

*These minutes were approved at the April 1, 2024 meeting.*

**DURHAM TOWN COUNCIL  
MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024  
DURHAM TOWN HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
7:00 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Council Chair Sally Needell, Councilor Eric Lund, Councilor Emily Friedrichs (who uses the pronouns ze/zir/zirs/zirself and the title Mx. Friedrichs), Councilor Eleanor (Ellie) Lonske, Councilor Carden Welsh (participated via Zoom), Councilor Joseph (Joe) Friedman, Councilor Wayne Burton, Chair Pro Tem James (Jim) Lawson, Councilor Charles (Chuck) Hotchkiss

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Administrator Todd Selig

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Needell called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

**II. Town Council grants permission for fewer than a majority of Councilors to participate remotely**

Chair Needell called for a roll call vote for Councilor Welsh to participate in the meeting remotely.

*Councilor Chuck Hotchkiss – Aye, Councilor Ellie Lonske – Aye, Councilor Wayne Burton – Aye, Chair Pro Tem Jim Lawson – Aye, Chair Sally Needell – Aye, Councilor Eric Lund – Aye, Councilor Emily Friedrichs – Aye, Councilor Joe Friedman – Aye*

**III. Roll Call of Members**

Councilor Chuck Hotchkiss, Councilor Ellie Lonske, Councilor Wayne Burton, Chair Pro Tem Jim Lawson, Chair Sally Needell, Councilor Eric Lund, Councilor Emily Friedrichs, Councilor Joe Friedman, Councilor Carden Welsh (participated via Zoom).

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

*Chair Needell MOVED that after item V. “Special Announcements” the Council go to item VII. “Report from the UNH Student Senate External Affairs Chair or Designee”. From there to item VIII. “Unanimous Consent Agenda”, and then item VI. “Public Comments”.*

*The motion was SECONDED by Councilor Friedrichs and the March 4, 2024, Town Council agenda was APPROVED, as amended, by a roll call vote of 8-0: Councilor Hotchkiss—Aye, Councilor Lonske—Aye, Councilor Burton—Aye, Chair Needell—Aye, Chair Pro Tem Lawson—Aye, Councilor Lund—Aye, Councilor Friedrichs—Aye, Councilor Friedman—Aye, (No vote from Councilor Welsh because of technical difficulties).*

**V. Special Announcements**

- A. Adoption of **Resolution #2024-08** Recognizing Outgoing Elected Officials for their Services to the Town of Durham.

*Chair Needell read Resolution #2024-08 recognizing and listing all those outgoing elected officials for their services to the Town of Durham. Afterward, Chair Needell MOVED that the Durham Town Council does hereby ADOPT Resolution #2024-08 recognizing outgoing elected officials for their services to the Town of Durham. The motion was SECONDED by Councilor Lund.*

Councilor Lonske thanked the citizens of Durham who elected her to serve on the Town Council. She said it has been a real pleasure and she appreciated the Council for the work it does.

The four outgoing Council members, Councilor Lonske, Chair Pro Tem Lawson, Councilor Hotchkiss, and Councilor Welsh were presented with Certificates of Appreciation for their services.

Chair Pro Tem Lawson thanked the members of the current Councilors and all previous Councilors saying it had been a real honor to have served with them. He also thanked the many people he served with on various Town committees, including the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee, Energy Committee, Historic District/Heritage Commission, Economic Development Committee, and the Land Stewardship Subcommittee—all incredible residents of Durham.

Chair Pro Tem Lawson said he had spoken with a resident downtown recently who commented that it must be frustrating to be a member of the Council because nothing gets done. Chair Pro Tem Lawson said he could understand that perspective with so much of the work at the state and federal levels being stifled by polarized politics, but that Durham is different, and he hoped that never changes.

Chair Pro Tem Lawson reflected on what “we” as a Town have accomplished in the last dozen years, because new residents don’t know what the Town has accomplished or that maybe the Town is starting to forget. So, who is “we”? “We” are the extraordinary Town staff, the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, Agricultural Commission, Parks & Recreation Committee, Historic District/Heritage Commission, Durham Human Rights Commission, and others. It’s our residents. They are the biggest part of the “we”. It’s also the Town Council. So collectively, what did “we” accomplish?

