

City of Taunton
Municipal Council
April 4, 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 Councilor Pottier. Councilor McCauley was absent. Also present were CFO Patrick Dello Russo and interns Joseph Kazlauskas and Michael Gurkovsky.

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM.

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

MOTION: *Approve the payroll warrant in the amount of \$3,971,172.07. So voted.*

MOTION: *Approve the accounts payable warrant in the amount of \$1,328,654.98. So voted.*

2. Meet with the CFO for an update on the internship program and revenue trends.

Patrick Dello Russo gave an update on the City's internship program, specifically the finance department internships. This program provides the opportunity to see real life decision making processes. Two interns, Michael Gurkovsky and Joseph Kazlauskas introduced themselves. Mr. Gurkovsky graduated from Oregon State University with a BS in science before moving to Massachusetts. He is studying Political Science at Bridgewater State. Mr. Kazlauskas attends Taunton High School and is planning to attend Gordon College and major in accounting.

Mr. Kazlauskas gave a brief presentation on revenue distribution which showed that almost 50% of revenue comes from real estate taxes, 34% from state aid, 9% are interfund transfers, 5% from local receipts, and a small portion from excise tax. He showed an average growth rate of 3.6% per year.

Mr. Gurkovsky spoke about the City's excise revenue and showed that state aid revenue has been steadily increasing from 2018-2022 on an average of 3.47% annually. He explained how ARPA's \$31 Million funded multiple projects.

Councilor Pottier made some suggestions on how the slides might be changed and offered some advice to the interns.

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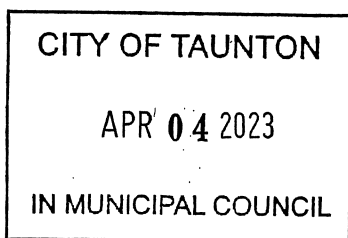
Councilor Duarte asked about which offices the interns had shadowed and Mr. Dello Russo indicated that they had spent time with the assessors and in the treasurer/collector's office in addition to various work in Mr. Dello Russo's office. Mr. Duarte asked for more information about the relationship with the schools and Mr. Dello Russo stated that they are going to try and place more students.

Councilor Sanders stated that internship programs benefit the interns but also benefit the City from the work that is completed. He indicated that he would advocate for a proposal to add some type of compensation and suggested either a scholarship or stipend.

Councilor Borges gave praise to the students and to the program. She also offered her support for a stipend or scholarship. She asked how long the program lasts and Mr. Dello Russo stated that it typically lasts about 90 days and that the goal is to have real life experiences. Councilor Borges suggested that the City look to expand into other departments and that the internship program be thought about during the budget cycle.

Council President Dooner also gave praise to the interns and to Mr. Dello Russo and stressed the importance and value of these types of experiences. She thanked Mr. Dello Russo for his work on this.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 PM.



Respectfully submitted,



Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.



CITY CLERK

City of Taunton
Municipal Council
April 4, 2023

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The Committee on Ordinances and Enrolled Bills

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 Barry Sanders, Chairman and Councilor Dooner. Councilor McCaul was absent. Also present was Attorney Peter Winters.

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

1. Meet to discuss an ordinance determining the process for setting stipends for elected and appointed officials.

Councilor Sanders explained that this came to the Ordinance Committee via a referral after the City Council learned that they had unknowingly voted an increase to the stipend for the School Committee. He indicated that it appears everything so far has been done legally. He has looked at other City Councils to see how they set their stipends. He said that there is a desire to have a more open discussion about stipends for compensated appointed and elected boards and committee members but that the City Council does not have the authority to go into the individual line items in the budget of the School Committee. Mr. Sanders stated that in Fall River and in Springfield all compensation for boards is stipulated in ordinances. He asked if there is any conflict between having a City ordinance setting compensation and state law which prevents the Council from line item control over the School Committee. Attorney Winters advised that the Council does have the authority to set the stipends by ordinance. He suggested that the dollar amount for each board could be stipulated in ordinances or there could be an ordinance that states that no stipend can be increased without the approval of the Council.

Councilor Dooner expressed her support for having a chart in the ordinances that sets the stipends. She believes that this would be easy to understand and thinks the Council should approve increases.

Councilor Borges expressed her support for an ordinance but prefers simply stating that any board's stipend increase comes through the Council.

Councilor Pottier spoke about the School Committee stipend increase that was done without notice and expressed his concern around the issue of transparency. He stated that the Council could vote to reject the School Committee budget for any reason.

Councilor Sanders read a letter dated March 31 from Attorney Winters.

MOTION: *Make the letter part of the record. So voted.*

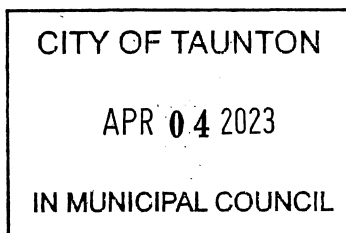
Councilor Postell stated that every year the Council receives only a one line budget summary from the schools which is the largest single expenditure in the City's budget. Other departments are broken down and this doesn't seem consistent or equitable. Attorney Winters stated that the Council can only vote the entire school budget up or down. Councilor Postell stated that he would support any motion that would start the process of seeing line for line where every dollar is supposed to go.

Councilor Pottier stated that School Committee members have indicated that they do not approve their budget and they do not have line item authority. He further stated that there is nothing in the minutes of the School Committee about the stipend increase.

Councilor Duarte confirmed with Attorney Winters that the School Committee would be required to follow City Ordinances when setting their budget. He stated that the intention was to have this in ordinance to have a mechanism to control stipends.

MOTION: *Table the discussion for one week. So voted.*

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 PM.



Respectfully submitted,



Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.



CITY CLERK

City of Taunton
Municipal Council
April 4, 2023

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TAUNTON, MA
2023 APR - 6 PM 2:44

The Committee of the Council as a Whole

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

Present were Council President Kelly Dooner and Councilors Duarte, Borges, Pottier, Sanders, and Postell. Councilors McCaul, Coute, and Quintal were absent. Also present was Brian Giacobbi of Lunar Xtracts.

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM.

- 1. Meet for a pre-review on the issuance of a Special Permit upon the petition of Attorney Adam Brailard of Prince Lobel Tye, LLP, One International Place, Suite 3700, Boston, MA 02110 on behalf of his client, Lunar Xtracts, Inc. 230 Cross Road Dartmouth, MA 02747 to allow a 4,260 sq. ft. marijuana manufacturing establishment to be located at 144 West Britannia Street located in the Industrial District.**

Councilor Duarte recused himself from the matter due to his employment with another marijuana manufacturing establishment at the same address.

Councilor Pottier indicated that likely questions for the hearing would center on safety, community outreach, schematic of the site, backgrounds of core employees, and client base.

Councilor Borges requested a business plan and hours of operation.

Councilor Sanders requested that information be shared in advance. He indicated that topics for discussion might include odor mitigation, number of employees, vehicles and where they might be registered. He also would be interested to know what is being manufactured and to see packaging samples.

Councilor Dooner reiterated the request for a business plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 PM.

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| CITY OF TAUNTON |
| APR 04 2023 |
| IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL |

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees

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