



City of Taunton
Municipal Council Meeting Minutes

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Temporary City Hall, 141 Oak Street, Taunton, MA
Minutes, May 27, 2014 at 7:00 O'clock P.M.

Regular Meeting

Mayor Thomas C. Hoye, Jr. presiding

Prayer was offered by the Mayor

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Jane McManus, former police officer who passed away over the past week,

Present at roll call were: Councilor's Borges, Carr, Cleary, Costa-Hanlon, Croteau, Marshall, McCaul, Quinn, Pottier

Record of preceding meeting was read by Title and Approved. So Voted.

Communications from the Mayor:

The Mayor thanked all of the veterans, elected officials, children and anyone from the community that participated in the Memorial Day Parade. It was a wonderful event and it was great to see the school children marching alongside of the veterans. He also mentioned Col. Don Cleary who marched in the parade and who was also at the memorial in the Mayflower Cemetery that morning. It was a great day for the City of Taunton, which is always very thoughtful in the way that our veterans are treated and the respect that is shown for the sacrifices that many have made for their country.

The Mayor thanked Craig Silvia for donating all of the binders that the large budgets will be contained in.

At this time, the Mayor presented the FY2015 Budget. He stated that this is a bare bones budget with no layoffs. We are not quite where we want to be, and new growth also isn't where we'd want it to be. State aid, which will be talked about later in the presentation isn't nearly where it should be. Some good things are happening at the former Dever State School, which is Phases IV&V of our Industrial Park that will improve our tax pace and be a great job creator for our region. He also stated that hopefully it is going to continue to grow and expand into the next year and years to come. Home sales are up in the region. The Mayor thanked Gill Enos for all his hard work in putting this all together and his Chief of Staff, Alyssa Gracia for help with the slideshow. He stated that our city will continue to seek new economic growth and opportunity to increase our tax base, which in turn, will create job opportunities for our residents. The Industrial Park was mentioned. We will seek sustainable solutions to problems, and we will not leave issues of today to the next generation to solve. That is a very important point. He has talked with Councilor Croteau about that over the past few weeks. We cannot continue to do

that, we need to fix things today. Some great things are happening, especially with the DPW, with all the water and sewer work going on currently. Our streets are going to catch up soon. We will continue to live within our means and make prudent decisions to make Taunton a successful and sustainable community. The Budget Requests by Departments excluding the Enterprise accounts were \$178,099,232.52, the budget cuts by the Mayor in preparing this budget were just over \$3,500,000.00. Department heads are asking for things, as they should, but unfortunately we just can't deliver on everything that they want. The Budget Summary of all Departments at a glance, including Enterprises for the FY2015 Preliminary Budget is \$208,479,402.33, which is an increase of \$6,708,738.30 from FY2014. The Mayor then went over the budgets of the larger departments, State Assessments and County Assessments. He then read the breakdown of the spending by department. In his opinion, the Health/Citizen and the Cultural/Recreation percentages need to increase. The Mayor reviewed the Lottery/Unrestricted Aid Pattern. FY12 was the most difficult year with Unrestricted Aid just over \$6,500,000.00. FY15 is just over \$200,000.00 from FY14. We are heading in the right direction, but we are just not there yet. It makes it more difficult to increase the police force, recreation and culture infrastructure. He discussed the average family tax bill and that Taunton ranked 253 out of 337 communities across the Commonwealth and 13 out of 22 Gateway Cities. Mayor Hoyer then explained that a Gateway City is defined as a municipality with the following criteria, a population greater than 35,000 and less than 250,000, a median household income that is below the state average and a rate of education attainment of a bachelor's degree or above that is below the state average. He discussed the changes for the City Departments. The Department of Public Works has a long term commitment to improving City roads and sidewalks and bringing all sidewalks into ADA compliance over the next 10 years. The FY2015 Street and Sidewalk Improvement list was discussed. He thanked the DOT and the Governor's office for the Winter Rapid Road Recovery. The Department of Public Works will also continue to work with the Mass DOT on the replacement of the Washington Street bridge and all utilities around it. They will also work on various drainage projects. The Snow and Ice Deficit of \$1,025,000 from FY14 was discussed with a goal to eliminate it by the way of year end transfers. The Water Department was the recipient of the Regional Recognition Award at the 2014 Public Water System Awards. The Mayor then thanked Cathal O'Brien and his team for the great work that his department does. He then went over the list of the water main replacements. Sewer projects will continue. The Department of Public Safety will continue to maintain and update equipment as needed, such as the new fire truck that was just purchased. We are committed to hiring additional personnel in both the Taunton Fire and Police Departments. We are also working with our Federal Delegation to pursue additional SAFER grant and COPS grant funding. Veterans Services are committed to continuing our obligation to take care of the needs of all of our service men and women, and should be commended for all the hard work that is done every day. The Office of Economic and Community Development will continue to fund \$35,000.00 in façade improvements, extend the Downtown façade program, complete Phase 2 of the Downtown Improvement Project and complete Phase 2 final paving during the fall of 2014. He thanked Kevin Shea's office and the DPW for staying on top of this difficult process. The Parking Commission will make long-term repairs to the Leonard Street parking garage. The BETA engineering contract has been signed and engineering work is underway and the Pleasant Street lot paving has been completed. The Department of Human Services will continue to preserve and enhance programs at current levels.

