

City of Taunton
Municipal Council
May 2, 2023

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

2023 MAY 11 A 9:33

The Committee on Finance and Salaries

TAUNTON, MA

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

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

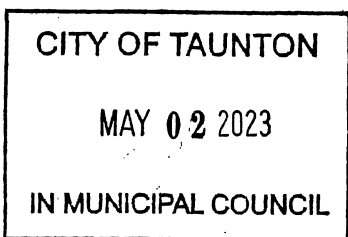
The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM.

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

MOTION by Mr. McCaul and seconded by Mr. Pottier to approve the payroll warrant in the amount of \$3,954,655.86. **So voted.**

MOTION by Mr. McCaul and seconded by Mr. Pottier to approve the accounts payable warrant in the amount of \$2,694,216.68. **So voted.**

MOTION by Mr. McCaul and seconded by Mr. Pottier to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 PM. **So voted.**



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maggie Clarke".

Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer R. Keegan".
CITY CLERK

City of Taunton
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TAUNTON, MA

CITY CLERK

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, Chairman and Councilors Duarte, Borges, McCaul, Pottier, Coute, Sanders, Quintal, and Postell.

Also present were:
Patrick Dello Russo, CFO

Taunton Public Schools:

John Cabral, Superintendent
Brenda Moynihan, Assistant Superintendent
Gregory DeMelo, School Committee Chairman
Christine Fagan, School Committee Secretary
Gill Enos, School Committee
Jordan Fiore, School Committee
Derek George, School Committee
Louis Viera, School Committee
Nathan Pawlowski School Committee
Steven Viera, School Committee

Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School:

Dr. Alexandre Magalhaes, Superintendent
Nadine Rose, School Business Administrator
Louis Borges, Jr., School Committee Member

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM.

1. Meet with the Superintendents of Taunton Public Schools and Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School to discuss the FY24 budget.

Motion by Mr. Coute seconded by Mr. McCaul to invite members of the Taunton Public Schools to present the budget with the CFO. So voted.

Taunton Public Schools Superintendent John Cabral gave a presentation outlining the proposed FY24 budget for the School Department. He gave some background information about Taunton, covered mission, vision, and strategic objectives. Information on Chapter 70 aid was shared which increased by \$10.3 Million. Mr. Cabral spoke about the foundation budget and noted that

enrollment increased by 135 students and the foundation budget increased by just under \$13 Million. \$42,467,828 is the district's required contribution which includes actual and indirect costs. He stated that, roughly, the budget breakdown is about a 65/35 split between the money from the state and city. Mr. Cabral spoke about how there are different factors that contribute to the foundation budget. He noted that 60% of students receive free or reduced lunch and that the district receives a higher rate for every student receiving free or reduced lunch. Superintendent Cabral noted that currently Taunton is at 98.5% of net school spending. He is asking for 100% net school spending. Mr. Cabral showed the net school spending average for urban districts. Looking at the costs within the budget, salaries increase 7.48% which includes steps, negotiated COLAs, etc. Special education tuitions increase 12.04%. Utilities increase 4.5%. Contracted services and supplies showed a significant increase of 57.76% but he indicated that this will change. In Taunton, education accounts for \$97 Million of the overall budget which includes Taunton Public Schools, Bristol-Plymouth, and Bristol County Agricultural High School. 13% of the Taunton population attend Taunton Public Schools. He touched upon ESSER II funds and noted that he has been approaching these funds in a methodical way in order to grow the positions into the budget. Mr. Cabral talked about upgrades to the facilities that were funded by revolving funds.

Mr. Dello Russo stated that Mayor O'Connell is committed to putting forward 100% of net school spending or greater. He noted that debt is not included in the net school spending number and debt service annually is over \$6 Million.

