



*City of Taunton
Municipal Council Meeting Minutes*

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*Temporary City Hall, 141 Oak Street, Taunton, MA
Minutes, November 10, 2014 at 7:49 O'clock P.M.*

Regular Meeting

Council President Marshall presiding

A moment of silence was observed in memory of long time Taunton physician C. Nason Burden, M.D., member of the Board of Health since 1996 who passed away in his sleep on November 8, 2014. Tomorrow we will be celebrating the veterans that have made the ultimate sacrifice for us to assemble this evening in this chamber. He stated that we should keep all veterans, past and present, in our thoughts tonight.

Prayer was offered by Council President Marshall

Present at roll call were: Councilors Cleary, Marshall, Costa-Hanlon, Croteau, Pottier, McCaul, Quinn, Carr, and Borges

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

Hearing:

Hearing came up by assignment on the Board of Assessors FY2015 Classification Hearing. **Motion was made to open the hearing and invite the interested parties in. So Voted.** Assessors Lisa LaBelle and Scott DeSantis were present to do the Classification Hearing for the Council to determine the shift for the tax rate. Ms. LaBelle stated that she has e-mailed everyone the information in the packets. **Motion was made to have the letter and the attachments be made part of the record. Council President Marshall stated that it would include the letter, the options table, the Massachusetts Division of Local Services Assessment Classification Report and the framed document. Councilor Costa-Hanlon added the Tax Rate Options table and the Classification Hearing Synopsis. So Voted.** Ms. LaBelle discussed the calculation for the Max Allowable Levy. She stated that last year's levy limit for FY 2014 was \$79,508,137.00. The limit is then multiplied by 2.5% which equals \$1,987,703.00 and the new growth is added which determines the levy limit for this year which is \$83,171,138.00. Councilor Croteau inquired about what the difference is between the City's total and the levy ceiling. Ms. Labelle stated that the levy ceiling is the max that it can be raised. Councilor Croteau stated that it is not the max that it can be raised; it is the max that can be raised by vote by the public for Prop. 2 1/2 overrides. The max that can be raised is this year's levy plus 2.5%, plus new growth. The \$110,574,576.00 is the max that voters can raise. Ms. LaBelle stated that the max allowable limit is made up of the levy limit plus the debt exclusion, which was voted on back in 2008, and the max allowable for FY 2015 is \$84,609,476.00. Councilor Cleary wanted to clarify that the final figure of \$84,609,476.00 is what will be raised between the commercial and residential taxes. Ms. LaBelle confirmed. Last year's tax rate options table was