The Mayor thanked Ann and her staff for doing a wonderful job at providing those activities. He met a woman at the last Spring Fling who pulled him aside to compliment how great the event was. Head Start and the Library will continue their services. The Parks, Cemeteries and Public Grounds will continue to offer highly acclaimed affordable programs. The pool will remain open for the duration of summer camp and the weeds program will continue. They will also offer a youth lacrosse program this year and ~~planning is underway for Taunton's 375th Anniversary in the fall of 2014.~~ A \$200,000.00 state grant through the Common Backyards Program was received to build a Spray Park at Hopewell Park. The Mayor commended Marilyn Greene and her staff for the 100th Lighting of The Green. Goals for the future include working with the Municipal Council and Department Heads to develop a 10 year capital plan, funding of capital infrastructure and equipment needs, pursuit of a COPS grant, continuing to pursue grants, funding our schools to the best of our ability, make our neighborhoods a priority, investing in Downtown Taunton and the neighborhoods in the Weir and Whittenton section of the city and also to finalize plans for City Hall. Numerous Councilors asked questions. **Council President Marshall motioned to print only one copy of the budget if it was really thick. So Voted.** Mayor Hoye wanted to thank all of the Department Heads that took the time out of their schedules to attend the presentation.

Motion was made to recess at 7:45 P.M. So Voted.

Motion was made to revert back to the regular order of business at 7:59 P.M. So Voted.

Communications:

Com. from Superintendent of Buildings submitting a report of recommendations to improve the audio in the Municipal Council Chambers. Tom Pestana recommended the installation of new microphones over the next few months and suggested that an evaluation be performed by a certified acoustical engineer. He will work with Greg Glynn to upgrade the microphones. It was also recommended that we move forward with the planned renovations for the Maxham building. The cost for engineering and acoustical upgrades to the Council Chamber could be expensive. The Taunton Municipal Network offered to purchase 22 microphones at a cost of \$6,000.00. **Motion was made to receive and place on file. So Voted. Motion was made to ask Comcast if they will pay for all or a portion of the cost to replace the microphones. Councilors Cleary, McCaul and Quinn voting in opposition. Six (6) Councilors in favor, three (3) Councilors in opposition. So Voted.**

Com. from Chairman, Taunton Planning Board notifying of a public meeting that will be held on Thursday, June 5, 2014 at 5:30pm at Maxham School, 141 Oak Street., Taunton, MA. **Motion was made to receive and place on file. So Voted.**

