

City of Taunton
Municipal Council
August 29, 2023

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2023 SEP -5 P 2:00

TAUNTON, MA

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.

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

Also Present: Patrick Dello Russo, CFO
Ian Fortes, City Auditor
Christine Clymens, Treasurer/Collector

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 \$1,373,853.65. **So voted.**

Motion by Mr. Pottier and seconded by Mr. McCaul to approve the accounts payable warrant in the amount of \$4,381,537.09. **So voted.**

2. Meet to discuss the request to establish a gift account for the Taunton TRIAD program.

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

Councilor Duarte read a letter from Mr. Dello Russo requesting the account.

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

Mr. Dello Russo explained that the Sheriff's office had discontinued some non-prison related programs including the TRIAD program which was administered by the Sheriff's office. He had met with representatives from the program and determined this was the best path forward.

Mr. Duarte indicated that he had heard that there was some confusion about the custody of these funds and some possibility that the Heart of Taunton was going to take over the funds.

Mr. Dello Russo stated that in the interest of all parties the City had stepped in and worked collaboratively to make sure that the funds stayed in the custody of a public entity. There was an attempt to move the money into a non-profit but they worked to be sure that the funds came back to the custody of the City.

Mr. Duarte asked if TRIAD is solely made up of City agencies and Mr. Dello Russo explained that it involves Police, Fire, and Human Services as well as individuals who work to support the programs. There is a \$10 membership fee to join. This will be set up similarly to the school activity accounts. He also indicated that the supplemental budget will include some funding.

Councilor Borges indicated that she understands that many communities have this program within their Council on Aging. Mr. Dello Russo confirmed that this will be housed in the Council on Aging. Ms. Borges wondered if this was ever administered by the DA's office. Mr. Dello Russo didn't know for sure but stressed that everyone wanted to keep the program going. The instruction from the sheriff's office stated that the funds should go to the municipalities. Ms. Borges asked what will happen to the TRIAD board and Mr. Dello Russo stated that the board will remain intact. He met with some of the board and this was a mutually agreeable outcome.

Mr. McCaul relayed that he was a co-founder of Taunton TRIAD and wishes he knew they were having these meetings. He stated that the money that they receive is from fundraisers. The board members want to be sure that they can write a check. Mr. Dello Russo stated that the functionality of the organization is not going to be impacted. Mr. McCaul stated that the Heart of Taunton looked to step in. Mr. Dello Russo indicated that the articles of incorporation for the Heart of Taunton only allow for work downtown and stated that the Law Department looked at these articles of incorporation. He stressed that the current board is allowed to run the organization and the City acts as a fiscal agent. Mr. Dello Russo further informed the Committee that in the FY24 supplemental budget, there will be a \$7500 appropriation and \$10,000 annually going forward. The City will be in charge of these funds.

Motion by Mr. Pottier and seconded by Mr. McCaul to:

CITY OF TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS

IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDERED:

That the City of Taunton shall establish a Taunton Triad agency / gift account in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44 §53A which shall be a separate interest-bearing account established by the Treasurer. The Mayor's office in conjunction with the Taunton Triad Administrators are hereby authorized to accept monetary donations for purposes of the account and such donations shall be deposited into said account. The account will be assigned its own general

ledger number from the City Auditor. These funds will not be general fund receipts and the specific use of said funds will be as followed:

- *Prevention of fraud, cons and scams*
- *Fire Safety*
- *Self Defense*
- *Prescription Drug Safety*
- *Silver Alert*
- *Senior Neighborhood Watch*
- *Senior mental Health*
- *Driving Techniques*
- *Caregiver Support and Education / Dementia Friendly Initiatives*

So voted.

3. Meet with the Finance Department for the annual Five Year Financial Forecast.

Mr. Dello Russo gave a presentation on the five year financial forecast. He noted that the comparison of FY24 estimate vs. actual budget was within close to a 1% margin of error. For revenues, there has been an increase to penalties and interest as well as an increase to miscellaneous revenue. This includes marijuana income, a payment from the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, and opioid settlement money. He discussed the charges for services for trash and noted that the City spends approximately \$8 Million on trash pickup but takes in only \$1.9 Million to offset these costs. Mr. Dello Russo stated that September 23 will be a free trash disposal day.