discussed. The maximum allowable shift was 1.75 which would give a residential rate of \$15.01/\$1,000 and a commercial industrial personal property of \$33.25/\$1,000 and then it drops down percentages. Last year the Council voted at the 1.71 table. If we were to go to a single rate, it would be \$19.00 across the board. Council President Marshall asked Ms. LaBelle if she had done the calculation for the average homeowner at the maximum of 1.75. She stated that it would increase the average residential single family home by \$114.00 annually. Council President Marshall stated that if we go with the 1.71, which the Council did last year, it will go to a \$164.00 average based on the average assessment of \$229,270.00 on single family homes. Councilor Pottier asked if that was the extent of their presentation. He thanked them for coming in and providing the numbers early and thoroughly. He stated that he looked at the DOR website for comparison rates and it lists Taunton's shift as 1.709 not 1.71. Ms. LaBelle stated that the number is rounded on that site. He stated that 23 Communities are at 1.75, Taunton being at 1.709 puts us 30th for a tax shift in the Commonwealth. Some of the communities at 1.75 are similar sized communities. Also, at our current commercial tax rate for FY14 which was \$31.19/\$1,000 puts us 29th in the Commonwealth. He stated that on the classification sheet which he found very helpful, he brought up something that was said in an earlier sub-committee meeting by Councilor Croteau and Councilor Cleary who said that the average should be approximately 2.5% for a single family home. When looking at the numbers, if we go with 1.71 which is what was used in FY14 and also what is being considered for this year, the increase is \$164.88. Last year the average tax rate was \$3,326.00 so an increase of \$164.88 would be almost a 5% increase. He stated that if the average residential tax payer under 1.71 would see an increase of 5% and if we can only go up on the levy by 2.5%, doesn't that say that the average commercial property tax would have to be below 2.5%. He stated that on the tax rate options table, the case was made to the Council last year that if the Council didn't do the shift we would have businesses move out of town. He stated that an average downtown development of \$ 500,000.00 would be multiplied by the rate of \$32.47/\$1000 is \$16,235.00. If it was increased to the 1.75, that would go up to \$33.25/\$1000 which would total \$16,625.00. The business would see an increase of \$390.00 going to a shift of 1.75. He stated that he didn't think that anyone would make a go/no go decision in the City for a \$500,000.00 investment for a \$390.00 change in their assessment. He stated that the assessment for Jordan's Furniture is approximately \$28M. The lower rate would be \$909,000.00, the higher rate would bring it up to \$931,000.00. He stated that if the shift goes to 1.75, it is still a big increase of 3.5%, which is better than 5%. He is considering making a motion later to increase the rate to 1.75. Councilor Croteau stated that last year he voted against dropping from 1.75 to 1.71. At the time, it was going to be a \$60.00 difference to the average homeowner. He also calculated that if we started down the road dropping the 1.75, it would cost the average homeowner \$900.00. He stated that he felt that \$60.00 to the average homeowner was a fair amount of money. He stated that he will support going back to 1.75, he does not think that 1.71 will make that much of a difference. He stated that a house assessed at \$229,000.00 will be \$164.00 if the rate stays as is. If it was to go to 1.75 it would be \$114.00. Councilor Costa-Hanlon stated that the average single family house value has gone up since last year. She stated that commercial and CIP rates have gone up 17% in the past two years and residential rates have gone up 10%. She discussed new growth figures; the biggest increase that she has seen is ForeKicks, valued at \$9M which helps subsidize. She questioned if the new growth includes the increase in values or does that include entities such as commercial and industrial as well as new residential properties. Mr. DeSantis stated that it includes personal property as

well. She would like to know what percentage of the 1.675 comes from residential and commercial. Ms. LaBelle stated that the biggest chunk of that is from commercial because they pay personal property tax. Mr. DeSantis stated that he did not have those numbers in front of him, but he thinks that about \$900,000.00 is from residential. Councilor Costa-Hanlon stated that she had sent Ms. LaBelle a list of questions that she would ask. One of them was what would happen if we had no entities and just kept it \$14.61/\$1,000 and kept commercial at \$31.19/\$1000. She stated that what the assessors were saying is that if we did that, we would lose \$3.4M from that levy amount. She stated that she did the calculation and got \$81,200.00, which if the rates were \$14.61/\$1,000 and \$31.19/\$1,000, it would be a reduction for everyone. Ms. LaBelle verified that that number does not include the debt exclusion. Councilor Costa-Hanlon stated that if you add the debt exclusion, you would come out with a deficit of \$1.9M instead of \$3.4M. She questioned what the average annual increase is. Mr. DeSantis stated that it would be the \$229,000.00 multiplied by last year's rate of \$14.61/\$1,000. Councilor Costa-Hanlon stated that even if we went back to the 1.75 commercial rate, it would be a decrease and would result in less of an assessment. She stated that we wouldn't lose \$2M in base going forward, and the Mayor is relying on the levy amount of \$84.6M and there is \$9M in the Stabilization. Councilor Cleary stated that last year was the first time in a while that the tax rate was actually reduced from 1.75 commercial rate to 1.71. He stated that he appreciated the information provided by the assessors. He stated that only 103 communities out of 340 in the state use this split tax rate. He stated that any of those 103 communities have all initially made an effort to reduce the impact of the tax rate on the residents. The remaining communities all charge the residents the same as commercial. Councilor Cleary discussed that Taunton has \$4.3B worth of property value, of that figure; \$3.5B is residential property and about \$.8B or \$.9B is commercial. Currently at the 1.71 split, the residential tax rate would go up \$.62 for each thousand of valuation. At 1.71, the commercial rate would increase to \$1.28. The valuation will double the impact on the commercial as opposed to the residential. Based on the fifteen (15) year tax history that was provided in the packet, if the rate was to stay at the 1.71 it would be the lowest residential increase since 2007. Ms. LaBelle has a 15-20 year tax history **Motion was made to make the 15-20 year tax history part of the record. So Voted.** Councilor Cleary discussed the 57 communities that have established their tax rates. He stated that if we were to go back to 1.75, it would send the wrong message to business partners in the City of Taunton. He would like to maintain the 1.71 split. Councilor Quinn stated that the \$81.2M does not include the debt exclusion. She stated that if you take last year's rate multiplied by the new residential valuation it will equal the tax dollars. If the rate is left as is, the City's budget will be short by \$3.4M. She stated that the 1.71 vs 1.75 is an issue for small businesses in Taunton. They are what is affected most, not the big businesses. Councilor Carr stated that she agrees with everything that has been said tonight. She inquired about where the Levy Ceiling number comes from, she stated that it is 30% higher than the levy limit. She stated that you cannot go above that number when you pass overrides. Councilor Carr questioned if the difference between the two numbers are what you are allowed to override or debt exclusion. She also wanted to confirm that the debt exclusion decreases every year. Ms. LaBelle confirmed this and the Budget Director stated that we have fifteen (15) years left. Councilor Carr stated that Councilor Cleary's thoughts on leaving the tax where it is this year for next year, there should be a big discussion with Mayor Hoye before that is done because the budget will be cut by a couple of million dollars. She would like to know what will be lost on one end to gain on the other end. Councilor Borges thanked Mr.

