



*City of Taunton
Municipal Council Meeting Minutes
City Hall, 15 Summer Street, Taunton, MA
In the Chester R. Martin Municipal Council Chambers*

~

Minutes, June 13, 2023 at 7:09 O'clock P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Regular Meeting

Mayor Shaunna L. O'Connell presiding

Prayer was offered by the Mayor

*Present at roll call were: Councilor Dooner, Duarte, Borges, McCaul,
Pottier, Sanders, Quintal and Postell
Councilor Coute was absent.*

Record of preceding meeting was read by title and approved. So Voted.

Opportunity for input by the general public.

Mija Almeida, 156 Tremont Street, Taunton, stated that she is speaking on behalf of the South Coast LGBTQ Network, of which she is a board member. Ms. Almeida introduced the other members of the South Coast LGBTQ network with her at the podium this evening, which included Jamie Kelly, Jolene Westgate, Liz Whitaker, and Presley. Ms. Almeida discussed the evolution of pride month and why we celebrate it. Ms. Almeida discussed the anti-LGBTQ bills and laws that have been introduced in the state legislatures this year relative to gender. Ms. Almeida spoke about the statistics of suicide, anxiety and depression for LGBTQ youth. She spoke words of encouragement for the LGBTQ community and wished everyone a Happy Pride Month.

Hearing:

NONE.

Communications from the Mayor:

Mayor O'Connell stated that June is Pride Month, which means many different things to many different people. She stated that it is an opportunity for us to come together as a community to celebrate all of the wonderful differences that make us unique. She stated that Pride Month gives people a voice and highlights the challenges that the LGBTQ community has faced, the victories that have been won, and the work that still needs to be done. She stated that Taunton is a community where we want everyone to know that you can feel welcome and safe here. She stated that we have some special guests here that have been doing great work in the community to educate, support and connect people. She stated that this weekend was the South Coast Pride Taunton Festival, which was organized by South Coast Pride of Taunton, and it was a great success. She stated that they were honored to have Congressman Auchincloss and Councilor Sanders join them.

Mayor O'Connell invited the members of the South Coast LGBTQ network to the podium for a presentation on Pride Month. Jamie Kelly spoke about the evolution of pride in Taunton and their success so far. She hopes that what they do teaches people that they are no different than anyone else. Mayor O'Connell thanked them for their work in the community and for bringing everyone together. Mayor O'Connell invited Jamie Ganye and Rudy Founds, co-founders of Engage, to the podium. Mayor O'Connell stated that Engage is a social media platform whose mission it is to provide a free platform which connects the LGBTQ community with resources and social interactions to help improve lives. Ms. Ganye spoke about the evolution of their organization and their mission. Mayor O'Connell invited Milo Foster and Zack Bumpus, Taunton High School students and LGBTQ advocates, to the podium. Zack Bumpus stated that they are the secretary of the Taunton High School GSA and that Milo Foster is the Vice President of the GSA. They stated that they are here to celebrate the 53rd anniversary of the Stonewall Inn Riots and the 52nd anniversary of Pride Month. Zack Bumpus spoke about how Pride Month evolved. Mayor O'Connell issued a proclamation for Pride Month 2023.

Mayor O'Connell asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence in honor of Joseph Yodsnukis, uncle to the Park and Recreation Commissioner, A.J. Marshall, and Ruth Eichman, grandmother to Human Resources Director, Amy Kazlauskas.

Mayor O'Connell stated that City Offices will be closed on Monday, June 19, 2023 in observance of Juneteenth.

Mayor O'Connell stated that the Honor Our Military Event will be Saturday, June 17, 2023. She stated that we will have the Southeastern Massachusetts Festival Chorus with us. They will be celebrating our veterans and military service members. There will be activities for kids and families, and services for veterans. They thanked T.M.L.P., Karen Pemberton, the entire committee of volunteers and the generous sponsors.

Mayor O'Connell stated that the Juneteenth celebration will be Sunday, June 18, 2023 from 12:00pm to 5:00pm at the First Parish Church. There will be food, music, entertainment, shopping and kid's activities. This event is hosted by the Taunton Juneteenth Committee.

