Resolution 34-24.*

*Resolution 34-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.*

<b>Voting Record</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson		
Ward 4 Councilor	Paradis-Catanzaro		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Messier		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Goodwin		
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			
<b>On</b>		<b>Resolution 34-24</b>	
		<b>PASSED</b>	
		<b>FAILED</b>	



## City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No:       **35-24**

### **TO ACCEPT WHIPPOORWILL WAY AND SANDLOT LANE AS PUBLIC WAYS**

February 5, 2024

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth Planning Board approved a certain subdivision known as Conservation Subdivision Plan for Greenview Subdivision, 138 Rocky Hill Road, Somersworth New Hampshire, Tax Map 54 Lot 1, revised on December 6, 2017, Final Plans signed May 14, 2018 prepared by TRITECH Engineering Corporation, recorded as Plan #115-092 through 115-094 at the Strafford County Registry of Deeds and the roadway was to be accepted by the City of Somersworth; and

WHEREAS, the City Council named Whippoorwill Way and Sandlot Lane as streets by Resolution No. 38-18 on June 4, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the roads known as Whippoorwill Way and Sandlot Lane have been constructed to the satisfaction of the City; and

WHEREAS, the following conditions apply: A 2-year maintenance Surety Bond in the amount of \$125,000 (One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand dollars) is provided acceptable to the City, a deed to the road as well as all needed public utility easements are provided to the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to accept and record deeds to Whippoorwill Way and Sandlot Lane and said ways are hereby accepted as public right of ways subject to the aforementioned conditions.

#### **Authorization**

*Sponsored by Councilors:*

Denis Messier  
Martin Pepin  
Kenneth Vincent

*Approved:*

City Attorney

**City of Somersworth – Resolution 35-24**

<b>History</b>			
First Read Date:	2/5/2024	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

**Discussion**

2/5/2024

*Deputy Clerk Rasmey performed a first reading on Resolution 35-24.*

*Resolution 35-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.*

<b>Voting Record</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson		
Ward 4 Councilor	Paradis-Catanzaro		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Messier		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Goodwin		
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>			
<b>On</b>	<b>Resolution 35-24</b>	<b>PASSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>