- “We” zoned, re-zoned, and successfully planned over 600 quality housing apartments in the community; many occupied by the Town’s student residents. Many were replacing what was really squalled housing that took advantage of Durham’s students.
- “We” partnered on conserving the Oyster River Forest, Ambler Acres, Thompson Forest, Steven’s Woods, and other lands.
- “We” moved the Town Library from a storefront in the Mill Plaza to its new home on Madbury Road.

- “We” built a new Town Hall, accessible to anyone and everyone—not just those residents who could navigate up a steep, rickety stairway to a second floor that was invaded at times by neurotic squirrels eating our staff’s lunch.
- “We” expanded and renovated the Police Station.
- “We” expanded the Town’s source of water to include the Spruce Hole Rechargeable Aquifer. And now “We” have the most resilient water systems in the Northeast.
- “We” built a solar array that rivals even the largest municipal arrays being sold in New Hampshire today.
- “We” expanded the Parks & Recreation from a volunteer organization to one requiring two fantastic employees just to manage its programs.
- “We” negotiated equitable 10-year agreements with the University of New Hampshire on cost sharing.
- “We” purchased and transformed 66 Main Street from an eye sore into a good temporary use while “we” decided what was the best use for that location.
- “We” made a difficult decision about the Mill Pond Dam, with that decision being later affirmed by Town residents.
- “We” kept the municipal tax rate flat while building new Town facilities and infrastructure.
- “We” had the courage to make events in our Town more inclusive, and those events have been embraced by residents; despite the misinformation that was propagated locally and nationally. “We” did all of this, and much more, in just ten years.

So, thank you all. Thank you to Gail and Rich, Renee and David, Audrey, Rachel D., and Rachel G. for your incredible work. Thank you for the incredible teams that you manage. And thank you especially to Todd. You are the visionary conductor that orchestrates all of this and keeps us playing well through all the highs and lows and moving us toward more accomplishments in the next decade.

Councilor Hotchkiss received his Certificate and said that he would encourage anyone thinking about public service in the Town of Durham to pursue it. He found that during the time he served on the Town Council not only did he find a great appreciation for the talents and expertise of Town staff, Department Heads, the Administrator, and Council Chair but also the extraordinary volunteers who serve on the various Town boards, commissions, and committees. He concluded by saying that even though he will not be in the role of Council member (at least for a while), he looked forward to other opportunities to participate with many of the Durham citizens in shaping the community.

Chair Needell called for the vote on the motion which ***PASSED on a roll call vote of 9-0:***  
***Councilor Friedman—Aye, Councilor Friedrichs—Aye, Councilor Lund—Aye, Chair Needell—Aye, Chair Pro Tem Lawson—Aye, Councilor Burton—Aye, Councilor Lonske—Aye, Councilor Welsh—Aye, Councilor Hotchkiss—Aye***

***Councilor Burton made a MOTION that Chair Pro Tem Lawson’s remarks be made a part of the permanent record of this Council meeting. The motion was SECONDED by Councilor Lonske and PASSED on a roll call vote of 8-0-1: Councilor Friedman—Aye, Councilor Friedrichs—Aye, Councilor Lund—Aye, Chair Needell—Aye, Chair Pro Tem Lawson—Abstained, Councilor Burton—Aye, Councilor Lonske—Aye, Councilor Welsh—Aye, Councilor Hotchkiss—Aye***

- B. Adoption of **Resolution #2024-09** Recognizing Those Whose Steadfast Efforts Resulted in the Historic 1974 Town Vote To Prohibit Construction of an Oil Refinery Along the Shore of Great Bay at Durham Point, on the 50th Anniversary of the Event.

Chair Pro Tem Lawson said the Town has not had a problem such as this in a number of years and its very disconcerting when it does occur, especially speaking as a member of the Jewish family.