Mr. Dello Russo indicated that forecasting helps the team to prepare for different eventualities such as the B-P School construction project, solid waste and recycling disposal, health insurance obligations, and OPEB.

In discussing revenues, Mr. Dello Russo noted that taxes and state aid can be understood where they will be within a margin of error unlike local receipts that can make or break a budget. A new revenue stream will be the solar lease agreement which will be discussed on September 5. He noted that new growth is another key driver. The revenue forecast shows approximately a 4% average annual increase based on past trends less enterprise funds. Capital items have been stripped out on the expense side.

The biggest drivers in expenses are education and employee benefits. Debt and interest decrease as the City begins to “pay as we go” and that should be drawn out over the next five years. He noted that the SAFER grant ends in 2025 and will impact Fire. The BP project will be hitting in 2025 as well. The school budget is approximately \$112 Million. For trash there is assumed an average 8 point increase annually. More buildings likely means an increase in manpower in the Public Building Department. He noted that they are considering a formal RFP for health insurance related costs. General Government shows a 2.5% increase average year over year. Technology is the biggest driver in General Government. The Treasurer/Collector’s office is more active with expenses related to collecting money. For

Public Safety, the SAFER grant expires so they are looking to extend that. Mr. Dello Russo also suggested that the retirement payments might be moved to a compensated balances fund. For education, he noted that this is inclusive of the regional school increase from Bristol-Plymouth. For DPW, trash costs are increasing significantly and there will be the need to add bodies for the repair of public buildings. Mr. Dello Russo discussed the enterprise funds and indicated that a study will be done on indirect costs which will impact the FY25 budget. Two additional solar projects are coming, one for each enterprise fund. The airport budget remains level.

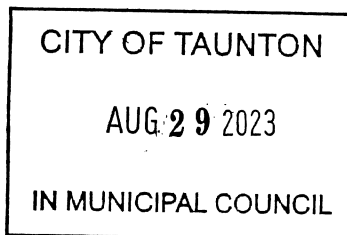
Mr. Pottier suggested that any forecast is only as good as the economic conditions. He noted that his overarching concern is that inflation historically runs at about 3% annually while the City is pretty much held to 2 1/2 % based on Proposition 2 1/2. He asked about the estimate on the cherry sheet number and Mr. Dello Russo confirmed that is mostly education. Mr. Pottier suggested that for the employee benefits health care and pensions be broken out. He stressed that if inflation stays at 3%, purchasing power is down.

Mr. Duarte stated that he is happy to see the compensated absences fund and excited to hear about the solar. He noted the decrease in debt and interest. Mr. Dello Russo indicated that this has been due to the change in how things are done as well as the bond rating increase.

Mr. Sanders indicated his hesitancy around changing indirect costs for schools as a way to make the numbers work better. Mr. Dello Russo clarified that the indirect cost study would be for water and sewer enterprise funds only.

Ms. Borges asked if the TMLP Commission had been involved in discussions on the TMLP solar lease project and Mr. Dello Russo indicated that they had discussions with members of the commission. He indicated that the next two projects will likely be different as they are looking to purchase the systems outright. Ms. Borges noted the \$10 Million increase in trash over the next 5 years. She asked where the revenue from the Airport is coming from. Mr. Dello Russo said that he is not comfortable increasing the airport budget until airport revenue can sustain that increase. Ms. Borges asked about the free disposal day, where that came from and what the cost is to the City. Mr. Dello Russo indicated that within the agreement with Republic they offer a free truck and this was a way to do something within the budget that will be a public benefit.

Motion by Mr. Pottier and seconded by Mr. McCaul to dismiss the parties with thanks and adjourn at 6:36 PM. **So voted.**



Respectfully submitted,



Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.



