

City of Taunton
Municipal Council
July 25, 2023

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2023 JUL 27 P 3:22

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.

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

Also Present: Patrick Dello Russo, CFO
Ian Fortes, City Auditor
Gill Enos, Budget Director

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 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 \$1,508,208.47. **So voted.

Motion** by Mr. Pottier and seconded by Mr. McCaul to approve the FY23 accounts payable warrant in the amount of \$403,409.68. **So voted.

Motion** by Mr. Pottier and seconded by Mr. McCaul to approve the FY24 accounts payable warrant in the amount of \$5,638,268.98. **So voted.

- 2. Meet to discuss the necessary transfers for the purchase of the Coyle and Cassidy property at 2 Hamilton Street:

\$2,440,556.35 from the Mulcahey School Project (31-3590-3590)

\$2,500,000.00 from ARPA (20-3510-6035)

\$1,059,443.65 from Capital Project Stabilization (84-3580-8027)

TO Coyle Cassidy Purchase (34-3590-3590-4)

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

Mr. Pottier confirmed that the amounts and accounts were as previously discussed.

Motion by Mr. Pottier and seconded by Mr. McCaul to approve the transfers.

Councilor Borges indicated that she had met with Karen Grossi-Pemberton and it was explained that ARPA funds can be used for this project because part of the building will be used for educational purposes. Mr. Dello Russo confirmed.

Mr. Dello Russo informed the Committee that the statement of uniqueness was posted on the Central Register of the Commonwealth in line with procurement laws.

Councilor Duarte confirmed that the monies from the Capital Project Stabilization account are expecting to be offset from additional Mulcahey School reimbursements.

Councilor McCaul asked for the balance in ARPA money and Mr. Dello Russo stated that it is in the neighborhood of \$2 Million to \$2.5 Million. Mr. McCaul further asked where the funds will come from for roof repair, code upgrades, and other necessary projects. Mr. Dello Russo stated that this could possibly come from ARPA money or school ESSER money but that these are discussions that will take place in the next 90 days. The preference is to use federal and state funds first. Mr. McCaul asked about the schools paying some portion and Mr. Enos indicated that this would be a discussion with the School Committee. Mr. Dello Russo stated that Mr. Carmichael will provide a 5-year prioritization list for improvement projects.

Ms. Borges confirmed that the Mulcahey project is under budget.

So voted.

3. Meet for the Fiscal Year 2023 End of Year Report and Capital Program Update.

Mr. Dello Russo gave a presentation covering the year 7/1/22 – 6/30/23. He noted that there were many milestones achieved. One major milestone was the establishment of the 5 year Capital Improvement Program. An internal audit program was established and the Taunton Leading City and Marketable Property Program was rolled out. On the Capital Improvement Program, there were many completed items. The City is on its way to CIP 3 which will be rolled out on August 3. He showed a three year revenue comparison and noted that the numbers may go higher but will not go lower than presented. Investment earnings were noted. For most departments this was a relatively boring year. The Treasurer/Collector went over slightly due in large part to the work being done in tax title. For Public Safety there is a 10% turn back which is approximately \$4 Million. For Public Works, it was noted that this was the lowest snow and ice expense in decades. Trash pickup is a growing problem that isn't going away. The city loses 60 cents on every dollar of trash bags sold. Health and Human Services saw a 10% turn back. Fixed costs and expenses, with very conservative budgeting, saw an 8% turn back. He noted that with purchase order closeouts there will be changes to the numbers seen. Last year, opioid settlement money went into Miscellaneous

Revenue but in the future the plan is to establish an opioid stabilization account. Mr. Dello Russo also suggested that they would like to establish a net school spending stabilization account.

Mr. Dello Russo showed some photos of various projects and purchases and showed a video of the Wastewater Treatment plant construction project. He showed pictures of community involvement. He mentioned the Council on Aging upgrades, \$400,000 spent on apparatus for Parks, Cemeteries, and Public Grounds, and improvements to roads and sidewalks.

Councilor Pottier suggested that on the revenue comparison it would be helpful to see actual vs. budget for FY23. Mr. Enos noted that interest income is a big driver. Mr. Pottier suggested that with inflation waning, this might be budgeted more conservatively and Mr. Dello Russo stated that the budget number for FY24 is \$2.1 Million. Mr. Pottier questioned the excise tax variability and Mr. Enos stated that the State hadn't sent out bills on time a year ago so now they are playing catch up. Mr. Pottier asked where the marijuana revenue went and Mr. Dello Russo stated that it is captured in Miscellaneous Revenue. This also includes opioid settlement money and a check from the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. Mr. Pottier wondered if there were any trends throughout in terms of areas under budget. Mr. Enos stated that for Police and Fire, there were not as many retirees as expected. Staffing was under but overtime was over. For streets and ways, they added several positions but it has been difficult to hire people. Veterans Services showed a return in the budget but that is veterans' benefits reimbursements that were not needed. For group insurance, they plan for the worst case scenario. Mr. Pottier praised the team and the administration.

Councilor Postell indicated that a lot of good things have come before the City. He mentioned the fleet program and stated that the administration, while being fiscally responsible, is taking care of things that should have been taken care of years ago.

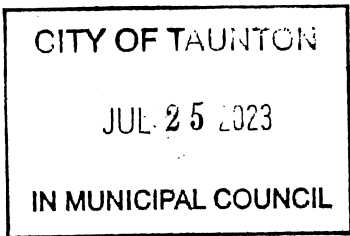
Councilor Borges asked for information on the Police turn back. Mr. Enos stated that it was vacation and sick buyout for retirees that was not used. She further asked about the trash pickup and Mr. Dello Russo stated that they will need to look at other places inside the DPW to cover trash and solid waste. Ms. Borges asked if this should go to the Solid Waste Committee and Mr. Dello Russo didn't think it was time yet. Mr. Enos stated that the bag sales have been constant for many years but costs have gone up significantly.