Chair Needell asked Town residents Nancy Sandberg and Dudley Dudley to stand and be recognized (two of those involved in the efforts to prevent the construction of the Oil Refinery in 1974).

At this time, Chair Needell read Resolution #2024-09 in its entirety and ***made a MOTION to ADOPT Resolution #2024-09 Recognizing Those Whose Steadfast Efforts Resulted in the Historic 1974 Town Vote To Prohibit Construction of an Oil Refinery Along the Shore of Great Bay at Durham Point, on the 50th Anniversary of the Event. The motion was SECONDED by Councilor Friedman.***

Councilor Burton noted that New Hampshire is not a home rule state by Constitution and is the only place in the state statutes where it says that a Town can reject an Oil Refinery, which is quite an accomplishment. More so than anyone realizes.

Chair Needell called for the vote on the motion which ***PASSED on a roll call vote of 8-0: Councilor Hotchkiss—Aye, Councilor Lonske—Aye, Councilor Burton—Aye, Chair Pro Tem Lawson—Aye, Chair Needell—Aye, Councilor Lund—Aye, Councilor Friedrichs—Aye, Councilor Friedman—Aye, (Councilor Welsh was not present for the vote).***

## **VII. Report from the UNH Student Senate External Affairs Chair or Designee**

UNH Student Senate External Affairs Chair Olivia Welsh said the Student Senate was:

- Preparing for all its upcoming elections.
- Just began an electric vehicle and traffic safety commission.
- Trying to brainstorm more long-term solutions to address trash on Town streets.

## **VIII. Unanimous Consent Agenda** *(Requires unanimous approval. Individual items may be removed by any councilor for separate discussion and vote)*

- A. Shall the Town Council, Upon Recommendation of the Administrator, Award the Construction Contract for the Madbury Road Phase I Utility (Water and Sewer) Project to Joseph P. Cardillo of Wakefield, MA for a Total Bid Price Not to Exceed \$2,281,044.95, Subject to Available Funding?
- B. Shall the Town Council, Upon Recommendation of the Administrator, Approve the Construction Inspection, Design and Administration Contract for the Madbury Road Phase I Utility (Water and Sewer) Complete Streets Project with VHB Engineers of Bedford, NH in the amount of \$250,000, Subject to Available Funding?
- C. Shall the Town Council unseal the Nonpublic Session minutes from the year 2001 dated January 29, February 5, April 2, April 9, April 16, May 21, and August 6?

***Chair Needell MOVED approval of Unanimous Agenda Items A-C above, as presented. Councilor Hotchkiss SECONDED the motion and it PASSED unanimously 9-0 on a roll call***

*vote: Councilor Hotchkiss—Aye, Councilor Lonske—Aye, Councilor Burton—Aye, Chair Pro Tem Lawson—Aye, Chair Needell—Aye, Councilor Lund—Aye, Councilor Friedrichs—Aye, Councilor Friedman—Aye, Councilor Welsh – Aye (via a “thumbs up”)*

**VI. Public Comments (\*)** – Please state your name and address before speaking

Councilor Friedrichs asked that there be a brief explanation of what the parameters and guidelines are regarding Public Comments.

Chair Pro Tem Lawson explained that the Council follows “Robert’s Rules of Order” and during Public Comments ask that those speaking show courtesy and respect to members of the public. Members of the public do not have the right to disturb the meeting, and the Council may prohibit reactions such as booing, hissing, or clapping, if inappropriate. Therefore, be respectful of the people speaking, and it is a good opportunity to listen.

Councilor Lund read the statement at the end of the agenda that addresses this issue:

*“The public comment portion of the Council meeting is to allow members of the public to address matters of public concern regarding town government for up to 5 minutes. Obscene, violent, disruptive, disorderly comments, or those likely to induce violence, disruption, or disorder, are not permitted and will not be tolerated. Complaints regarding Town staff should be directed to the Administrator.”*

Chair Needell asked members of the public desiring to comment on the proposed resolution that the Council will be taking up later on in the meeting to wait and do so after others have had an opportunity to comment on other items other than the resolution.

