

City of Taunton
Municipal Council
September 12, 2023

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2023 SEP 15 A 8:27

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. CITY CLERK

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

Also Present: Patrick Dello Russo, CFO
Christine Clymens, Treasurer/Collector
Ally Rodriguez, Director of Veterans Services
Julie Venerus, Assistant Treasurer/Collector
Ian Fortes, City Auditor

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 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 \$1,690,144.86. **So voted.**

Motion by Mr. Pottier and seconded by Mr. McCaul to approve the accounts payable warrant in the amount of \$8,646,422.83. **So voted.**

2. Meet to discuss the request to adopt M.G.L. Ch. 60 §3F which is a voluntary donation to municipal veterans assistance fund by designation on municipal property tax or motor vehicle excise bills.

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

Mr. Dello Russo explained that adopting this section of law will allow for a donation option on tax bills which will go into this fund. Ms. Rodriguez explained that there are veterans who are homeless or suffer the cliff effect where they make too much money to receive government assistance but still can't make ends meet. This fund will allow for direct assistance to veterans. Ms. Clymens explained that there will be a box to check online or on the insert with the tax bill. This will be available with both paper payments and online payments. Mr. Dello Russo further explained that this will allow for the solicitation of funds.

Mr. Duarte asked if this would be included with property tax or excise or both. Ms. Clymens confirmed it would be with everything.

Mr. McCaul thought that this sounds like a great idea and asked about the success rate in other communities. Ms. Rodriguez indicated that this has been implemented in other communities such as Easton, Bridgewater, and North Andover. She can report back on the success rate.

Mr. Pottier shared asked about the logistics of payment and Ms. Clymens explained that they will be requesting that donors send a separate check payable to the assistance fund. They can also pay online. Mr. Pottier further asked if this would be tax deductible and Mr. Dello Russo suggested donors consult with their tax attorney or CPA. Mr. Pottier suggested that they try to get an answer to that. Mr. Dello Russo stated that Ms. Rodriguez and her team will need to establish rules and regulations controlling this program. They will come back to the Council and go over the established parameters. Mr. Pottier asked if the 3% charge for credit card payments would apply and Ms. Clymens confirmed that the 2.95% charge would apply.

Mr. Sanders indicated that he believes the tax deductible question should be investigated and perhaps include words such as “may not be tax deductible”. He asked if there are other similar programs that the state would allow the City to opt into. Mr. Dello Russo explained that there are two letters on the agenda this evening to be referred to Finance and Salaries that are just that. One is for seniors and elderly individuals and the other is for students and adults with literacy issues. These will require committees to be established.

Ms. Borges brought up the senior trash bag program where there are some seniors who do not qualify but could use the assistance. Mr. Dello Russo stated that the Mayor’s Helping Hand Fund will be looking at this and will be on the agenda for next week.

Motion by Mr. McCaul and seconded by Mr. Pottier to recommend to the full council that M.G.L. Ch. 60 §3F be adopted. **So voted.**

Motion by Mr. Pottier and seconded by Mr. McCaul to excuse the parties with thanks. **So voted.**

3. Meet for a discussion on stipends for boards, committees, and commissions.

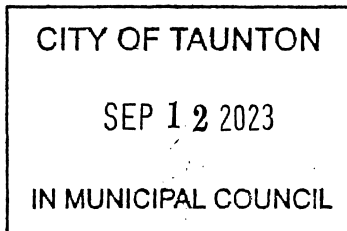
Mr. Pottier explained that some stipends haven’t been looked at or updated in a long time and some receive no stipend. He suggested looking at each stipend based on the frequency of the board’s meetings relative to the Council’s. He would like information on the volume of meetings for each board, whether they are appointed or elected, who appoints them (City or State), how many members, and if there are City officials. Further, the impact to the budget will need to be reviewed. Mr. Dello Russo suggested that the Council will need to determine if there is a value to being elected vs. appointed and set the overall goal.

It was clarified that the current stipend chart is found in Ordinance Chapter 105.

Motion by Mr. Pottier and seconded by Mr. McCaul to adjourn at 6:02 PM. So voted.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used:

- Payroll Warrant #41
- Bill Invoice Warrant #40
- Letter from Patrick Dello Russo dated August 31, 2023
- Ordinance Chapter 105 – Personnel – Stipend Chart
- List of uncompensated boards, committees, and commissions



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. Rega".
CITY CLERK

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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. CITY CLERK

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

Also Present: Amy Kazlauskas, Director of Human Resources
David Enos, Sealer of Weights and Measures
Anthony Abreau, Assistant DPW Commissioner

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

1. Meet to discuss the approval of the candidate for the position of Sealer of Weights and Measures.

The Clerk of Committees read a letter from Commissioner Cornaglia recommending Craig Barter for the position of Sealer of Weights and Measures.