Mayor O'Connell stated that the City of Taunton is excited to partner with the YCMA to provide free summer memberships for Taunton teens. You can call the YCMA at 508-823-3320 or visit our City website for more information.

Mayor O'Connell invited Patrick Dello Russo, Fred Cornaglia, and Katherine Nunes into the enclosure to give the Road and Sidewalk Presentation. Mr. Cornaglia stated that they would like to give an update on the paving and sidewalk work that has been going on. Mr. Cornaglia highlighted the improvements the Department of Public Works has made to the City roads over the last few years through the support of Mayor O'Connell through a slide presentation. Mr. Cornaglia stated that in the last three (3) years, they have used over twenty-one million dollars (\$21,000,000) of Mayor O'Connell's funds in order to complete the work. He discussed the improvements of Allison Avenue and Middleboro Avenue. He briefly discussed an upcoming project for a five-million dollar (\$5,000,000) bridge which will be a joint project with Raynham. He discussed that First Street is the oldest and worst street in the City and has now been paved. He discussed that West Weir

Street had a water main that was undersized, however, it was replaced last year and they have now been able to go in and pave the road. He also discussed the improvements on Court Street, Burt Street, Silver Street and Bay Street. Mr. Dello Russo spoke briefly about how residents input is acknowledged and has been incorporated in this plan. Ms. Nunes spoke about the improvements that have been done and the upcoming work for this construction season. Mayor O'Connell expressed gratitude to Mr. Cornaglia and the work the Department of Public Works has done. Councilor Pottier stated that he appreciates the efforts of this team and that he is happy to support Mayor O'Connell's efforts in donating more money to the roads in the City. Councilor Pottier requested that a better job is done with detours and that they are set up more strategically. Councilor Pottier requested a brief explanation of the road rating process. Mr. Cornaglia explained that it starts at 100, and once the road gets below 50, this is an area of concern. Mr. Cornaglia confirmed that it is not only based on condition, but also on the traffic and the number of people on the road. Councilor Pottier inquired if there is a master list of every street in town, which Mr. Cornaglia confirmed. Ms. Nunes spoke about the rating process of the streets. Councilor Pottier inquired about slide 5, Ms. Nunes explained that the eighty-seven thousand (87,000) linear square feet that was noted is where they started to where they stopped. Councilor Dooner thanked the DPW, the administration, the Mayor and the former Council for the work they put into this. Councilor Postell stated that it is a breath of fresh air to see where we are today compared to where we were when he first came to the City. He stated that he appreciates the effort that has been put into this and that the conditions of the roads at the end of the day are much better. He stated that he will continue to support the improvements. Councilor Borges expressed gratitude to the team for their presentation. She inquired if every street in the City is rated, which Mr. Cornaglia confirmed that they are. Councilor Borges inquired about Connie Drive, to which Ms. Nunes provided the rating information and stated they will look into it more to see if it is accepted as a public way. Councilor Sanders expressed gratitude for the large projects as well the day-to-day work performed by the Department of Public Works. He spoke about the see-click-fix app and how it is great tool to have. He inquired about the number of accepted roads and how that factors into the trajectory of the work being done on roads. Mr. Cornaglia stated that these roads are some of the worst and they are working on them, some of which include two developments off of Williams Street and another development off of Caswell Street. Councilor Sanders inquired about having to install sidewalks when a road is paved if there is an existing sidewalk. Ms. Nunes explained that this is because the road must be ADA compliant. Councilor Quintal expressed gratitude to Mr. Cornaglia for his knowledge and work. Councilor Quintal inquired if Shores Street is on the list of work to be done. Mr. Cornaglia confirmed that Shores Street is on the list. Mr. Cornaglia and Ms. Nunes explained the complexity of the project due to the streets variable width. Mr. Dello Russo stated that it is important to note that there is a five year CIP that calls for funding every year based on five year averages of the roads. Councilor Duarte expressed gratitude to Mr. Dello Russo for his work on the Capital Improvement Program. Councilor McCaul expressed gratitude to Fred, Tony, Butch Emond and the rest of the team for their work. Councilor McCaul requested that the Bird Lanes be added to the list of work to be done. Mayor O'Connell stated that they have been having internal discussions on coming up with a plan to get those roads paved. Mayor O'Connell expressed gratitude to the entire DPW for their work.