Councilor Pottier mentioned that Taunton is a relatively poor community so in the urban district comparison Cambridge and Boston skew the numbers as they are more affluent. He asked about the stipend increase and what the process was for implementing that. Mr. Cabral indicated that the budget process was the same and has not changed. They held a budget workshop which was a posted meeting, where they identified priorities. Councilor Pottier stated that School Committees are not bound by the same rules as the Council as far as stipend increase is concerned. Superintendent Cabral stated that FY23 was his first year not coming before the Council. He indicated that he takes great pride in his work and wants to be partners. He believes that 100% is a fair number.

Councilor Postell asked about the 57% increase to contracted services and what the entails. Mr. Cabral gave some examples that would be classified as contracted services such as service providers for the deaf, copiers, and CNAs. He reiterated that that number will change based on budget priorities. Social emotional learning is a priority.

Councilor Duarte asked for more information on the ESSER funds. Mr. Cabral indicated that these funds are completely separate. There has been around \$24 Million over three years. Mr. Duarte touched on the Taunton Education Association's campaign on supporting students. Mr. Cabral highlighted some ways the district has already worked to support the social emotional learning of students. This included additional nurses, small class sizes, and adjustment counselors.

Councilor Borges stated that she is happy to hear that the administration is supporting 100% of net school spending.

Councilor Dooner asked for the accounting on ESSER.

Councilor Coute gave his support for 100% of net school spending.

Councilor Sanders stated his support for 100% as the floor. He indicated that he appreciates the commitment to mental health needs of students and noted that during COVID when schools were closed, they were still feeding students. Schools serve a function far beyond teaching kids math and reading.

Councilor McCaul indicated that he supports 100% net school spending.

Councilor Quintal gave his support and told a story about how Ms. Moynihan helped a struggling student.

MOTION by Mr. Coute and seconded by Mr. McCaul to refer the budget presentation to the budget hearing. **So voted.**

Motion by Councilor Pottier and seconded by Councilor Postell to excuse the parties from Taunton Public Schools with the Council's thanks. **So voted.**

Motion by Mr. Pottier seconded by Ms. Borges to invite in the members of the Bristol-Plymouth committee. **So voted.**

Councilor Borges noted that she is also a member of the Bristol-Plymouth School Committee.

Superintendent Alexandre Magalhaes of Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School reported on the budget. He indicated that the budget was approved by the School Committee on March 15. 546 Taunton students attend B-P which is about 41% of the population.

Councilor Duarte asked why transportation reimbursement aid went down and Ms. Rose indicated that this went up with the House numbers. Numbers will be finalized in July.

Mr. Dello Russo stated that \$5,190,857 is included for the budget hearing. The increased in assessment was covered by the budget.

Councilor Borges, a member of the BP School Committee, indicated that there are many outstanding programs offered. The School Committee meets the first Wednesday of every month.

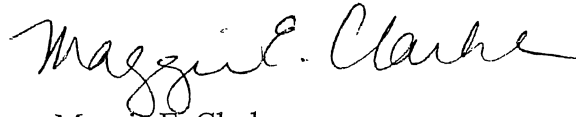
MOTION by Ms. Borges and seconded by Mr. Duarte to take the budget under advisement. **So voted.**

MOTION by Mr. Pottier and seconded by Mr. Postell to excuse the parties with thanks. **So voted.**

MOTION by Mr. Coute and seconded by Mr. Sanders to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 PM. So voted.

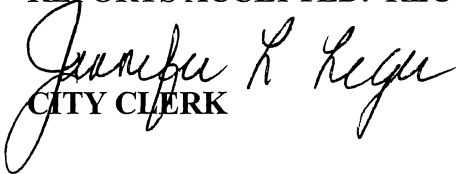
CITY OF TAUNTON
MAY 02 2023
IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Respectfully submitted,



Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.



CITY CLERK

City of Taunton
Municipal Council
May 2, 2023

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2023 MAY 11 A 9:33

The Committee on Public Property

TAUNTON, MA

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

Present were Councilor Christopher Coute, Chairman and Councilors McCaul, Dooner, Quintal, and Borges.

