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**D-R-A-F-T**

**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).*

1 **V. Special Announcements**

2  
3 A. Adoption of **Resolution #2024-08** Recognizing Outgoing Elected Officials for their Services to  
4 the Town of Durham.

5  
6 *Chair Needell read Resolution #2024-08 recognizing and listing all those outgoing elected*  
7 *officials for their services to the Town of Durham. Afterward, Chair Needell MOVED that the*  
8 *Durham Town Council does hereby ADOPT Resolution #2024-08 recognizing outgoing*  
9 *elected officials for their services to the Town of Durham. The motion was SECONDED by*  
10 *Councilor Lund.*

11  
12 Councilor Lonske thanked the citizens of Durham who elected her to serve on the Town  
13 Council. She said it has been a real pleasure and she appreciated the Council for the work it  
14 does.

15  
16 The four outgoing Council members, Councilor Lonske, Chair Pro Tem Lawson, Councilor  
17 Hotchkiss, and Councilor Welsh were presented with Certificates of Appreciation for their  
18 services.

19  
20 Chair Pro Tem Lawson thanked the members of the current Councilors and all previous  
21 Councilors saying it had been a real honor to have served with them. He also thanked the many  
22 people he served with on various Town committees, including the Planning Board, Conservation  
23 Commission, Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee, Energy Committee, Historic  
24 District/Heritage Commission, Economic Development Committee, and the Land Stewardship  
25 Subcommittee—all incredible residents of Durham.

26  
27 Chair Pro Tem Lawson said he had spoken with a resident downtown recently who commented  
28 that it must be frustrating to be a member of the Council because nothing gets done. Chair Pro  
29 Tem Lawson said he could understand that perspective with so much of the work at the state and  
30 federal levels being stifled by polarized politics, but that Durham is different, and he hoped that  
31 never changes.

32  
33 Chair Pro Tem Lawson reflected on what “we” as a Town have accomplished in the last dozen  
34 years, because new residents don’t know what the Town has accomplished or that maybe the  
35 Town is starting to forget. So, who is “we”? “We” are the extraordinary Town staff, the  
36 Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, Agricultural Commission, Parks & Recreation  
37 Committee, Historic District/Heritage Commission, Durham Human Rights Commission, and  
38 others. It’s our residents. They are the biggest part of the “we”. It’s also the Town Council. So  
39 collectively, what did “we” accomplish?

- 40  
41 • “We” zoned, re-zoned, and successfully planned over 600 quality housing apartments in the  
42 community; many occupied by the Town’s student residents. Many were replacing what was  
43 really squalled housing that took advantage of Durham’s students.  
44 • “We” partnered on conserving the Oyster River Forest, Ambler Acres, Thompson Forest,  
45 Steven’s Woods, and other lands.  
46 • “We” moved the Town Library from a storefront in the Mill Plaza to its new home on Madbury  
47 Road.

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

21  
22 So, thank you all. Thank you to Gail and Rich, Renee and David, Audrey, Rachel D., and Rachel  
23 G. for your incredible work. Thank you for the incredible teams that you manage. And thank you  
24 especially to Todd. You are the visionary conductor that orchestrates all of this and keeps us  
25 plank well through all the highs and lows and moving us toward more accomplishments in the  
26 next decade.

27  
28 Councilor Hotchkiss received his Certificate and said that he would encourage anyone thinking  
29 about public service in the Town of Durham to pursue it. He found that during the time he served  
30 on the Town Council not only did he find a great appreciation for the talents and expertise of  
31 Town staff, Department Heads, the Administrator, and Council Chair but also the extraordinary  
32 volunteers who serve on the various Town boards, commissions, and committees. He concluded  
33 by saying that even though he will not be in the role of Council member (at least for a while), he  
34 looked forward to other opportunities to participate with many of the Durham citizens in shaping  
35 the community.

36  
37 Chair Needell called for the vote on the motion which ***PASSED on a roll call vote of 9-0:***  
38 ***Councilor Friedman—Aye, Councilor Friedrichs—Aye, Councilor Lund—Aye, Chair***  
39 ***Needell—Aye, Chair Pro Tem Lawson—Aye, Councilor Burton—Aye, Councilor Lonske—***  
40 ***Aye, Councilor Welsh—Aye, Councilor Hotchkiss—Aye***

41  
42 ***Councilor Burton made a MOTION that Chair Pro Tem Lawson’s remarks be made a part of***  
43 ***the permanent record of this Council meeting. The motion was SECONDED by Councilor***  
44 ***Lonske and PASSED on a roll call vote of 8-0-1: Councilor Friedman—Aye, Councilor***  
45 ***Friedrichs—Aye, Councilor Lund—Aye, Chair Needell—Aye, Chair Pro Tem Lawson—***  
46 ***Abstained, Councilor Burton—Aye, Councilor Lonske—Aye, Councilor Welsh—Aye,***  
47 ***Councilor Hotchkiss—Aye***  
48

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

4  
5 Chair Pro Tem Lawson said the Town has not had a problem such as this in a number of years  
6 and its very disconcerting when it does occur, especially speaking as a member of the Jewish  
7 family.