Motion by Mr. Coute and seconded by Mr. Postell to make the letter part of the record. **So voted.**

Motion by Mr. Coute and seconded by Mr. Quintal to invite the DPW staff in. **So voted.**

Mr. Abreau explained that they had interviewed candidates and recommend Craig Barter.

Mr. Enos stated that he has been the Sealer with the City for over 25 years. There previously was a deputy sealer who resigned. Now, he was promoted at his fulltime job and now doesn't have time for the sealer position. This is a fulltime position. It was posted, there were 10 applicants, 4 were interviewed and one withdrew. The first round of interviews were with Mr. Enos, HR, and Mr. Abreau. The second round was with Mr. Cornaglia.

Motion by Mr. Quintal and seconded by Mr. Postell to approve Mr. Barter.

Mr. Postell asked Mr. Enos if he is comfortable with the selection and Mr. Enos confirmed. He stated that Mr. Barter has started getting training.

Mr. Coute asked if there will be any overlap and Mr. Enos stated that he will be on for a short period of time and will be checking in with Mr. Barter.

Mr. Sanders asked if the City might pursue credentialing for other personnel. Mr. Enos explained that the state only allows this for those who have been appointed.

Mr. Pottier asked for some details on the work of the Sealer of Weights and Measures. Mr. Enos explained that every device must be certified once a year. They also do spot checks.

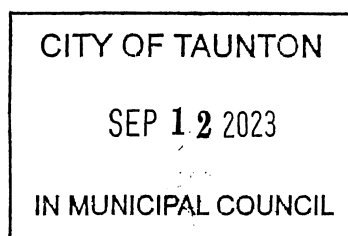
So voted.

Motion by Mr. Coute and seconded by Mr. Postell to excuse the parties and adjourn at 6:20 PM.

So voted.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used:

Letter from DPW Commissioner Fred Cornaglia dated 8/16/23



Respectfully submitted,

Maggie E. Clarke

Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

Jennifer R. Heger
CITY CLERK

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The Committee on Ordinances and Enrolled Bills

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 Barry Sanders, Chairman
Councilor John McCaul
Councilor Kelly Dooner
Christopher Costa, Plumbing and Gas Inspector
Kevin Duquette, Environmental Enforcement Officer, Board of Health
Adam Vickstrom, Assistant Director, Board of Health
Joe Federico, BETA Group, Sewer Consultant
Tony Abreau, DPW Assistant Commissioner
Amy Kazlauskas, Human Resources Director
Lisa Bond, Assistant City Solicitor

The meeting was called to order at 6:22 PM.

1. Meet for a discussion on having the Plumbing Inspector present for all DIRB meetings.

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

Ms. Borges explained that there have been issues with certain petitions and they thought that if the plumbing inspector were present this might have prevented some of the issues that occurred. However, she's concluded that it's probably not particularly beneficial for him to be at every meeting. She would like to see all department heads, however, respond to communications from Mr. Scanlon. She referenced the rest of the agenda this evening and indicated that many restaurants have had to go through many hoops for grease traps. She thinks that it is time to revisit these rules. Some businesses are required to install two grease traps when that is really not necessary.

Mr. Coute indicated that he doesn't think this is needed for residential projects but it would be helpful for some commercial jobs. He does not believe this has been an issue, however, since the plumbing inspector generally attends or is available for questions.

Motion by Ms. Dooner and seconded with Mr. McCaul to dispense of the matter and remove from the agenda. **So voted.**

2. Meet to discuss ordinance change for grease interceptors.

Mr. Sanders asked for some background on this issue and said that it seems everyone needs to have grease interceptors. Mr. Vickstrom stated that the Board of Health works with the DPW. Every restaurant needs a grease trap at the sink and an exterior trap. Alternatively, they can seek a variance and install a secondary. Mr. Abreau explained that some businesses where not much grease is generated can receive a variance. However, if much grease is generated, a trap is required. He referenced a 2006 consent order from the state as well as an administrative federal order. He stressed that the goal is to keep grease out of the sewer lines. Mr. Sanders asked for information on obtaining a variance. It was explained that the applicant would go to the Board of Health who would ask them to send a letter to the DPW.

Mr. McCaul asked about food trucks. Mr. Abreau stated that as long as they are not tied into the sewer, his department is not involved.

Mr. Federico referred to the NPDES permit from the EPA and Mass DEP that spells out the discharge limit. He explained how grease builds up in the sewer system and that there is significant money spent on maintenance. Grease can clog a pipe in the street.

Mr. Costa explained that in certain instances, a second containment is not really necessary or there are other options. He has some proposed changes and stressed that the plumbing code will be changing. When the new code is adopted, this may be in conflict with current ordinance. His proposal would categorize businesses based on their grease production level. Mr. Costa has come up definitions for low, medium, and high grease producers. He would like to consider other ways to remove grease for smaller businesses. He suggested that they all work together, DPW, Board of Health, and himself, to come up with some plans going forward. Mr. Abreau stressed the importance of staying within the state and federal guidelines to avoid any sort of fines.