**Jay Gooze, 9 Meadow Road**, thanked the Council for its work. He said that after having served on the Council with both Councilors Caren Welsh and Jim Lawson, he has never met two more dedicated individuals (especially Councilor Lawson). He also gave kudos to UNH and its sports department.

**William (Bill) Hall, Smith Park Lane**, noted that a few years ago Administrator Selig arranged to have a staff member to provide a 30-minute presentation on the Town’s water system and that virtually nothing that the Council was told was correct. He provided examples relative to the Town’s 401 Water Quality Certification from the State of New Hampshire.

**Beth Olshansky, Packers Falls Road**, offered her appreciation to those Council members who are stepping down. She said that she was very overwhelmed when Councilor Lawson read the list of accomplishments by the Town over the past decade, and as a community, Durham is different and able to work together as a community regardless of different opinions and perspectives. She shared personal comments that she had for each of the four outgoing Council members.

**Curtis Register, 6 Rocky Lane**, reintroduced himself as a candidate for Town Council. He said he was grateful for the quality of individuals that sit at the Town Council table, and who dedicate their time and efforts to improving Durham. He said he believes in service to others and would like to contribute toward that positive atmosphere and continue to make Durham a place that attracts high quality civil servants, residents, and staff.

**Robin Mower, Britton Lane**, said she would like to pay tribute to those involved 50 years ago in preventing the construction of the Onasis Oil Refinery in 1974. She thanked Councilors Welsh, Lawson, and Hotchkiss for their service on the Council and on other boards, commissions, and committees. She concluded by reading an excerpt from the book Three Men in a Boat (to Say Nothing of the Dog) written by Jerome K. Jerome in 1889.

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The following individuals spoke in **favor** of the resolution calling for the ceasefire in Palestine:

**Adeena Ahsan, Garrison**, a second year Graduate student at UNH.

**Marlise Hyde, 47 Emerson Road**.

**Rebecca Fabian**. She also read a statement supporting the resolution on behalf of Jessica Ernakovich, 13 Sunnyside Drive.

**Nikulas Plesak, Garrison Avenue**.

**Joshua Meyrowitz, 7 Chesley Drive**.

**Jed Siebert, Madbury Road**.

**Lane Lloyd, 93 Packers Falls Road**.

**RJ Riley, a Graduate student at UNH**.

**William Brandenburg, an undergraduate student at UNH**.

**Doug Molson, 15 Mill Road, UNH student**.

**Sean LaFond, UNH student**.

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The following individuals spoke **against** the resolution calling for the ceasefire in Palestine:

**Geoffrey Lombard, 48 Edgewood Road**

**Gavin Riley, 48 Edgewood Road**, asked the Council, when voting, to think about whether the resolution will help the people in the Durham community.

**Deborah Hirsch-Mayer, 19 Garden Lane**. Expressed her thanks to the members of the Council that are stepping down as well as her opposition to the resolution.

**Karen Schnur, 7 Laurel Lane**, read a letter on behalf of Professor Richard England who was ill and unable to attend the Council meeting, opposing the passage of the resolution.

**IX. Committee Appointments - None**

**X. Presentation Items - None**

**XI. Unfinished Business**

Discussion and possible Adoption of **Resolution #2024-10** Acknowledging the Impact of the Israel-Gaza Conflict on Residents of the Town of Durham, New Hampshire; Affirming the Town's Stance Against Hate, Bigotry, and Discrimination; and Calling for the Safe Release of All Hostages, the Provision of Humanitarian aid to Civilians in Gaza, and a Durable Bilateral Ceasefire Among the Parties to the Israel-Gaza Conflict.

Councilor Lonske said her thinking has evolved through this process over the past two weeks. The part that has not changed is the horror of what is going on and the desire to find some way to make it stop. She said after hearing or reading comments from people asking if it was appropriate or useful for the Durham Town Council to take a position on this matter. She said she has concluded that although she will write to officials in local and federal government, she does not really believe that is what the Town Council as a body should do. She recommended that the Council not bring the resolution to a vote, and if it does go forward with a vote, for the reasons just stated, she would vote against it.

