

**LACONIA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
NOVEMBER 14, 2022**

**STAFF REPORT
AGENDA ITEM 21.C.
APPROVAL OF REVISED CITY WELFARE GUIDELINES**

Discussion: RSA 165:1 II requires that each New Hampshire municipality adopt written guidelines relative to the provision of general assistance.

The City Council last adopted Welfare Guidelines on February 25, 2020. Over the last several months staff has reviewed these guidelines and updated them as needed to ensure efficient operation. These guidelines were reviewed by the Finance Committee on October 24, 2022. This revision incorporates feedback received from Committee members during that review. Major revisions include:

- The guidelines have been rewritten to improve clarity and ease of use.
- Allowance for electronic filing and review of applications
- Clarification of job search requirements
- Standards relating to staff protection during home visits have been strengthened
- Reference to the 2021 Advance Child Tax Credit as income
- Allowable levels for rent and burial expenses have been adjusted to reflect current market conditions
- Definitions have been updated.

Fiscal Impact: None.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the revised Welfare Guidelines as presented.

Prepared by: Glenn Smith, Welfare Director

Proposed Motion:

“ I move to adopt the revised Welfare Guidelines as presented.”