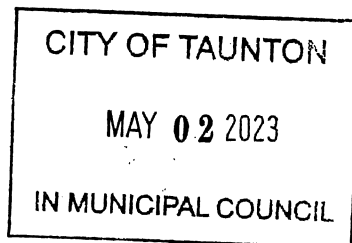
The meeting was called to order at 6:52 PM.

1. **Meet in executive session with the Superintendent of Taunton Public Schools, School Committee Chairman, and Chief of Police to discuss school security and funding related to school security.**

Motion by Mr. McCaul and seconded by Ms. Dooner to enter into executive session. **So voted on a roll call.**

Councilor Coute reported that the Committee took no votes in executive session other than to come out of executive session.

MOTION by Ms. Borges and seconded by Mr. McCaul to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM. **So voted.**



Respectfully submitted,

Maggie E. Clarke

Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

Jennifer K. Regan
CITY CLERK

City of Taunton
Municipal Council
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The Committee on Police and License

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

TAUNTON, MA

CITY CLERK

Present were Councilor Jeffrey Postell, Chairman, and Councilors Sanders and Borges. Also present were Detective William Rutherford and Rashaud Gardner of Platinum City Gaming.

The meeting was called to order at 7:51 PM.

MOTION by Ms. Borges and seconded by Mr. Sanders to invite in Detective Rutherford. **So voted.**

Meet with Detective Rutherford on the following petitions:

1. **Renewal of Antique Dealer Licenses:**
 - a. **Eantiquebroker Consulting Services at 4 Oxford Street**
 - b. **Memorable Memorabilia at 45 Baylies Rd**

Both received a positive recommendation from Detective Rutherford.

MOTION by Ms. Borges and seconded by Mr. Sanders to approve both. **So voted.**

2. **Renewal of Billiard Table Licenses:**
 - a. **Atlantic Cafe at 10 Plain Street (2 tables)**
 - b. **Bobby's Place at 62 Weir Street (2 tables)**
 - c. **David F. Adams Post #611 Athletic Association Inc. at 82 Ingell Street, Unit 4 (1 table)**
 - d. **Frank's Good Times, Inc. at 381 Winthrop Street (1 table)**
 - e. **Italian Naturalization Club, Inc. dba Italian Naturalization Club at 46 Wales Street (2 tables)**
 - f. **One Stop Shop, LLC dba Platinum City Gaming at 294 Winthrop Street (1 table)**
 - g. **Will-O-Bee, Inc. dba Willy J's Pub at 599 Winthrop Street (3 tables)**

Detective Rutherford gave a positive recommendation on all.

MOTION by Ms. Borges and seconded by Mr. Sanders to approve all. **So voted.**

3. Renewal of Junk Collector License for Arthur G. Pimenta, Jr. Junk Collector at 147 Fremont Street

Detective Rutherford gave a positive recommendation.

MOTION by Mr. Sanders and seconded by Ms. Borges to approve. **So voted.**

4. Renewal of Junk Dealer License for Scrap Bros. Recycling at 56 Fiddler's Way, E. Taunton

Detective Rutherford gave a positive recommendation.

MOTION by Ms. Borges and seconded by Mr. Sanders to approve. **So voted.**

5. Renewal of Livery License for Link Transportation, Inc. at 447 Broadway

Detective Rutherford gave a positive recommendation.

MOTION by Mr. Sanders and seconded by Ms. Borges to approve. **So voted.**

6. Renewal of Old Gold License for Fall River Financial MA, LLC dba Fall River Pawn Brokers at 48 Taunton Green

7. Renewal of Pawn Broker License Fall River Financial MA, LLC dba Fall River Pawn Brokers at 48 Taunton Green

Detective Rutherford gave a positive recommendation on items 6 and 7.