Councilor Burton said he disagreed with the criticism that the Town Council shouldn't say anything. He said there is a plaque in the middle of the square in downtown Durham with his name on it and others who fought in Vietnam and protested the War. He said if the War in Gaza continues, the United States will become involved and noted that American soldiers are already there. He said he strongly supports the resolution that the Council passed the last time because he knows from his experience in Vietnam while working with the Vietnamese and Americans that the shooting has to stop before there can be any talking. He said the Americans killed 11,000 Vietnamese people in the Mekong Delta, 7,000 of which were innocent civilians because it was a free fire zone, and when civilians are intermingled in war, it is they who suffer. He felt the Town Council has an obligation to point out its own borderless consciousness and comment on what it may consider immoral activities wherever they are happening and whomever is doing them, which is why he supports the resolution.

Chair Pro Tem Lawson said he understood the concern that the Town Council should not delve in matters that go outside the Town borders; however, he believed the resolution was important because 1) Residents are funding something that is very disturbing and funding it with their tax dollars; and, 2) He firmly believes that the Town's student residents and permanent residents have not been listened to and there is nothing more appropriate for a Town Council to do but give people who are not being heard a collective voice. So, he hoped the Council could move forward with the resolution this evening, and if it moved forward with Councilor Friedrichs' resolution, he would suggest some changes that he does not believe to be substantive in nature. He said he greatly appreciated Administrator Selig's efforts to put together a resolution, but if the Council moved forward with that resolution, he believed there would be more substantive changes that he would propose. Therefore, he said he would like to proceed with Councilor Friedrichs' resolution as a starting point, and he hoped the Council could pass something this evening.

Chair Needell said she appreciated all the comments that have been made and it was important to hear from residents of Durham, from UNH and the surrounding community. She said the Town did receive emails and telephone calls. Today, 348 emails were received, all saying the

same thing but from different people. She said she looks at the situation and considers the Town's absolutes, which she sees as the Town Council's goals. She said her concern is whether the resolution will be unifying for the citizens of Durham. She noted that one of the Council's goals reads, in part: *"Pursue long-term social resiliency and quality of life in Durham intended to strengthen the community in a welcoming and inclusive manner by supporting the needs of residents, families, and other identified stakeholders ..."* Chair Needell said she felt it was important for the Council to build community and thought that both resolutions attempt to solve a huge problem and build community, but it was not clear to her that either resolution could do that at this time. She also looks at the US government and that Vice President Kamala Harris is calling for an immediate ceasefire, so she felt it was happening that what Durham shares with the federal government may not add anything to what is already happening. Therefore, her inclination currently is not to pass the resolution at all.

Councilor Lund thanked those who came out this evening and Town residents who have written both in favor and against the resolution. He said he understands the argument that something on this level might be beyond the Town's remit, but he thought things were at a point that the community has to consider the broader world. Durham is a university Town, and the Council has no other choice but to think about the wider world. In a perfect world, the United States government would have already acted on this matter and Durham would not need a resolution of this type but he felt that things have reached the point where it is necessary to act and that he supports Councilor Friedrich's draft resolution as a starter point for the discussion.

