

City of Taunton
Municipal Council
March 7, 2023

The Committee on Finance and Salaries

The meeting was held at Taunton City Hall, 15 Summer Street, Taunton, MA 02780 in the Chester R. Martin Municipal Council Chambers.

Present were Councilor Phillip Duarte, Chairman and Councilors Pottier and McCaul.

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM.

- 1. Meet to review the weekly vouchers and payroll for City departments.

MOTION: Approve the payroll warrant in the amount of \$3,807,577.15. **So voted.**

MOTION: Approve the accounts payable warrant in the amount of \$5,429,553.00. **So voted.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 PM.

RECEIVED
 CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
 2023 MAR -8 P 3:55
 TAUNTON, MA
 CIT. TOLSON

CITY OF TAUNTON
 MAR 07 2023
 IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

CITY CLERK

City of Taunton
Municipal Council
March 7, 2023

The Committee on Public Health and Environmental Affairs

The meeting was held at Taunton City Hall, 15 Summer Street, Taunton, MA 02780 in the Chester R. Martin Municipal Council Chambers.

Present were Councilor Phillip Duarte, Chairman, and Councilors Sanders and Pottier. CFO Patrick Dello Russo was also present.

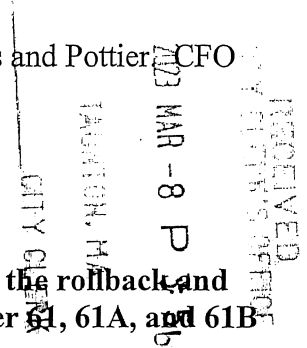
The meeting was called to order at 6:11 PM.

- 1. Meet to discuss the request to create a special revenue account for the rollback and conveyance taxes resulting from the sale and conversion of Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B land.**

Councilor Duarte provided some background on this topic explaining that rollback or conveyance taxes are collected when Chapter land is sold. People who own land in Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B, which are lands used for forestry, agriculture, open space, or recreation, pay a lesser tax and when the property is sold and not used for forestry or other Chapter purpose, a rollback or conveyance is paid. Councilor Duarte showed a chart with the last three properties that were sold and explained that the Assessor's Office estimates a collection of \$37,000 with the most recent property on Tremont Street. He explained that the goal of this proposal is to put these monies into an account for furthering sustainability initiatives for conservation and recreation. Councilor Duarte read the details and purposes of the proposed special revenue account and explained that he has worked with the City Solicitor's Office and the Mayor's Office on creating parameters of the Sustainability Committee but tonight the hope is to just create the necessary special revenue account. He pointed out the list of remaining Chapter land in the City and emphasized that more money could come in from these rollback taxes depending on when people dispose of the land.

Councilor Sanders lent his support in principal to the proposal. He questioned the proposed \$150,000 limit and wondered why the purchase of land when it becomes available wasn't included as a purpose for expending the funds. In his recollection, the City has never exercised its right to purchase these Chapter lands. Mr. Dello Russo indicated that the proposal was not to sit on funds but to use the money where it is needed. Councilor Sanders questioned the purpose that was mentioned of cleaning up blighted properties as he wasn't sure how this tied into the sustainability purpose. Councilor Duarte used Fraga Farm as an example and suggested adding language to specify that it needs to be tied to the other goals.

Councilor Pottier summarized that Chapter land refers to forestland, farms, and open space. Owners receive a tax break but, when selling privately for a different purpose, the City claws



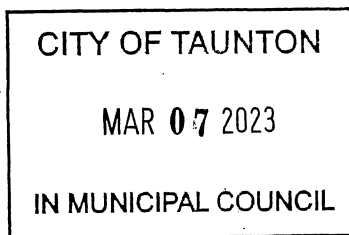
back some of that benefit. He also questioned the \$150,000 limit. Mr. Dello Russo indicated that this would be like a revolving fund and the idea is to get the cash out on the street to where it is needed. Mr. Dello Russo stressed that this is not to be a trust fund for a later purchase.

Councilor Duarte suggested that it would be good for the City to prioritize remaining Chapter land so that, in the event that some piece is to be sold, the Council could look for an appropriation to purchase that piece of property. Councilor Sanders supported this idea stressing that when the right of first refusal comes up, the City has a short window to act. He stated that he thought that SRPEDD was going to look at that and identify prime pieces of Chapter land.

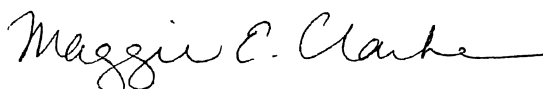
Suggested modifications to the language included increasing the limit above \$150,000 and adding language under purpose #4.

MOTION: *Add this to next week's agenda under Orders with whatever amendments the Chair thinks are appropriate. So voted.*

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM.



Respectfully submitted,



Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.



CITY CLERK