DeSantis and Ms. Labelle for answering all her calls and questions. She stated that if you look at the real and personal property total and multiply that by 2.5 that is where you get your levy limit. She stated that last year, she supported the shift going towards the business side and reducing their tax rates. However, over the past year and after a lot of research, she supports business but feels that the burden should not be put on the residents but more on the business side because they can afford that more than the residents can. She stated that she feels very strongly about staying at the 1.75. Councilor Croteau stated that Taunton is one of the sixty (60) poorest communities in the state as of 1994 and it hasn't gotten any better. He stated at the time, 32% of our children qualified for free and reduced lunch out of about 2,500 youngsters. As of now, 52% qualify for free and reduced. He stated that 60% of jobs pay an average salary of \$31,000.00 per year, and the recession is not over. Councilor Croteau stated that Taunton is still one of the poorest communities in the state. He stated that on the DOR website, go to the Data Communities Sheet and on the first page there is a breakdown of the \$4.3B. He discussed how Taunton has a lot of very poor people in the community, most do not own property but they do rent. People in this community need assistance and we need to have the 1.75. The more money we take from the commercial/industrial sector, the more we reduce that and more money will come out of the homeowners pockets. He is interested in the average assessed value of homes in this community and how many dollars are based on \$229,000.00. The total property tax on a home assessed at \$229,000.00 would be approximately \$3,300.00. He stated that the average family pays close to \$1,000.00 a year for water and sewer and it will double because of all the water and sewer work that needs to be done. He stated that we need 1.75 to protect families. Councilor Pottier stated that at 1.71, the average homeowner would see a 4.94% increase. If the Council goes with a tax shift, there is still a 3% increase. If the average residential property gets a 3% increase, then the average business percentage has to be below 2.5%. He stated that the math has to work out and 3% is a high number for the taxpayer. The difference has to be to the average corporate user. The average business valued at \$250,000.00, would see an increase of \$140.00 per year. To keep it the same and go from 1.71 to 1.75, the residents, which are 80% of the tax base will see a decrease of \$50.00. If there is a benefit to be given, it should be to the residents at the expense of the businesses that can afford it. Councilor McCaul stated that many years ago, Mayor Nunes said to treat the City like a business. He stated that if that is the case and the same rates as last year are kept, then the deficit will be at \$3.4M. He stated that with that kind of deficit, there could be layoffs of police, fire and teachers. Ms. LaBelle stated that if the rate is kept the same, \$81M would be raised. She took what is able to be raised and the difference was \$3.4M. Council President Marshall stated that it is irresponsible for the Council to cut the budget now. He supports the 1.75 shift. Councilor McCaul stated that the taxpayers have spent a lot and residents are hurting. He stated that he supports the 1.75 shift. Council President Marshall stated that he supported the 1.75 shift last year, and he does this year also. He stated that there are other ways to help small businesses. He stated that if we went with the 1.75 this year, which on the residential rate would be \$15.01/\$1,000 vs. \$14.61/\$1,000. There is a .40 difference, which when multiplied by \$229,000.00 would be an average savings of \$91.60 per year.