MOTION by Mr. Sanders and seconded by Ms. Borges to approve. **So voted.**

8. Renewal of Second Hand Article Licenses:

- a. Beauvais Bicycle Shop at 181 Whittenton Street
- b. Fall River Financial MA, LLC dba Fall River Pawn Brokers at 48 Taunton Green
- c. Mori-7 at 147 Washington Street
- d. Society of Saint Vincent DePaul dba Pennies from Heaven at 141 Washington Street
Requesting a waiver of the fee as they are a nonprofit
- e. Vintage Molaf at 749 Rocky Wood Street

Detective Rutherford gave a positive recommendation on items a, b, c, and e.

MOTION by Mr. Sanders and seconded by Ms. Borges to approve a, b, c, and e. **So voted.**

Detective Rutherford gave a positive recommendation on item d.

MOTION by Ms. Borges and seconded by Mr. Sanders to approve item d and waive the fee. **So voted.**

9. Renewal of Temporary Fixed Vendor License for Entertainment One Stop Shop dba Platinum City Gaming of 294 Winthrop Street.

Detective Rutherford gave a positive recommendation.

MOTION by Mr. Sanders and seconded by Ms. Borges to approve. **So voted.**

10. New Hours of Operation License for Entertainment One Stop Shop, LLC dba Platinum City Gaming at 294 Winthrop Street to remain open until 2:00 AM Sunday – Saturday

Detective Rutherford indicated that the recommendation is for this to go before the License Commission so he would suggest keeping this on file until then.

MOTION by Mr. Sanders and seconded by Ms. Borges to invite the parties in. **So voted.**

Mr. Postell spoke with Mr. Gardner about the process of going before the License Commission.

MOTION by Mr. Sanders and seconded by Ms. Borges to table. **So voted.**

11. New Junk Dealer and Junk Collector Licenses for Santos Recycling, Inc. at 18-28 Dana Street (transfer)

Detective Rutherford gave a positive recommendation.

MOTION by Ms. Borges and seconded by Mr. Sanders to approve. **So voted.**

12. Matter in File

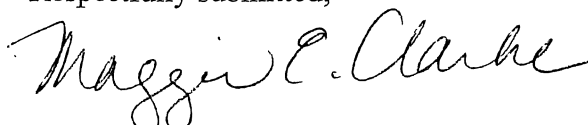
- a. Meet to discuss scheduling an update on progress at A T.N.T. Auto Sales at 391 Winthrop Street.**

This item will be scheduled in the coming weeks. Mr. Rutherford stated that he was incorrect during the prior meeting and that fire trucks cannot go all the way around this building.

MOTION by Ms. Borges and seconded by Mr. Sanders to excuse Detective Rutherford and adjourn the meeting at 8:01 PM. **So voted.**

CITY OF TAUNTON
MAY 02 2023
IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Respectfully submitted,



Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.



CITY CLERK

City of Taunton
Municipal Council
May 2, 2023

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The Committee on the Department of Public Works

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

TAUNTON, MA
CITY CLERK

Present were Councilor John McCaul, Chairman, and Councilors Quintal, Duarte, Couté, and Postell. Also present were Amy Kazlauskas, Director of Human Resources, Patrick Dello Russo, CFO, Fred Cornaglia, DPW Commissioner, and Tony Abreau, Assistant DPW Commissioner.

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM.

1. Meet to consider candidate Christopher Carmichael for Superintendent of Public Buildings:

MOTION by Mr. Duarte seconded by Mr. Postell to invite in the interested parties. **So voted.**

MOTION by Mr. Couté and seconded by Mr. Duarte to refer Chris Carmichael to the full Council for review.

Councilor Quintal indicated that he and Councilor McCaul had been involved in the first round of interviews with three candidates and, at that time, one candidate was voted upon. After that, he understood that they went back out for additional candidates. He received a call the day before inviting him to the second round of interviews. Mr. McCaul also questioned the process.

Ms. Kazlauskas explained that after the first round a candidate was not selected. It was reposted and time was of the essence since an interim superintendent has been in place for some time. They chose to invite the representatives from the DPW Committee who were unable to attend. Since then there have been multiple opportunities for the Councilors to meet the candidate in question.