CITY CLERK

City of Taunton
Municipal Council
August 29, 2023

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2023 SEP -5 P 2: 01

The Committee on the Department of Public Works

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 John McCaul, Chairman
Councilor Lawrence Quintal
Councilor Christopher Coute
Councilor Jeffrey Postell
Councilor Phillip Duarte

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 PM.

1. Sewer Extension

In accordance with Chapter 375-1 of the City of Taunton Ordinance and on the petition of Senna Fitzgerald Gilbert Associates, 28 Main Street, Lakeville, MA on behalf of Eduardo Almeida, owner of property on Marvel Street known as 0 Marvel Street, Assessors Map 91 Lots 170 & 192, Taunton, MA, 02780, a hearing will be held before the Taunton Municipal Council Committee on the Department of Public Works in the Municipal Council Chambers, City Hall, 15 Summer Street, Taunton, MA 02780 on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. for a proposed sewer extension on Marvel Street.

The project will consist of the installation of approximately 121' of a 2" force main sewer pipe running from an existing sewer manhole in Marvel Street to a proposed sewer manhole to be installed in Marvel Street. The force main must meet City of Taunton Sewer Department specifications. The proposed sewer manhole in Marvel Street will include a 2" stub running 5' northeasterly from the proposed sewer manhole, for future connection. The job will also include coring into the existing sewer manhole in Marvel Street, at the elevation indicated. The job must meet all standards of the City of Taunton Department of Public Works including, but not limited to, trench work and permits, road openings, and sewer installation. The Contractor will be responsible to contact Dig-Safe and all appropriate utility companies prior to the start of the project.

There will be no betterment assessments since no City funding is involved.

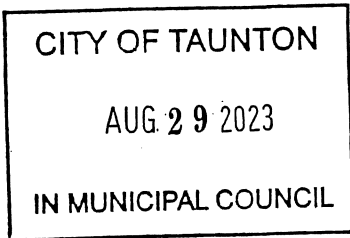
Plans and specifications for the project can be viewed in the Office of the Department of Public works, 90 Ingell Street, Taunton, MA.

*** Please note: A letter was received from the applicant requesting a continuance until September 5, 2023. ***

The Clerk of Committees read the letter from the applicant requesting a continuance until September 5, 2023.

Motion by Mr. Postell and seconded by Mr. Coute to continue until September 5, 2023. So voted.

Motion by Mr. Duarte and seconded by Mr. Postell to adjourn at 6:40 PM. So voted.



Respectfully submitted,

Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees

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CITY CLERK

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TAUNTON, MA

The Committee on Economic Development and Technology

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 Estele Borges, Chairman
Councilor Christopher Couste
Councilor Kelly Dooner

Also present: Sandy Thomas, Taunton Cultural Council
Jay Pateakos, Director of Economic and Community Development
Patrick Dello Russo, CFO

The meeting was called to order at 6:41 PM.

1. Meet to discuss the economic and cultural benefit of a Weir Water District.

Ms. Borges indicated that Ms. Thomas had presented last week but no votes were taken.

Motion by Mr. Couste and seconded by Ms. Dooner to invite in Sandy Thomas. **So voted.**

Motion by Mr. Couste and seconded by Ms. Dooner to invite in the Director of OECD and the CFO. **So voted.**

Ms. Thomas read a letter from Thomas C. Hoyer which requested that her concept be considered.

Motion by Mr. Couste and seconded by Ms. Dooner to make this part of the record. **So voted.**

Ms. Thomas read a letter from Carol Doherty.

Motion by Mr. Couste and seconded by Ms. Dooner to make this part of the record. **So voted.**

Ms. Thomas gave a presentation which highlighted the potential opportunities along the riverfront including various cultural and recreation activities, dining, and other businesses. She proposed a Weir Waterfront District. Ms. Thomas suggested that the City look at it as a waterfront district instead of as one building. She further discussed her proposal to light up the Taunton River. She and AJ Marshall have discussed this with the Mayor, the Chief of Staff, Chief of Police, and former Fire Chief Bradshaw. Both chiefs assigned liaisons. Mr. Dello Russo stated that Mayor O'Connell had decided to use ARPA funds to cover the first year of this

program. They are looking to set up an agency account going forward as there is a public benefit. Ms. Thomas talked about the potential economic benefits of this event.