Motion was made to recess at 8:15pm. So Voted.

Council returned to the regular order of business at 8:17pm. Council President Dooner began presiding over the meeting.

Appointments:

NONE.

Communications from City Officers:

Com. from the Director of the Department of Human Services and Council on Aging requesting that a fifteen-thousand dollar (\$15,000) limit be placed on their revolving account for Fiscal Year 2024. **Motion was made to approve. So Voted.**

Com. from the Police Chief requesting that the Municipal Council, as part of the appointing authority for police officers, participate in this year's promotional exam process for Captain, Lieutenant and Sergeant. The Police Chief gave his recommendations for weighing for the exam. The City Clerk stated that she had an updated communication with the new percentages, they are as follows: Sergeant: sixty-five percent (65%) written score, twenty-five percent (25%) assessment center, and ten percent (10%) training and experience; Lieutenant: fifty percent (50%) assessment center, forty percent (40%) written score, and ten percent (10%) training and experience; Captain: seventy-five percent (75%) assessment center, fifteen percent (15%) written score, and ten percent (10%) training and experience. **Motion was made to approve the request as read and place the updated communication on next week's agenda packet as it is substantially different than the communication in this week's agenda packet so the public is able to view it. So Voted.**

Com. from the Treasurer/Collector responding to Councilor Pottier's questions during the Finance and Salaries Committee meeting on May 23, 2023 regarding Tailings. The Massachusetts General Law Chapter 200A, Section 9A was attached, which states that any check funds not claimed after one year from the date of publication of the notice (in the Taunton Daily Gazette) will be escheated to the City. These funds will be recorded as revenue in the General Fund of the City. **Motion was made to receive and place on file with thanks to the Treasurer/Collector for the information. So Voted.**

Com. from the City Solicitor submitting a Comcast correspondence dated June 2, 2023 regarding a price decrease to Broadcast TV fee. **Motion was made to receive and place on file. So Voted.**

Com. from the Chief Financial Officer requesting to present the City of Taunton's FY2024 Consolidated Financial Policies on June 20, 2023 in the Committee on Finance and Salaries. **Motion was made to refer to the Committee on Finance and Salaries. So Voted.**

Com. from the Chief Financial Officer stating that the Finance Department would like the opportunity to review and seek approval of the change in student activity accounts voted by the School Committee on June 20, 2023 in the Committee on Finance and Salaries. The accounts they are requesting to be established effective July 1, 2023 were listed. **Motion was made to refer to the Committee on Finance and Salaries. So Voted.**

Com. from the Chief Financial Officer requesting to establish a Septic Loan Revolving Fund on June 20, 2023 in the Committee on Finance and Salaries. The accounts they are requesting to be established effective July 1, 2023. **Motion was made to refer to the Committee on Finance and Salaries. So Voted.**

Com. from the Safety Manager stating that the safety railings have been successfully installed at the Taunton Water Treatment Plant in Lakeville. Safety gates have also been installed to allow safe access to the bays for maintenance. Installation was completed ahead of schedule and under budget following the City's procurement process. **Motion was made to receive and place on file with thanks to the Safety Officer. So Voted.**

Communications from Citizens:

NONE.