Com. from Kerrie Babin, President, Taunton Area Chamber of Commerce requesting consideration to maintain the current commercial tax rate for businesses. **Motion was made to make part of the record. So Voted.**

Com. from Colleen Simmons, Taunton Business Improvement District requesting the Council maintains the current commercial tax rate for businesses. **Motion was made to make part of the record. So Voted.**

Selena Penn Dexter, 50 Homestead Crossing, Taunton, MA stated that the shift was done last year for the businesses. She questioned how many businesses did that bring into Taunton and how many Taunton residents got jobs from it. She stated that she believes that there was no businesses brought in, but yet tax breaks were given and no residents got jobs. She stated that if the tax rate was shifted back, the homeowners would have more money to spend at these businesses. Councilor Costa-Hanlon stated that ForeKicks was a new business that came into Taunton and there have been others that have come into the City in the last year. Frank Lagace, 36 Steven Street, E. Taunton, MA stated that last year the TACC sat here representing businesses from the City and did nothing to support the tax shift. He stated that Councilor Cleary discussed how businesses were suffering because of the Health Care Act. He stated that he was correct but the wage earners are also suffering. He stated that 2008 is still with us now. He stated that the shift should go back because businesses can't handle it. He stated that he knows a lot of small business people who are doing quite well, however Councilor Quinn made an outstanding point that the sole proprietors are getting heavily taxed with FICA and Medicare twice. He stated that we as consumers put money into the economy; the economy is a 66% consumer economy. He stated that the shift should go back to where it was. He stated that business owners and their personal property should be looked at. He stated that we have to watch what we buy and have to do more with less. He stated that the unemployment rate in the city is at 7.4% as opposed to 7.1% last year. He would like to see some economic data on that and that a decision should not be made without research and reports. Kerrie Babin, President of the TACC recommends that the Council maintain the current tax rate and focus on Downtown. She stated that the small businesses get no relief in terms of corporate tax credits or TIF's. She stated that for vacancies to be filled downtown the small businesses need to be offered incentives. It sends the wrong message to businesses if we have a shift of 1.75. She does not want it to appear that Taunton is not business friendly. She stated that the City is very fortunate to have Jordan's Furniture. She said a lot of jobs come from the small companies. The shift helps but business growth does not happen overnight. She discussed Downtown New Bedford and how Taunton needs to have a competitive commercial tax rate that will bring businesses here. She encouraged Taunton to keep the 1.71 this year. Colleen Simmons, BID requested that the commercial rate not be increased. She stated that they are working to bring businesses to the Downtown district. The Downtown Taunton Foundation, a non-profit organization that includes in its mission to purchase foreclosed, blighted, downtown properties paid \$8,000.00 in taxes on its most recent project. A property was developed on School St. that was zoned as commercial space; it was redeveloped and put back on the tax rolls. The high tax bill however, for a modest non-profit organization will play a significant factor in determining any future projects. The burden of the tax rate comes right off the bottom line for the average small business owner Downtown. She stated that she is speaking for many property owners that are trying to reinvest in their properties and a tax increase will only hamper those efforts. The investments to properties downtown only stands to benefit the City as a whole. Councilor Pottier stated that any comments made about Jordan's Furniture was only directed towards them as an example of a large company. **Motion was made that the City Council approve the rates at the 1.75 shift for FY15, which will be**