Ms. Borges asked about the benefits of a water district and Ms. Thomas clarified that she hasn't spoken to the City about a district. Mr. Pateakos suggested that he doesn't want to limit activity in that area.

Ms. Thomas gave some suggestions for next steps. She suggested that the Bacon Felt property be referred back to the Public Properties Committee for reconsideration. She suggested a referral to the Ordinance Committee for discussion on establishing a waterfront district, a referral to the TRA for technical assistance, and a referral to the Pathways Committee.

Mr. Coute suggested that this be sent to the OECD office for a review.

***Motion** by Mr. Coute and seconded by Ms. Dooner to refer this to the Office of Economic Development and the Mayor's Office for a full review and return to this Committee in 60 days with their opinions.*

There was discussion on the Bacon Felt RFP. Mr. Dello Russo suggested a more open RFP is appropriate. He also noted the hazardous material study that is underway. Mr. Coute indicated that while Ms. Thomas' idea is a great one, there may be other great ideas out there so continuing with the Bacon Felt RFP makes sense.

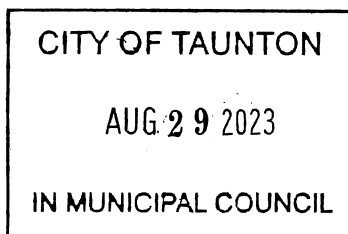
So voted.

Ms. Thomas discussed EFORALL which is a 12 week mentoring program for entrepreneurs. Mr. Pateakos has been involved with the program in the past.

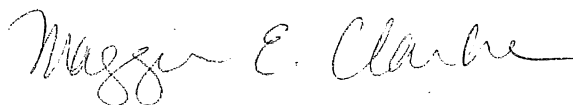
Mr. Duarte confirmed that the Bacon Felt RFP would not be coming back to the City Council. Mr. Dello Russo stated that the Council voted to create a committee and that committee includes Mr. Coute, OECD, Assessors, Treasurers, and the Mayor's Office.

***Motion** by Mr. Coute and seconded by Ms. Dooner to excuse the parties and adjourn at 7:28PM.*

So voted.



Respectfully submitted,



Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.


CITY CLERK

City of Taunton
Municipal Council
August 29, 2023

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2023 SEP -5 P 2:01

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 Christopher Coute
Councilor Barry Sanders
Councilor Lawrence Quintal
Councilor Jeffrey Postell

Also Present: Attorney Scott Rubin, 284R Winthrop Street

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

1. Meet for a pre-review upon the petition of Scott Rubin, Esq., Law Office of Scott B. Rubin, P.C., 71 Legion Parkway, 3rd Floor, Brockton, MA on behalf of his client Philip C. Nessralla, Jr., 1063 North Main Street, Brockton, MA to allow Special Permit for a 2,100 sq. ft. retail marijuana dispensary at 284R Winthrop Street, Taunton located in the Highway Business District.

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

Mr. Pottier suggested that he would like to see renderings and hear about hours of operation, types of offerings, security, traffic impacts, and resumes of interested parties.

Mr. Coute asked about the timeline and financial investment.

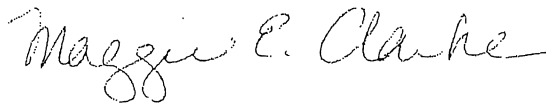
Ms. Borges asked if this is a purchase or a lease as well as requested information on security.

Mr. Duarte asked about the status of the HCA and the status of licensure with the Cannabis Control Commission.

Motion by Mr. Coute and seconded Ms. Borges to excuse the party and adjourn the meeting at 7:34 PM. **So voted.**

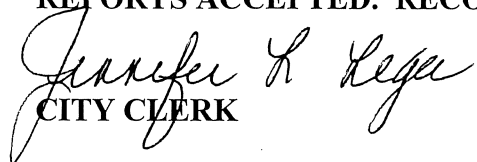
CITY OF TAUNTON
AUG 29 2023
IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Respectfully submitted,



Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.



CITY CLERK