Councilor Friedrichs explained the reasons ze felt the need to craft the resolution. First, ze said it was important to zir to recognize a lot of residents' concerns that this is not the right place for such a statement, and for zir there was a question of do we pretend that this tension does not exist in the community over this issue or is the community better off to acknowledge it. Ze also felt there was a lot to be said about Councilor Burton's point regarding voices going unheard and is there a reason to uplift those voices at certain points. Ze said for zir that is why ze really wanted to ground a resolution in human rights because ze felt that by establishing a Human Rights Commission in Durham, and some of the other Council goals, the Town is committed to those human rights. Ze felt the way in which the resolution can be unifying is really to return to what are human rights, broadly speaking, to affirm them to all people and to also acknowledge what makes the opposite of human rights, which could be wars crimes or crimes against humanity as specified by the United Nations. Ze said for zir, by returning to those definitions, the Town of Durham as a community, all acknowledge and recognize those human rights and see those as base values that the community agrees with and supports. Councilor Friedrichs said the other issue that concerned zir a lot was learning about the instances of antisemitism that have been occurring in the Durham community. Ze felt it was important to have more of a conversation around this issue which is why ze suggested bringing in "New Hampshire Listens" or the Town taking a more active role with perhaps some funding or facilitating a conversation because of the increase in antisemitism nationally, internationally, and even within the Durham community. Lastly, Councilor Friedrichs said ze felt the connection of what does distinguish this issue. One is that a significant number of residents have asked that the resolution be considered. Second, ze said there is a connection to citizens as taxpayers in the United States who are funding military actions. Third, is the scale of number of lives that have been lost in just a short period of time as well as the lives that are at risk are many more times over that in the coming months as the humanitarian crisis and starvation concerns have gotten so severe. These are the reasons why it may make sense to talk about this issue as a resolution at this time.

Councilor Friedman said since the last meeting he has spent time reflecting on the meeting and reviewing emails and resolutions that have been suggested by others. There was the original draft that was presented to the Council, the Administrator's draft, Councilor Friedrichs' draft, Councilor Welsh's draft, and the City of Portsmouth's draft, all of which were presented to the Council. He said after reviewing all of them he has decided that the City of Portsmouth's draft is the one closest to what he thinks would be the best draft to sign. He noted that there is a Durham Human Rights Commission which will be meeting on Thursday. He felt the resolution should go to the HRC first to weigh-in. He said the Council relies on its commissions, boards, and committees for advice and believed the same should occur with this resolution. Regarding the argument that US tax dollars are used to fund the war, Councilor Friedman said that Durham tax dollars do go to Washington, but we do not spend them. The federal representatives are the ones who spend them. Regarding the notion that comments are falling on deaf ears, he said he did not know if that was true but felt if there is an issue with tax dollars and how they are spent it would be more appropriate that concerned residents be the ones to address them. Councilor Friedman said that Chair Pro Tem Lawson's comments earlier about the Town's accomplishments were excellent. This issue has taken up a great deal of the Council's time reviewing and discussing it. He did not believe it was the Council's place to be doing that, it is distracting, is keeping the Council from doing Town work and this issue is not Town work, and he did not believe it was appropriate for the Council to be passing resolutions about world affairs and overall did not believe it was necessary to have the resolution.

Councilor Welsh said he has listened very carefully to everyone that has spoken and has done a lot of research himself on the issue. He noted that he had sent over his suggested changes to the resolution to the Council and that he would prefer that the Council make a fairly simplified resolution that would say the Council is for the three things he mentioned in his draft resolution. He said that he shared some concerns by his fellow Councilors about whether or not the Council should be passing a resolution but thought that in this instance the Council should pass the resolution and therefore hoped that a resolution could be finalized and agreed upon this evening. He added that people have spoken about whether the Council should be passing such a resolution and whether it should leave foreign affairs to the federal government. He said he lost a good friend to the Iraq invasion and he did not think it was reasonable to assume the United States government will do the right thing and that the only way to get the government to change what it is doing is to do what Durham is trying to do and push back.

Councilor Hotchkiss acknowledged and honored all of those who stood up to speak from varying points of view and was proud that in a Town like Durham there could be a meeting this large on such a controversial topic while still retaining respect for one another and engaging in civil discourse. Regarding the 348 copies of the same email message, he ran a sample of them, and none have an address, and over one-third of them were not even signed. Therefore, he did not think that contributed much to the Council's deliberations. Councilor Hotchkiss said that in the interest of full disclosure, he has participated in several vigils outside the Congressional office calling for a ceasefire. He said that he was concerned about the issues raised by Councilors this evening, to some degree about the appropriateness of addressing this issue, although he did believe it was an urgent enough issue that the Council needs to do so. But more about finding ways that the Council can engage others in this kind of dialogue and conversation, and in fact have more exchange between people of differing viewpoints, even in this room. He said he was impressed by the way Administrator Selig's draft tried to strike the right balance, and that he would use that draft as the starting point for a resolution, incorporating some of Councilor Welsh's recommendations. He felt there is an urgency to this issue that would be

undermined if the Council spent months sending a resolution through different Town boards and commissions and he was interested in trying to finalize a resolution at this evening's meeting.