8  
9 Chair Needell asked Town residents Nancy Sandberg and Dudley Dudley to stand and be  
10 recognized (two of those involved in the efforts to prevent the construction of the Oil Refinery  
11 in 1974).

12  
13 At this time, Chair Needell read Resolution #2024-09 in its entirety and *made a MOTION to*  
14 *ADOPT Resolution #2024-09 Recognizing Those Whose Steadfast Efforts Resulted in the*  
15 *Historic 1974 Town Vote To Prohibit Construction of an Oil Refinery Along the Shore of*  
16 *Great Bay at Durham Point, on the 50th Anniversary of the Event. The motion was*  
17 *SECONDED by Councilor Friedman.*

18  
19 Councilor Burton noted that New Hampshire is not a home rule state by Constitution and is the  
20 only place in the state statutes where it says that a Town can reject an Oil Refinery, which is  
21 quite an accomplishment. More so than anyone realizes.

22  
23 Chair Needell called for the vote on the motion which *PASSED on a roll call vote of 8-0:*  
24 *Councilor Hotchkiss—Aye, Councilor Lonske—Aye, Councilor Burton—Aye, Chair Pro Tem*  
25 *Lawson—Aye, Chair Needell—Aye, Councilor Lund—Aye, Councilor Friedrichs—Aye,*  
26 *Councilor Friedman—Aye, (Councilor Welsh was not present for the vote).*

27  
28 **VII. Report from the UNH Student Senate External Affairs Chair or Designee**

29  
30 UNH Student Senate External Affairs Chair Olivia Welsh said the Student Senate was:

- 31
  - 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.

32  
33  
34  
35 **VIII. Unanimous Consent Agenda** *(Requires unanimous approval. Individual items may be*  
36 *removed by any councilor for separate discussion and vote)*

- 37 A. Shall the Town Council, Upon Recommendation of the Administrator, Award the Construction  
38 Contract for the Madbury Road Phase I Utility (Water and Sewer) Project to Joseph P. Cardillo  
39 of Wakefield, MA for a Total Bid Price Not to Exceed \$2,281,044.95, Subject to Available  
40 Funding?  
41 B. Shall the Town Council, Upon Recommendation of the Administrator, Approve the  
42 Construction Inspection, Design and Administration Contract for the Madbury Road Phase I  
43 Utility (Water and Sewer) Complete Streets Project with VHB Engineers of Bedford, NH in the  
44 amount of \$250,000, Subject to Available Funding?  
45 C. Shall the Town Council unseal the Nonpublic Session minutes from the year 2001 dated January  
46 29, February 5, April 2, April 9, April 16, May 21, and August 6?

47  
48 *Chair Needell MOVED approval of Unanimous Agenda Items A-C above, as presented.*  
49 *Councilor Hotchkiss SECONDED the motion and it PASSED unanimously 9-0 on a roll call*

1 *vote: Councilor Hotchkiss—Aye, Councilor Lonske—Aye, Councilor Burton—Aye, Chair*  
2 *Pro Tem Lawson—Aye, Chair Needell—Aye, Councilor Lund—Aye, Councilor Friedrichs—*  
3 *Aye, Councilor Friedman—Aye, Councilor Welsh – Aye (via a “thumbs up”)*  
4

5 **VI. Public Comments (\*)** – Please state your name and address before speaking  
6

7 Councilor Friedrichs asked that there be a brief explanation of what the parameters and  
8 guidelines are regarding Public Comments.  
9

10 Chair Pro Tem Lawson explained that the Council follows “Robert’s Rules of Order” and during  
11 Public Comments ask that those speaking show courtesy and respect to members of the public.  
12 Members of the public do not have the right to disturb the meeting, and the Council may  
13 prohibit reactions such as booing, hissing, or clapping, if inappropriate. Therefore, be respectful  
14 of the people speaking, and it is a good opportunity to listen.  
15

