

City of Taunton  
Municipal Council  
October 10, 2023

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TAUNTON, MA

**The Committee on Finance and Salaries**

\_\_\_\_\_ CITY CLERK

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  
Christine Clymens, Treasurer/Collector  
Ian Fortes, City Auditor  
Jay Pateakos, Director OECD  
Andrew Sukeforth, Director of Procurement

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM.

1. Approval of minutes from October 3, 2023.

**Motion** by Mr. Pottier and seconded by Mr. Duarte to approve the minutes. **So voted.**

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

**Motion** by Mr. Pottier and seconded by Mr. Duarte to approve the payroll warrant in the amount of \$1,552,596.66. **So voted.**

**Motion** by Mr. Pottier and seconded by Mr. Duarte to approve the accounts payable warrant in the amount of \$2,521,441.22. **So voted.**

3. Meet with the Finance Department to discuss the submission to the Government Finance Officers Association for consideration for a certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting.

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

Mr. Dello Russo explained the process to achieve this award. He indicated that this took six months of going back and forth with the auditors. The submission is now officially under review with GFOA and, typically, it takes 1-2 weeks from this point. He reviewed the table

of contents from the draft document. Mr. Dello Russo noted that there is information from departments such as the Treasurer/Collector and OECD. 25 pages make up the financial section which contains the same type of information that is reported to the State. 80 pages are related to pension plans, OPEB, cash flows, net position etc. TMLP is also included. There is also a statistical section that shows how Taunton stacks up year over year and as compared to other communities.

Mr. Pottier noted that this is an intense analysis by a nationally well-known organization for excellence in government accounting and financial reporting. He asked how often they would need to reapply and Mr. Dello Russo stated that the Mayor intends to do this annually.

Mr. McCaul gave his thanks to the team.

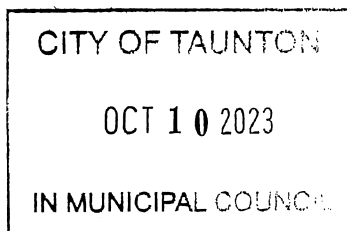
Mr. Duarte asked when they expect to hear back and Mr. Dello Russo indicated that he anticipates a 2-4 week timeframe and that they probably will have some questions. Mr. Duarte asked how many hours this took and Mr. Dello Russo indicated that it takes probably about 25-30% more time equating to hundreds and hundreds of hours.

*Motion by Mr. Pottier and seconded by Mr. McCaul to thank the group and excuse the group. So voted.*

*Motion by Mr. Pottier and seconded by Mr. McCaul to adjourn at 6:16 P.M. So voted.*

**List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used:**

The Committee on Finance and Salaries Meeting Minutes from 10/3/23  
 Payroll Warrant #57  
 Bill Invoice Warrant #56  
 List of items over \$100,000  
 Letter from Patrick Dello Russo dated 9/27/23  
 Draft Annual Comprehensive Financial Report



Respectfully submitted,

Maggie E. Clarke  
 Clerk of Council Committees

**REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.**

**CITY CLERK**

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CITY CLERK

**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.

Members Present: Councilor Barry Sanders, Chairman  
Councilor John McCaul

Members Absent: Councilor Kelly Dooner

Also Present: Edward Walsh, Chief of Police

The meeting was called to order at 6:18 PM.

1. Approve minutes from September 19, 2023.

**Motion** by Mr. McCaul and seconded by Mr. Sanders to approve. **So voted.**

2. Meet to discuss the proposed ordinance change which would require an office on each Class II licensed property.

Mr. Sanders summarized the history of this topic. This was originally discussed in November of 2018 and referred to the City Solicitor. Attorney de Abreau provided proposed language for a change to the Ordinance. In January of 2019 his letter was discussed and, at that time, input from the City Planner and Building Department were requested. Correspondence was received from the City Planner noting that there are plumbing codes related to restrooms to be considered. Mr. Pirozzi, the Building Commissioner, also replied in February of 2019 about plumbing requirements.

Mr. Sanders read the draft ordinance that was suggested to be included in the Class II License Ordinance.

**Motion** by Mr. McCaul and seconded by Mr. Sanders to refer the letter from December 23, 2018 and subsequent notes from the file to the Law Department for their review and have them to join the Committee in 3 weeks. **So voted.**

3. Meet with the Police Chief for a preliminary discussion on ordinances related to access to Lake Sabbatia

**Motion** by Mr. Sanders and seconded by Mr. McCaul to invite in Chief Walsh. **So voted.**

Chief Walsh informed the Committee that the administration has a meeting scheduled for the next day to begin working to address some of the issues. One issue is access to the Lake. There is some City owned land that they might be looking at. Other considerations are to possibly limit horsepower, speed on the Lake, and the types of engines allowed. He suggested that the administration needs first to sit with the key stakeholders before coming to the Council.

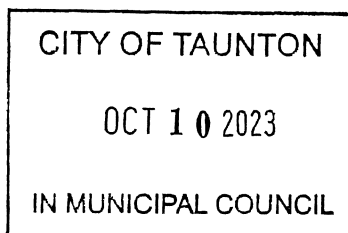
Mr. McCaul suggested that the speed limit should be looked at, not horsepower. The Chief indicated that sometimes boats are just too big for the Lake.

The Committee requested that the Chief or someone from the administration come back in 5 weeks with an update on progress.

**Motion** by Mr. McCaul and seconded Mr. Sanders to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 PM. **So voted.**

**List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used:**

Committee on Ordinances and Enrolled Bills Meeting Minutes of 9/19/23  
 Committee on Ordinances and Enrolled Bills Meeting Minutes of 11/27/18  
 Letter from Attorney Daniel de Abreau dated 12/23/18  
 Committee on Ordinances and Enrolled Bills Meeting Minutes of 1/8/19  
 Letter from Robert Pirozzi dated 2/4/19  
 Letter from Kevin Scanlon dated 1/23/19  
 Letter from Jason Roomes dated 9/7/23



Respectfully submitted,

*Maggie E. Clarke*  
 Maggie E. Clarke  
 Clerk of Council Committees

**REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.**

*Jeanette R. Legu*  
 CITY CLERK

Committee on Ordinances and Enrolled Bills  
 October 10, 2023  
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