Petitions:

Flammable Storage License Transfer of Ownership

Petition submitted by Patrick Saad and Andrew Saad, 49 Rogers St., Unit 5, South Boston, MA 02127 requesting approval of a change of ownership of their Flammable Storage License to P&A Saad Realty, LLC located at 146 Tremont, Taunton. (DEED ON FILE). **Motion was made to approve. So Voted.**

Billiard Table License – RENEWAL

1. Taunton Eagles Soccer Club, Inc. located at 29 Oak Street, Taunton (1-Table). **Motion was made to refer to the Committee on Police and License and the Police Chief. So Voted.**

Junk Dealer License – RENEWAL

2. Burnham's Converter and Scrap Metals located at 12 Railroad Avenue, Taunton. **Motion was made to refer to the Committee on Police and License and the Police Chief. So Voted.**

Second Hand Article License – RENEWAL

1. Bowsers Basement located at 239 Broadway, Taunton. **Motion was made to refer to the Committee on Police and License and the Police Chief. So Voted.**

Temporary Fixed Vendor License – RENEWAL

1. Bob Cats for the Soul -dba- Bob Cats located at 255 Cape Highway, Taunton selling food and cold beverages. **Motion was made to refer to the Committee on Police and License and the Police Chief. So Voted.**

Application for a Marijuana Retailer

Application submitted by Bask, Inc. for a renewal of their Marijuana Retailer License to be located at 400 Winthrop Street, Taunton. **Motion was made to refer to the Committee on Police and License and the Police Chief. So Voted.**

Special Permit

Petition submitted by Anthony Kinahan, 30 Sherwood Drive, Taunton for a special permit to allow a use of the 32,512 sq. ft. facility for 22,046 sq. ft. of marijuana

cultivation, 7,550 sq. ft. of marijuana manufacturing and 2,916 sq. ft. of marijuana delivery at 30 Sherwood Drive located in the Industrial District (PUBLIC HEARING REQUIRED). **Motion was made to refer to the City Clerk to schedule the appropriate hearing. So Voted.**

Committee Reports:

Motion was made for Committee reports to be read by title and approved. So Voted. Recommendations adopted to reflect the votes as recorded in committee reports. So Voted.

Unfinished Business:

NONE.

Orders, Ordinances and Resolutions:

Order to be accepted on a roll call vote

Ordered That,

The City of Taunton shall establish a gift account in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, §53A which shall be a separate interest-bearing account established by the Treasurer. The CFO or his Designee is hereby authorized to accept monetary donations for the Public Safety Complex which shall be deposited into said account. The account will be assigned its own general ledger number from the City Auditor. Said funds will not be general fund receipts and the specific use of said funds will be as followed:

- Construction
- Furnishing and Fixtures
- Equipment

Motion was made to approve on a roll call vote. **On a roll call vote, eight (8) Councilors were present, eight (8) Councilors voted in favor. Councilor Coute was absent. So Voted.**

Councilor Borges stated that she was absent last week and therefore should not be approving Committee Reports. She requested to withdraw her motion. **Motion was made to withdraw the motion. So Voted. Motion was made for Committee reports to be read by title and approved. So Voted. Recommendations adopted to reflect the votes as recorded in committee reports. So Voted.**

New Business:

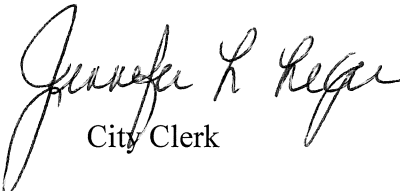
Councilor Borges motioned to refer to the Committee on Ordinances and Enrolled Bills a discussion on having the Plumbing Inspector present for all DIRB meetings. Motion was made to approve. So Voted.

Councilor Sanders stated that on their desks today is a gift from authors, Tracey Pacheco Medeiros and Annemarie Matulis, which is a copy of their new publication, *Because I Stayed*. Ms. Medeiros is a survivor of a suicide attempt and has been an amazing advocate for people suffering with depression and suicidality. He would like to express

gratitude for their work and the gift of this publication, which all of the Councilors and the Mayor received this evening.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 P.M.

A true copy:

Attest: 
City Clerk

JLL/MAF

City of Taunton
Municipal Council
June 13, 2023

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

2023 JUN 15 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 Chester R. Martin Municipal Council Chambers. CITY CLERK

Members Present: Councilor Phillip Duarte, Chairman
Councilor David Pottier
Councilor John McCaul

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

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

Motion by Mr. Pottier and seconded by Mr. McCaul to approve the payroll warrant in the amount of \$15,183,403.14. So voted.