16 Councilor Lund read the statement at the end of the agenda that addresses this issue:  
17

18 *“The public comment portion of the Council meeting is to allow members of the public to*  
19 *address matters of public concern regarding town government for up to 5 minutes. Obscene,*  
20 *violent, disruptive, disorderly comments, or those likely to induce violence, disruption, or*  
21 *disorder, are not permitted and will not be tolerated. Complaints regarding Town staff should*  
22 *be directed to the Administrator.”*  
23

24 Chair Needell asked members of the public desiring to comment on the proposed resolution that  
25 the Council will be taking up later on in the meeting to wait and do so after others have had an  
26 opportunity to comment on other items other than the resolution.  
27

28 **Jay Gooze, 9 Meadow Road**, thanked the Council for its work. He said that after having served  
29 on the Council with both Councilors Caren Welsh and Jim Lawson, he has never met two more  
30 dedicated individuals (especially Councilor Lawson). He also gave kudos to UNH and its sports  
31 department.  
32

33 **William (Bill) Hall, Smith Park Lane**, spoke to the content of Councilor Lawson and Councilor  
34 Welsh. He noted that a few years ago Administrator Selig arranged to have a staff member to  
35 provide a 30-minute presentation on the Town’s water system and that virtually nothing that the  
36 Council was told was correct. He provided examples relative to the Town’s 401 Water Quality  
37 Certification from the State of New Hampshire.  
38

39 **Beth Olshansky, Packers Falls Road**, offered her appreciation to those Council members who  
40 are stepping down. She said that she was very overwhelmed when Councilor Lawson read the  
41 list of accomplishments by the Town over the past decade, and as a community, Durham is  
42 different and able to work together as a community regardless of different opinions and  
43 perspectives. She shared personal comments that she had for each of the four outgoing Council  
44 members.  
45

46 **Curtis Register, 6 Rocky Lane**, reintroduced himself as a candidate for Town Council. He said  
47 he was grateful for the quality of individuals that sit at the Town Council table, and who  
48 dedicate their time and efforts to improving Durham. He said he believes in service to others and

1 would like to contribute toward that positive atmosphere and continue to make Durham a place  
2 that attracts high quality civil servants, residents, and staff.  
3

4 **Robin Mower, Britton Lane**, said she would like to pay tribute to those involved 50 years ago  
5 in preventing the construction of the Onasis Oil Refinery in 1974. She thanked Councilors  
6 Welsh, Lawson, and Hotchkiss for their service on the Council and on other boards,  
7 commissions, and committees. She concluded by reading an excerpt from the book Three Men  
8 in a Boat (to Say Nothing of the Dog) written by Jerome K. Jerome in 1889.  
9

10  
11  
12 The following individuals spoke in **favor** of the resolution calling for the ceasefire in Palestine:

13  
14 **Adeena Ahsan, Garrison, a second year Graduate student at UNH.**

15  
16 **Marlise Hyde, 47 Emerson Road.**

17  
18 **Rebecca Fabian.** She also read a statement supporting the resolution on behalf of Jessica  
19 Ernakovich, 13 Sunnyside Drive.  
20

21 **Gavin Riley, 48 Edgewood Road**, asked the Council, when voting, to think about whether the  
22 resolution will help the people in the Durham community.  
23

24 **Nikulas Plesak, Garrison Avenue.**

25  
26 **Joshua Meyrowitz, 7 Chesley Drive.**

27  
28 **Deborah Hirsch-Mayer, 19 Garden Lane.** Expressed her thanks to the members of the  
29 Council that are stepping down as well as her support for the resolution.  
30

31 **Jed Siebert, Madbury Road.**

32  
33 **Lynn Lloyd, 93 Packers Falls Road.**

34  
35 **RJ Riley, a Graduate student at UNH.**

36  
37 **William Brandenburg, an undergraduate student at UNH.**

38  
39 **Ben Wilson, 15 Mill Road, UNH student.**

40  
41 **Sean LaFond, UNH student.**  
42

43  
44  
45 The following individuals spoke **against** the resolution calling for the ceasefire in Palestine:

46  
47 **Geoffrey Lombard, 48 Edgewood Road**  
48

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

3  
4   **IX.     Committee Appointments - None**

5  
6   **X.     Presentation Items - None**

7  
8   **XI.    Unfinished Business**

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

14  
15          Councilor Lonske said her thinking has evolved through this process over the past two weeks.  
16          The part that has not changed is the horror of what is going on and the desire to find some way  
17          to make it stop. She said after hearing or reading comments from people asking if it was  
18          appropriate or useful for the Durham Town Council to take a position on this matter. She said  
19          she has concluded that although she will write to officials in local and federal government, she  
20          does not really believe that is what the Town Council as a body should do. She recommended  
21          that the Council not bring the resolution to a vote, and if it does go forward with a vote, for the  
22          reasons just stated, she would vote against it.