Com. from Craig Foley, TMLP submitting a list of double poles in Taunton. Council President Marshall wanted to thank Mr. Foley for his detailed report. Council President Marshall discussed how the Verizon Manager was 80 poles off when he reported to us three weeks ago that there were 8 double poles that were Verizon's issue. According to the TMLP, there are 87 current double poles in this city. 83 of the double poles need to have wires transferred from Verizon, 75 need them transferred from Comcast and 12

need wires transferred over from the TMLP. Assistant City Solicitor, Dan de Abreu is setting up a meeting with Comcast, Verizon and TMLP to negotiate this issue and concern. **Motion was made to refer to Dan de Abreu, the Asst. City Solicitor. He is requesting that a letter be sent to Verizon and Comcast asking this work to be done post haste and if not, when the expected completion date would be and when the remaining poles will be removed. So Voted.** Councilor Costa-Hanlon discussed the sidewalks and the road being done on Fairview Avenue, but one of the issues is A.D.A. accessibility because a pole is literally in the middle of the sidewalk. She requested to refer that to the Asst. City Solicitor if there are any regulations or anything else that we can ask of Verizon and Comcast to assist us with moving their poles or addressing the ADA issue. **Motion was also made to request an updated report in 30 days to show the progress on the project. So Voted.** Council President Marshall asked the Assistant City Solicitor to craft a penalty ordinance that if these poles are not moved in a certain amount of time that the Council is looking to craft a significant ordinance and fine fee structure to that if immediate action isn't taken.

Com. from Board of License Commissioners responding on additional liquor licenses. They have not received any correspondence from the State either rejecting or allowing the request for additional Section 15 package store licenses. **Motion was made to receive and place on file and to also send a similar letter to our Legislation to ask what the status is. So Voted.**

Petitions:

Petition submitted by Alan Medeiros, Treasurer, Italian Social Club of Taunton, Inc. requesting a renewal of their Billiard Table License located at 2 Columbus Boulevard, Taunton. (1 Table) **Motion was made to refer to the Committee on Police and License and the Police Chief. So Voted.**

Petition submitted by Peter Hebert requesting a renewal of the Billiard Table License for Baha Bros. Pub & Restaurant, Inc. –dba- Sandbar Grill located at 64 Weir St., Taunton. (2 Tables) **Motion was made to refer to the Committee on Police and License and the Police Chief. 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:

Councilor Costa-Hanlon made a prior motion in the Committee on Public Property to ask the Risk Manager to provide a list of personal property that came out of the City Hall as a result of the fire. She would like to know what has been paid on that personal property, where it is stored and what items will be returned to a new City Hall. Councilor Costa-Hanlon requested a letter to be received within two weeks. So Voted.

Orders, Ordinances, and Resolutions

Ordinance for a third reading to be ordained on a roll call vote

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE RESIDENT HIRING POLICY
FOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

Chapter 2

ADMINISTRATION

Article XI. Hiring Policy for Public Works Projects
Sections 2-305 through 2-311

Be it ordained by the Municipal Council of the City of Taunton and by authority of the same as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 2, Article XI of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Taunton, as amended, is hereby further amended by striking sections 2-305 to 2-311, inclusive and replacing sections 2-305 and 2-306 with the following:

Sec. 2-305. Definitions.

The term “bona fide resident” as used in this article, shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the following meaning: any person for whom the principal place where that person normally eats and sleeps and maintains his or her normal personal and household effects is within the city limits of the City of Taunton. (Ord. of 9-25-84, sec 2)

Sec. 2-306. Policy.

(a) On any construction project funded in whole or in part by city funds, or funds which, in accordance with a federal grant or otherwise, the city expends or administers, or which the city is a signatory to the construction contract, the department involved shall determine whether the language in paragraph (b) of this section may be included in the contract without a detrimental effect upon the cost or quality of the project. If the department determines that the language may be included without detrimental effect, then it shall, to the extent practicable and to the extent allowable by law, include such language or its substantial equivalent in the contract.

(b) To the extent allowable by law, contractor shall work in good faith with the City to:
(i) employ (or cause its contractors to employ) bona fide residents during construction and (ii) purchase goods and services from local vendors provided that the cost and quality is competitive with other sources.

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage. On a roll call vote, nine (9) Councilors present, nine (9) Councilors voting in favor. Motion carries.

Order for a second reading to be ordained on a roll call vote

Ordered That,

\$44,184 is appropriated to pay costs of the High School reconstruction project and that to meet this appropriation, such amount shall be transferred from funds originally borrowed to pay costs of the Harold H. Galligan School roof repair project, as authorized by Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, because such funds are no longer needed to complete that project. **On a roll call vote, nine (9) Councilors present, nine (9) Councilors voting in favor.**

New Business:

Councilor Pottier discussed comparing the FY2015 budget to the FY2010 budget. He motioned to refer to The Committee of Finance and Salaries and requested a report by next week. So Voted.