Councilor McCaul stated that he didn't have an opportunity to interview all the candidates and he believed that after the first round, a candidate had been selected. Ms. Kazlauskas explained that additional information came to light.

Mr. Dello Russo stated that he believes the best candidate is in front of the Committee.

Councilor Duarte explained that this position doesn't fall under the Council procedurally in the same way other appointments did. The Charter states that the DPW Commissioner can bring one or more candidates to the Committee.

Councilor Couté referred to the ordinance which explains the appointment process.

Councilor Postell stated that he can appreciate the members of the committee questioning the outcome since the person from the first round did not come forward. He asked the DPW Commissioner if he is satisfied with the credentials, merit, performance, and work ethic of the candidate. Mr. Cornaglia stated that the letter is written and that is how he feels. Ms. Kazlauskas said that she doesn't believe everyone was on the same page after the first interviews. Subsequently, there were many lengthy discussions about the situation and everyone was informed every step of the way. Councilor Postell indicated that he spoke to Mr. Carmichael by phone, asked him about his concerns, and Mr. Carmichael presented well and is qualified.

Councilor Duarte stated that he met with Mr. Carmichael and agrees that he is capable. He also looked at the other resumes and believes Mr. Carmichael is the most qualified.

Councilor Coute indicated that he is familiar with Mr. Carmichael from his days as the Building Commissioner in Norton and has a positive impression of him.

Councilor McCaul stated that the voting was between the DPW Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner. He wondered what changed within 24 hours after the first round of interviews and asked the DPW Commissioner to explain. Mr. Cornaglia stated they discussed it and things changed.

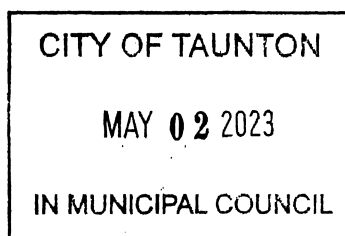
Motion by Mr. Duarte and seconded by Mr. Coute to press the motion.

Councilor McCaul asked if references were checked and Ms. Kazlauskas confirmed that they were.

On the motion to press the motion, Councilors Postell, Coute, and Duarte voted yes. Councilors Quintal and McCaul voted no.

On the original motion, so voted. The Chairman voted no.

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 PM. **So voted.**



Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Clarke

Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees

**REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS
ADOPTED.**

Jessica Regan
CITY CLERK

City of Taunton
Municipal Council
May 2, 2023

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2023 MAY 11 A 9:33

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.

TAUNTON, MA

CITY CLERK

Present were Councilor Barry Sanders, Chairman, and Councilors Dooner and McCaul. Also present was City Solicitor Matt Costa.

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 PM.

1. Meet to discuss the proposed ordinance for the compensation of elected and appointed board, committee, and commission members.

Councilor Sanders read the draft ordinance that was provided by Attorney Gay.

Councilor Dooner expressed her support for this ordinance as did Councilor McCaul.

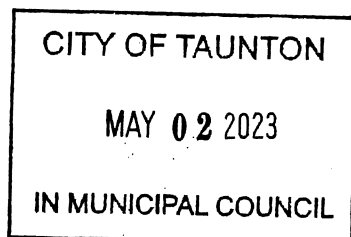
Councilor Sanders suggested that the Council review stipends on a set schedule such as every five years. Attorney Costa saw no issue with this and indicated that it could be added back in. Councilor Sanders suggested that reviewing on a schedule could help avoid any giant increases.

MOTION by Ms. Dooner and seconded by Mr. McCaul to send the ordinance for a first reading in the full Council including the review of the stipends on a schedule of every five years.

Attorney Costa suggested adding language that a board member who is a City employee can decline their stipend in order to receive their regular City salary. This was added to the motion by Councilor Dooner and seconded by Councilor Duarte.

So voted.

MOTION by Ms. Dooner and seconded by Mr. McCaul to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 PM. **So voted.**



Respectfully submitted,

Maggie E. Clarke

Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

Joseph R. Rega
CITY CLERK