23  
24          Councilor Burton said he disagreed with the criticism that the Town Council shouldn’t say  
25          anything. He said there is a plaque in the middle of the square in downtown Durham with his  
26          name on it and others who fought in Vietnam and protested the War. He said if the War in Gaza  
27          continues, the United States will become involved and noted that American soldiers are already  
28          there. He said he strongly supports the resolution that the Council passed the last time because  
29          he knows from his experience in Vietnam while working with the Vietnamese and Americans  
30          that the shooting has to stop before there can be any talking. He said the Americans killed  
31          11,000 Vietnamese people in the Mekong Delta, 7,000 of which were innocent civilians because  
32          it was a free fire zone, and when civilians are intermingled in war, it is they who suffer. He felt  
33          the Town Council has an obligation to point out its own borderless consciousness and comment  
34          on what it may consider immoral activities wherever they are happening and whomever is doing  
35          them, which is why he supports the resolution.

36  
37          Chair Pro Tem Lawson said he understood the concern that the Town Council should not delve  
38          in matters that go outside the Town borders; however, he believed the resolution was important  
39          because 1) Residents are funding something that is very disturbing and funding it with their tax  
40          dollars; and, 2) He firmly believes that the Town’s student residents and permanent residents  
41          have not been listened to and there is nothing more appropriate for a Town Council to do but  
42          give people who are not being heard a collective voice. So, he hoped the Council could move  
43          forward with the resolution this evening, and if it moved forward with Councilor Friedrichs’  
44          resolution, he would suggest some changes that he does not believe to be substantive in nature.  
45          He said he greatly appreciated Administrator Selig’s efforts to put together a resolution, but if  
46          the Council moved forward with that resolution, he believed there would be more substantive  
47          changes that he would propose. Therefore, he said he would like to proceed with Councilor  
48          Friedrichs’ resolution as a starting point, and he hoped the Council could pass something this  
49          evening.

1 Chair Needell said she appreciated all the comments that have been made and it was important  
2 to hear from residents of Durham, from UNH and the surrounding community. She said the  
3 Town did receive emails and telephone calls. Today, 348 emails were received, all saying the  
4 same thing but from different people. She said she looks at the situation and considers the  
5 Town’s absolutes, which she sees as the Town Council’s goals. She said her concern is whether  
6 the resolution will be unifying for the citizens of Durham. She noted that one of the Council’s  
7 goals reads, in part: *“Pursue long-term social resiliency and quality of life in Durham intended  
8 to strengthen the community in a welcoming and inclusive manner by supporting the needs of  
9 residents, families, and other identified stakeholders ...”* Chair Needell said she felt it was  
10 important for the Council to build community and thought that both resolutions attempt to solve  
11 a huge problem and build community, but it was not clear to her that either resolution could do  
12 that at this time. She also looks at the US government and that Vice President Kamala Harris is  
13 calling for an immediate ceasefire, so she felt it was happening that what Durham shares with  
14 the federal government may not add anything to what is already happening. Therefore, her  
15 inclination currently is not to pass the resolution at all.

16  
17 Councilor Lund thanked those who came out this evening and Town residents who have written  
18 both in favor and against the resolution. He said he understands the argument that something on  
19 this level might be beyond the Town’s remit, but he thought things were at a point that the  
20 community has to consider the broader world. Durham is a university Town, and the Council has  
21 no other choice but to think about the wider world. In a perfect world, the United States  
22 government would have already acted on this matter and Durham would not need a resolution of  
23 this type but he felt that things have reached the point where it is necessary to act and that he  
24 supports Councilor Friedrich’s draft resolution as a starter point for the discussion.