Councilor Pottier discussed the poor road conditions on Weir Street near Haskon. Trucks speeding by are causing homes to shake and are causing cracks on the walls. He motioned to refer to both the Department of Public Works regarding the street and to the Taunton Police Department regarding the speeding issue. So Voted.

Councilor Marshall motioned that the DPW Commissioner have a "Dangerous Curve Ahead" sign installed on Bay Street, Northbound, in the vicinity across from the upper parking lot of Watson's Pond. So Voted.

Councilor Carr mentioned a large pile of debris on Davis Street. Mayor Hoye said that the police are aware of the situation and they have a partial plate on the vehicle that dumped the trash. Motion was made to refer to the Department of Public Works to remove the debris. So Voted.

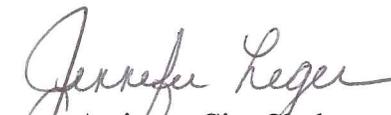
Councilor Carr motioned that the Budget Director provide a separate list of any buyouts from salaries & wages to differentiate what amounts are actual salaries and what are the buyout amounts for the budget hearings. So Voted.

Councilor Cleary made a motion requesting to have a radar trailer set up on Dighton Avenue just after Dighton Road. There are many concerns regarding speeding after the recent road repairs. So Voted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

A true copy:

Attest:


Assistant City Clerk

JLL/SJS

CITY OF TAUNTON
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
MAY 27, 2014

THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES

PRESENT WERE: COUNCILOR GERALD CROTEAU, CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILORS CARR AND POTTIER. ALSO PRESENT WERE BUDGET DIRECTOR GILL ENOS AND WATER DIVISION SUPERVISOR CATHAL O'BRIEN

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:40 P.M.

1. MEET TO REVIEW THE WEEKLY VOUCHERS & PAYROLLS FOR CITY DEPARTMENTS

MOTION: MOVE APPROAL OF THE VOUCHERS AND PAYROLLS FOR THE WEEK. SO VOTED.

2. MEET TO REVIEW REQUESTS FOR FUNDING

PRESENTED WAS A REQUEST FROM THE WATER DIVISION SUPERVISOR TO TRANSFER \$357,090.00 FROM WATER FREE CASH TO THE 203 CAPITAL LINE ITEM FOR CHANGE ORDER #2 OF THE 2013 WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS.

THE WATER SUPERVISOR NOTED THAT THEY COULD ONLY ENCUMBER THE CONTRACT AMOUNT AND NOT THE CONTINGENCIES THEREFORE HE NEEDS TO TRANSFER THIS MONEY BACK AGAIN TO THE LINE ITEM.

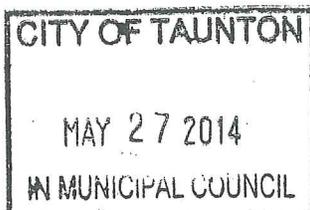
MOTION: TO INCREASE THE EXPENSE BOTTOM LINE BY \$357,090.00 AND TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER.

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED, AND ON DISCUSSION COUNCILOR CARR NOTED THAT ALL OF THE FUNDS ARE GOING TO ONE LINE ITEM.

COUNCILOR POTTIER STATED THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE APPROVING AN OVER EXPENDITURE OF A LINE ITEM TO COVER THE EXPENDITURES OF THE CAPITAL PROJECT.

THE MOTION WAS VOTED ON AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMITTEE.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:45 P.M.



RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

COLLEEN M. ELLIS
CLERK OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

REPORTS ACCEPTED, RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK



CITY OF TAUNTON

ORDER #49
FY 2014
MAY 27, 2014

In Municipal Council 20.....

Ordered, That **THE SUM OF THREE HUNDRED FIFTY SEVEN THOUSAND
NINETY DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$357,090.00) BE AND HEREBY IS TRANSFERRED FROM
WATER DEPARTMENT FREE CASH ACCOUNT NO. 60-000-0141-3590**

TO: WATER DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT NO. 60-450-203-5870 – CAPITAL

..... *Clerk.*