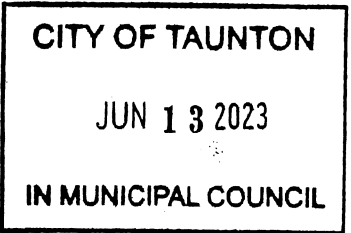
Motion by Mr. Pottier and seconded by Mr. McCaul to approve the accounts payable warrant in the amount of \$9,470,211.85. So voted.

- 2. Meet with the Human Resources Director to discuss the proposal that the Clerk of Committees become a certified parliamentarian.

Mr. Duarte requested that this matter be tabled since the HR Director was unavailable this evening.

Motion by Mr. Pottier and seconded by Mr. McCaul to table this matter until she is available. So voted.

Motion by Mr. Pottier and seconded by Mr. McCaul to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 PM. So voted.



Respectfully submitted,

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

Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

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

City of Taunton
Municipal Council
June 13, 2023

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2023 JUN 15 A 9:33

TAUNTON, MA

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. CITY CLERK

Councilors Present: Council President Kelly Dooner
Councilor Phillip Duarte
Councilor Estele Borges
Councilor John McCaul
Councilor David Pottier
Councilor Barry Sanders
Councilor Lawrence Quintal
Councilor Jeffrey Postell

Councilor Absent: Councilor Christopher Couste

Also Present: Attorney Daniel de Abreu, BRCSM
Jacques Barbour, SAN Holdings, LLC
Tanios Barbour, SAN Holdings, LLC

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM.

1. Meet to discuss the request for an extension to two Host Community Agreements for SAN Holdings, LLC, a marijuana retail and cultivation establishment located at 0 Hart Street.

Motion by Mr. Pottier and seconded by Mr. McCaul to invite in the parties. **So voted.**

Jacques Barbour explained that they have gone through the process of getting a special permit, site plan review, and have started clearing the lot. They have run into a few obstacles and engineering took a little longer than expected. They thought there was a stream but that turned out to be drainage and they are asking for an extension.

Attorney de Abreu indicated that his clients have been making good progress and are committed to seeing this project through.

Councilor Dooner asked when they expect to commence construction. Mr. Barbour stated that they should apply for the building permit within 90 days but they are ready to break ground. He reiterated that terrain issues have held them back.

Councilor Pottier asked if this would be cultivation and retail. Mr. Barbour indicated that their primary focus is on the dispensary and the second focus will be on light cultivation which, as of now, is expected to be on the second floor. Mr. Pottier asked if they are looking for a full year extension and Mr. Barbor confirmed. Mr. Pottier asked if this is the first extension and it was confirmed that this is the first full extension at this location. Mr. Pottier asked about the buildout timeline and Mr. Barbour indicated that after they break ground, depending on the Commission, they expect about a 6 month buildout. Mr. Pottier asked if the site will be on septic or sewer and Mr. Barbour explained that it will be sewer with an injector pump.

Councilor Borges requested a business plan be provided. She asked if there have been any changes to the plan and Mr. Barbour indicated that there have been no changes except to the numbers. Councilor Duarte clarified that no business plan had been required as they have not yet applied for the local license.

Councilor Quintal stated that he didn't think a one year extension is a problem since they are using their own finances.

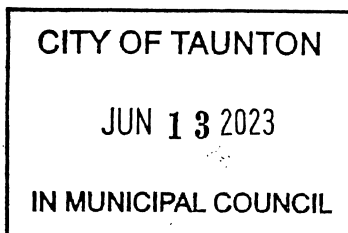
Motion by Mr. Quintal to grant a one year extension to both HCAs was seconded by Mr. Pottier. Councilor Postell voted no. **So voted 7-1.**

Motion by Mr. Postell and seconded by Mr. Sanders to excuse the parties. **So voted.**

2. Meet in executive session for an update on the Inter-Governmental Agreement with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

Councilor Dooner explained that this executive session was cancelled for this evening and postponed to a later date.

Motion by Mr. Pottier and seconded Mr. Postell to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 PM. **So voted.**



Respectfully submitted,



Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.


CITY CLERK