25  
26 Councilor Friedrichs explained the reasons ze felt the need to craft the resolution. First, ze said it  
27 was important to zir to recognize a lot of residents’ concerns that this is not the right place for  
28 such a statement, and for zir there was a question of do we pretend that this tension does not  
29 exist in the community over this issue or is the community better off to acknowledge it. Ze also  
30 felt there was a lot to be said about Councilor Burton’s point regarding voices going unheard  
31 and is there a reason to uplift those voices at certain points. Ze said for zir that is why ze really  
32 wanted to ground a resolution in human rights because ze felt that by establishing a Human  
33 Rights Commission in Durham, and some of the other Council goals, the Town is committed to  
34 those human rights. Ze felt the way in which the resolution can be unifying is really to return to  
35 what are human rights, broadly speaking, to affirm them to all people and to also acknowledge  
36 what makes the opposite of human rights, which could be wars crimes or crimes against  
37 humanity as specified by the United Nations. Ze said for zir, by returning to those definitions,  
38 the Town of Durham as a community, all acknowledge and recognize those human rights and  
39 see those as base values that the community agrees with and supports. Councilor Friedrichs said  
40 the other issue that concerned zir a lot was learning about the instances of antisemitism that have  
41 been occurring in the Durham community. Ze felt it was important to have more of a  
42 conversation around this issue which is why ze suggested bringing in “New Hampshire Listens”  
43 or the Town taking a more active role with perhaps some funding or facilitating a conversation  
44 because of the increase in antisemitism nationally, internationally, and even within the Durham  
45 community. Lastly, Councilor Friedrichs said ze felt the connection of what does distinguish this  
46 issue. One is that a significant number of residents have asked that the resolution be considered.  
47 Second, ze said there is a connection to citizens as taxpayers in the United States who are  
48 funding military actions. Third, is the scale of number of lives that have been lost in just a short  
49 period of time as well as the lives that are at risk are many more times over that in the coming



1 months as the humanitarian crisis and starvation concerns have gotten so severe. These are the  
2 reasons why it may make sense to talk about this issue as a resolution at this time.  
3

4 Councilor Friedman said since the last meeting he has spent time reflecting on the meeting and  
5 reviewing emails and resolutions that have been suggested by others. There was the original  
6 draft that was presented to the Council, the Administrator's draft, Councilor Friedrichs' draft,  
7 Councilor Welsh's draft, and the City of Portsmouth's draft, all of which were presented to the  
8 Council. He said after reviewing all of them he has decided that the City of Portsmouth's draft is  
9 the one closest to what he thinks would be the best draft to sign. He noted that there is a Durham  
10 Human Rights Commission which will be meeting on Thursday. He felt the resolution should go  
11 to the HRC first to weigh-in. He said the Council relies on its commissions, boards, and  
12 committees for advice and believed the same should occur with this resolution. Regarding the  
13 argument that US tax dollars are used to fund the war, Councilor Friedman said that Durham tax  
14 dollars do go to Washington, but we do not spend them. The federal representatives are the ones  
15 who spend them. Regarding the notion that comments are falling on deaf ears, he said he did not  
16 know if that was true but felt if there is an issue with tax dollars and how they are spent it would  
17 be more appropriate that concerned residents be the ones to address them. Councilor Friedman  
18 said that Chair Pro Tem Lawson's comments earlier about the Town's accomplishments were  
19 excellent and that this issue has taken up a great deal of the Council's time reviewing and  
20 discussing it. He did not believe it was the Council's place to be doing that, it is distracting, is  
21 keeping the Council from doing Town work and this issue is not Town work, and he did not  
22 believe it was appropriate for the Council to be passing resolutions about world affairs and  
23 overall did not believe it was necessary to have the resolution.  
24

25 Councilor Welsh said he has listened very carefully to everyone that has spoken and has done a  
26 lot of research himself on the issue. He noted that he had sent over his suggested changes to the  
27 resolution to the Council and that he would prefer that the Council make a fairly simplified  
28 resolution that would say the Council is for the three things he mentioned in his draft resolution.  
29 He said that he shared some concerns by his fellow Councilors about whether or not the Council  
30 should be passing a resolution but thought that in this instance the Council should pass the  
31 resolution and therefore hoped that a resolution could be finalized and agreed upon this evening.  
32 He added that people have spoken about whether the Council should be passing such a  
33 resolution and whether it should leave foreign affairs to the federal government. He said he lost  
34 a good friend to the Iraq invasion and he did not think it was reasonable to assume the United  
35 States government will do the right thing and that the only way to get the government to change  
36 what it is doing is to do what Durham is trying to do and push back.  
37