Councilor Duarte asked about the balance in the ADA line item and Mr. Enos explained that they put aside \$300,000 each year and try to do projects with that money but they ran out of time. Mr. Duarte confirmed that these projects are usually done in house.

Mr. Pottier asked if the budget books could be sent in pdf format.

Motion by Mr. Pottier and seconded by Mr. McCaul to make the presentation part of the record. **So voted.**

Motion by Mr. Pottier and seconded by Mr. McCaul to excuse the parties with the Committee's thanks and adjourn at 6:14 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 Regan".
CITY CLERK

City of Taunton
Municipal Council
July 25, 2023

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

2023 JUL 27 P 3 22

The Committee on Police and License

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 Jeffrey Postell, Chairman
Councilor Estele Borges

Members Absent: Councilor Barry Sanders

Also present: Jenny Roseman, Freshly Baked
Philip Smith, Freshly Baked
Patrick Dello Russo, CFO

The meeting was called to order at 6:16 PM.

1. Meet to discuss the renewal of a marijuana license for Freshly Baked Company, a marijuana manufacturer and microbusiness with delivery endorsement at 144 West Britannia Street.

Motion by Ms. Borges and seconded by Mr. Postell to invite in the parties and the CFO. **So voted.**

Councilor Postell reminded everyone that on June 27 the license was renewed for 30 days and the applicant was to set up a payment plan with the City.

Mr. Dello Russo stated that the City is under a payment agreement with Freshly Baked Company. They have come to terms that are mutually agreeable.

Mr. Smith thanked the City for working with them.

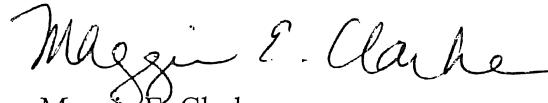
Councilor Borges thanked the administration for working with them and with others.

Motion by Ms. Borges and seconded by Mr. Postell to approve. **So voted.**

Motion by Ms. Borges and seconded by Mr. Postell to excuse the parties and adjourn the meeting at 6:19 PM. **So voted.**

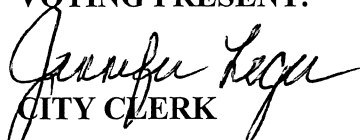
CITY OF TAUNTON
JUL 25 2023
IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Respectfully submitted,



Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees

**REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED. COUNCILOR DUARTE
VOTING PRESENT.**



CITY CLERK

City of Taunton
Municipal Council
July 25, 2023

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2023 AUG -1 A 10:10

The Committee of the Council as a Whole

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

Councilors Present: Councilor David Pottier, Acting Chair
Councilor Phillip Duarte
Councilor Estele Borges
Councilor John McCaul
Councilor Christopher Coute
Councilor Lawrence Quintal

Councilor Absent: Councilor Kelly Dooner
Councilor Barry Sanders
Councilor Jeffrey Postell

Also Present: Attorney Peter Winters
Attorney Mark Higgins, Commonwealth Alternative Care

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

1. Meet to discuss the proposed amended Host Community Agreement for Commonwealth Alternative Care at 30 Mozzone Boulevard.

Motion by Mr. Coute and seconded by Ms. Borges to invite in the interested parties. **So voted.**

Councilor Duarte recused himself from the discussion.

Councilor Pottier stated that in the absence of Council President Dooner, he would be acting Chair.

Councilor Borges noted that there are only five Councilors present and five votes will be needed.

Attorney Winters highlighted the terms of the amendment to the HCA and noted that the 3% will continue until the Cannabis Control Commission promulgates new regulations at which time the amount will be renegotiated based on that guidance. He also noted that this amendment is for Commonwealth Alternative Care's medicinal HCA, not recreational.

Councilor Coute indicated that Dan DeRosa had reached out to him regarding outstanding debt. Attorney Higgins stated that they had come to an agreement last Friday. Councilor Borges asked if there is a clause in the HCA requiring that payments be up to date and if that means payments to the City or if that means being in good standing with vendors. Attorney Winters indicated that the HCA references payments to the City. They are up to date and have made payments.

Motion by Mr. Coute and seconded by Mr. McCaul to continue to next week and come back with a recap of that situation.

Councilor Pottier suggested that the Council should show the same interest in the status of payments for rent and payments to vendors for other applicants.

Mr. Coute stated that he sees this as similar to liquor licenses where you must be up to date on payments to vendors.

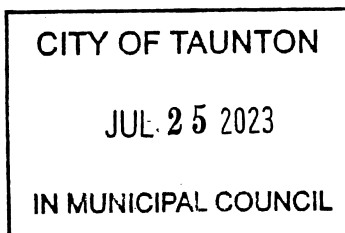
Attorney Winters stated that the existing HCA talks about payments to the City as well as the use of local vendors but nothing about making payments to vendors.

Councilor Borges asked about a discussion on odor mitigation. Attorney Higgins indicated that his intent was that they would be back in September for that discussion.


Mr. Coute suggested that some of the 3% collected from sales of marijuana should go to a separate fund to be used by the City to oversee an odor mitigation program.

So voted.

Motion by Mr. Coute and seconded Ms. Borges to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 PM. *So voted.*

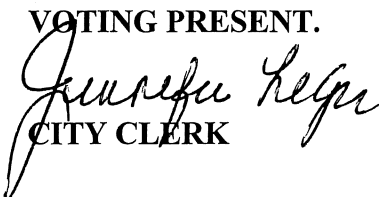


Respectfully submitted,



Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED. COUNCILOR DUARTE VOTING PRESENT.



CITY CLERK