Ms. Dooner asked how long on average people wait for a variance. Mr. Abreau indicated it is usually just a couple of days. The process usually begins with the Board of Health and then a letter is submitted to the DPW.

Mr. Sanders asked about the plumbing inspector's authority ten feet off a building. Mr. Costa stated that an external grease trap is a dedicated system so is under his authority.

Ms. Borges suggested that she would like to have them back in 45 days and give a report. She asked about how applications for variances are evaluated. Mr. Abreau indicated it is based on size restraints and the type of food being prepared. He talked about other options such as the "trapzilla". Ms. Borges asked if the Council could be emailed a copy of the variance form.

Mr. Coute explained his personal experience where he's installed 4 grease traps and 2 trapzillas. 99.9% of his work was with Mr. Costa. He believes that the person who handles 99.9% of these issues (inspections, review, sizing) should have some authority over the matter per ordinance. As long as the result is that the same amount of grease is removed they

can make it easier for new businesses. Mr. Costa stressed that there are sometimes other options as alternatives to the secondary external grease trap such as 50-75% larger traps or grease removal systems. He suggested three tiers based on the amount of grease produced.

Mr. Pottier asked for more information about food trucks. Mr. Abreau indicated that there is one example where the truck tapped into the sewer line. Mr. Pottier suggested that this committee bring up a discussion on brick and mortar vs. food truck requirements.

Mr. Duquette suggested that this is an unusual program that crosses over multiple departments. The goal is to protect the sewer.

Ms. Borges asked what food trucks do with their grease. Mr. Duquette explained that they use a commissary.

Ms. Dooner suggested they work with the Law Department but Mr. Sanders suggested this could be down the road once the plumbing code is finally adopted.

***Motion** by Ms. Dooner and seconded by Mr. McCaul to table for 45 days and have the parties continue their discussions and come back to the Committee. So voted.*

3. Meet to discuss ordinance change for gas and oil separators/interceptors.

Mr. Costa explained that the regulations are based on old plumbing code and require an oil separator for any commercial building with an opening large enough for a vehicle.

***Motion** by Mr. McCaul and seconded by Ms. Dooner to have the group come together, suggest some changes, and come back in 45 days. So voted.*

4. Meet to discuss revision of back water valve ordinance.

Mr. Costa explained that there is language in the ordinance that is in conflict with the plumbing code. Additionally, he suggested that part of the ordinance has not been enforced whereby a correction should be made upon the sale or transfer of a property. Basically it is only being done for new construction which is a violation of the plumbing code. He believes that the plumbing code should handle this issue.

***Motion** by Ms. Dooner and seconded by Mr. McCaul to table the discussion on back water valve ordinances for 45 days. So voted.*

***Motion** by Ms. Dooner and seconded by Mr. McCaul to dismiss the parties. So voted.*

5. Meet to discuss amending or repealing ordinance requiring pre-employment physicals.

Ms. Kazlauskas indicated that the current Ordinance which requires pre-employment physicals is antiquated, there may be violations involved, and costs the City money. She stressed that the City cannot deny someone from being hired because of their physical. Mr. Sanders asked if there is anything that would show up on a physical that would be a disqualifying physical condition. Mr. Kazlauskas indicated that there is not.

Ms. Kazlauskas stated that this does not apply to civil service and only applies to civilian employees.

Mr. Sanders read a draft from Attorney Bond.

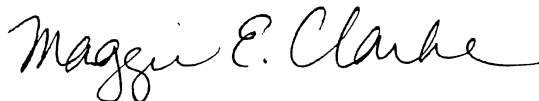
Motion by Ms. Dooner and seconded by Mr. McCaul to refer to the Full Council for a first reading. **So voted.**

Motion by Ms. Dooner and seconded Mr. McCaul to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 PM. **So voted.**

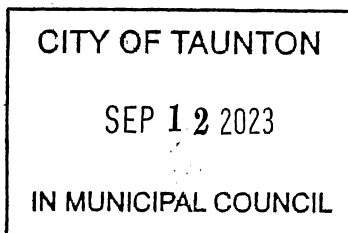
List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used:

Draft – An Ordinance Repealing the Ordinance Regarding Physical Examination

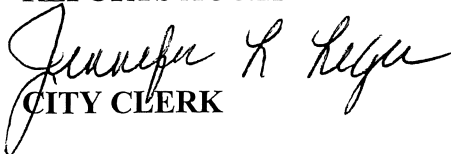
Respectfully submitted,



Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees



REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.



JENNIFER R. LOPEZ
CITY CLERK