38 Councilor Hotchkiss acknowledged and honored all of those who stood up to speak from  
39 varying points of view and was proud that in a Town like Durham there could be a meeting this  
40 large on such a controversial topic while still retaining respect for one another and engaging in  
41 civil discourse. Regarding the 348 copies of the same email message, he ran a sample of them,  
42 and none have an address, and over one-third of them were not even signed. Therefore, he did  
43 not think that contributed much to the Council's deliberations. Councilor Hotchkiss said that in  
44 the interest of full disclosure, he has participated in several vigils outside the Congressional  
45 office calling for a ceasefire. He said that he was concerned about the issues raised by  
46 Councilors this evening, to some degree about the appropriateness of addressing this issue,  
47 although he did believe it was an urgent enough issue that the Council needs to do so. But more  
48 about finding ways that the Council can engage others in this kind of dialogue and conversation,  
49 and in fact have more exchange between people of differing viewpoints, even in this room. He

1 said he was impressed by the way Administrator Selig’s draft tried to strike the right balance,  
2 and that he would use that draft as the starting point for a resolution, incorporating some of  
3 Councilor Welsh’s recommendations. He felt there is an urgency to this issue that would be  
4 undermined if the Council spent months sending a resolution through different Town boards and  
5 commissions and he was interested in trying to finalize a resolution at this evening’s meeting.  
6

7 Administrator Selig said that at the last Town Council meeting, no one on the Council  
8 anticipated that they would have the request that was made or that it would be so significant with  
9 such thoughtful outpouring of support and urgent requests. He said that as the Town  
10 Administrator, he preferred that the Town not engage in international affairs because the Town  
11 has very little bandwidth that stretches it quite thin. In addition, the Town has a lot of  
12 information about what is happening in Durham, it does not necessarily have that same level of  
13 detail about what is happening elsewhere, and he does not like for Durham to weigh in on an  
14 issue and say/assert things that once you learn more, one learns is not exactly accurate.  
15 Therefore, his preference would be for Durham to not weigh in on this issue, although he  
16 understands the importance of it. That said, the Council did direct him to craft a resolution,  
17 which he spent a lot of time doing. He said the concern he had is that he is not an expert on  
18 Middle East affairs and provided a detailed explanation of how he came to the final draft  
19 resolution produced on this issue. He said copies of all the draft revised resolutions were  
20 available for reviewing.  
21

22 Councilor Burton noted that the Jewish Federation of North America responded to say that this  
23 is one of the best resolutions it has seen. Chair Needell clarified that the Jewish Federation was  
24 not writing to give its support for the resolution, only to say that if it were to be approved it was  
25 the best one it has seen.  
26

27 At this time, the Council began its review, extensive discussion, and suggested amendments to  
28 the resolution using Administrator Selig’s revised draft and Councilor Friedrichs’ initial draft.  
29

30 ***Councilor Lund MOVED that the Durham Town Council does hereby ADOPT Resolution***  
31 ***#2024-10 as amended. Councilor Burton SECONDED the motion.***  
32

33 Chair Pro Tem Lawson reviewed what he felt reflected the changes that were discussed and  
34 agreed to using the latest draft resolution provided by Administrator Selig.  
35

36 Chair Needell reiterated that she was supportive of these items but just did not think it was the  
37 right thing to do as a Town Councilor when she was not feeling she was representing all the  
38 residents of Durham.  
39

40 Chair Pro Tem Lawson said that if Chair Needell preferred, he believed that her reason could be  
41 grounds to abstain from voting.  
42

43 After some further comments, Chair Needell called for a vote on the motion.  
44

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

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

3  
4 **XII. Approval of Minutes** – February 5, 2024 (Postponed to next meeting)

5  
6 **XIII. Councilor and Town Administrator Roundtable**

7  
8 Administrator Selig noted that the annual Town Election will be held on Tuesday, March 12,  
9 2024, at the Oyster River High School. The polls open at 7AM and close at 7PM.

10  
11 **XIV. New Business** - None

12  
13  
14 **XV. Nonpublic Session (if required)**

15  
16 **XVI. Extended Councilor and Town Administrator Roundtable (if required)**

17  
18 **XVII. Adjourn (NLT 10:30 PM)**

19  
20 *Councilor Lonske MOVED to ADJOURN the meeting. The motion was SECONDED by*  
21 *Councilor Burton and PASSED unanimously 9-0 by a roll call vote: Councilor Hotchkiss—*  
22 *Aye, Councilor Lonske—No, Councilor Burton—Aye, Chair Pro Tem Lawson—Aye, Chair*  
23 *Needell—No, Councilor Lund—Aye, Councilor Friedrichs—Aye, Councilor Friedman—Aye,*  
24 *Councilor Welsh – Aye*

25  
26 **The meeting ADJOURNED at 10:46 PM.**

27  
28  
29 Jennie Berry, Minutes Taker