Administrator Selig said that at the last Town Council meeting, no one on the Council anticipated that they would have the request that was made or that it would be so significant with such thoughtful outpouring of support and urgent requests. He said that as the Town Administrator, he preferred that the Town not engage in international affairs because the Town has very little bandwidth that stretches it quite thin. In addition, the Town has a lot of information about what is happening in Durham, it does not necessarily have that same level of detail about what is happening elsewhere, and he does not like for Durham to weigh in on an issue and say/assert things that once you learn more, one learns is not exactly accurate. Therefore, his preference would be for Durham to not weigh in on this issue, although he understands the importance of it. That said, the Council did direct him to craft a resolution, which he spent a lot of time doing. He said the concern he had is that he is not an expert on Middle East affairs and provided a detailed explanation of how he came to the final draft resolution produced on this issue. He said copies of all the draft revised resolutions were available for reviewing.

Councilor Burton noted that the Jewish Federation of North America responded to say that this is one of the best resolutions it has seen. Chair Needell clarified that the Jewish Federation was not writing to give its support for the resolution, only to say that if it were to be approved it was the best one it has seen.

At this time, the Council began its review, extensive discussion, and suggested amendments to the resolution using Administrator Selig's revised draft and Councilor Friedrichs' initial draft.

***Councilor Lund MOVED that the Durham Town Council does hereby ADOPT Resolution #2024-10 as amended. Councilor Burton SECONDED the motion.***

Chair Pro Tem Lawson reviewed what he felt reflected the changes that were discussed and agreed to using the latest draft resolution provided by Administrator Selig.

Chair Needell reiterated that she was supportive of these items but just did not think it was the right thing to do as a Town Councilor when she was not feeling she was representing all the residents of Durham.

Chair Pro Tem Lawson said that if Chair Needell preferred, he believed that her reason could be grounds to abstain from voting.

After some further comments, Chair Needell called for a vote on the motion.

***and it PASSED 6-2-1 on a roll call vote: Councilor Hotchkiss—Aye, Councilor Lonske—No, Councilor Burton—Aye, Chair Pro Tem Lawson—Aye, Chair Needell—No, Councilor Lund—Aye, Councilor Friedrichs—Aye, Councilor Friedman—Abstained (Felt the Durham Human Rights Commission should have the ability to provide its recommendation to the Council), Councilor Welsh – Aye***

The complete discussion, comments, concerns, and decisions regarding this agenda item may be viewed on DCAT on Demand at [www.ci.durham.nh.us](http://www.ci.durham.nh.us).

**XII. Approval of Minutes** – February 5, 2024 (Postponed to next meeting)

**XIII. Councilor and Town Administrator Roundtable**

Administrator Selig noted that the annual Town Election will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at the Oyster River High School. The polls open at 7AM and close at 7PM.

**XIV. New Business** - None

**XV. Nonpublic Session (if required)**

**XVI. Extended Councilor and Town Administrator Roundtable (if required)**

**XVII. Adjourn (NLT 10:30 PM)**

*Councilor Lonske MOVED to ADJOURN the meeting. The motion was SECONDED by Councilor Burton and PASSED unanimously 9-0 by a roll call vote: Councilor Hotchkiss—Aye, Councilor Lonske—No, Councilor Burton—Aye, Chair Pro Tem Lawson—Aye, Chair Needell—No, Councilor Lund—Aye, Councilor Friedrichs—Aye, Councilor Friedman—Aye, Councilor Welsh – Aye*

**The meeting ADJOURNED at 10:46 PM.**

Jennie Berry, Minutes Taker