\$15.01/\$1,000.00 for residential and \$33.25/\$1,000.00 for commercial industrial personal property. Councilor Cleary stated that as you increase the residential taxes by \$.40/\$1,000.00, the increase for the commercial rate is being increased by \$2.06/\$1,000.00 which is approximately a 5-1 increase. Councilor Quinn stated that if we go back to the 1.75, the fees for small businesses were just significantly raised. She stated that the Council should be conscious of that as the small businesses come to apply. Councilor Costa-Hanlon stated that she supported the tax shift and since then two TIF's were approved, one for the Fire Extinguisher entity, which is a small business, and one for Martingnetti. She stated that she is torn between which rates to support. She has seen a raise in the unemployment and has concerns about the tax burden on residential. She stated that the average commercial taxpayer is not Jordan's; it is small businesses owners who deal with personal property tax and increases on their rent. She thinks that the City owes something to the small business, such as something similar to a TIF. Councilor Borges stated that she called Ms. LaBelle to see how many new businesses have come to Taunton and she was told four. She stated that the trouble downtown is not the taxes, but the parking issue. Councilor Cleary stated that the residential people are the ones who use City services the most. He wants to do what is right for the City and keeping the same rate this year may not be popular but it is the right thing to do. Councilor Pottier stated that in 2009, the trash bag fee was doubled and the residential taxpayers took the hit. Councilor Croteau stated that our economy is 66% consumer supported and was approximately 70% prior to 2008. He is interested in doing what is best for the people that live here. Councilor Quinn wanted to make a point of clarification for the record that her business is in Raynham, not Taunton. Councilor Costa-Hanlon stated that the Class I residential value is \$3.4B of the \$4.4B that was assessed. The residents are paying almost 80% of the whole value that was assessed. Councilor Borges stated that she no longer owns a business in Taunton. **On a roll call vote, nine (9) councilors present, seven (7) Councilors voting in favor, two (2) in opposition. Councilors Borges, Carr, McCaul, Pottier, Croteau, Costa-Hanlon and Marshall voted in favor. Councilors Quinn and Cleary voted in opposition.**

Motion was made to take a two (2) minute recess at 9:26PM. So Voted.

Motion was made to revert to the regular order of business at 9:30PM. So Voted.

Appointments:

TABLED FROM NOVEMBER 3, 2014:

Reappointment of Wayne Walkden, Superintendent of Public Buildings for a term of three (3) years. (Council Appointment) Motion was made to move approval on a roll call vote. On discussion, Council President Marshall stated that he has been approached by a couple of Councilors who have some concerns about Mr. Walkden and his job performance. He stated that he is requesting a continuance for two (2) weeks to discuss those concerns with the City Solicitor who is unavailable this week. He stated that there is a motion on the floor and it can be voted on that he be reappointed or the motion can be withdrawn and be continued to address some of those performance concerns. Councilor Pottier stated that he believed he was one of the seconds on the motion and he is comfortable with allowing another week if the council has any concerns. He stated that he would be fine with withdrawing his second. Councilor Borges stated that she respects that and also withdraws her second. Councilor Carr stated that she made the motion and it was on the agenda last week. She stated that she knows that Council President

Marshall has concerns about job performance, but it states either in the ordinance or charter that they can be reappointed every three years. Councilor Carr stated that if there is an issue, it should be addressed when it happens not two (2) or three (3) years later on appointment day. She prefers to move the appointment. Councilor Croteau stated that the language in the city charter places the responsibility for appointment and reappointment of department heads in the hands of the City Council. Responsibilities given to people by the charter, which means by the voters, cannot be negotiated away. He stated that he had the same experience thirty-three (33) years ago when he arrived in Taunton. In the contract with the Teacher's Association, the responsibility for reappointment of teachers was given to the Superintendent of Schools and could not be negotiated away by the School Committee. He stated that when he raised the issue back then with the Teacher's Union, they took the language out of the contract. He stated that every contract that he has known has a paragraph at the very beginning of the contract. Any language contained in this contract that is contrary to law, Federal, State or local is null and void. Councilor Costa-Hanlon stated that the Council should expect to have the legal opinion of the City Solicitor prior to having this on the agenda again. Council President Marshall stated he has addressed his concerns each and every time with Mr. Walkden privately, but there was no mechanism. He stated that maybe there will be now after we have these new performance evaluations. He has been contacted by more than one (1) other Councilor that has concerns and wants to try to rectify those concerns or have a mechanism in place to deal with those concerns moving forward. He stated that is why he is trying to work out how to get to this point, and whether it needs to be in Executive Session or Open Session. He stated that those are the questions that deal with employee performance and those are the things that are trying to be worked out. Councilor Carr stated that there are probably issues with more than one department head in the City. If there is a fair and equitable evaluation process for everyone, that is great. She stated in general, it would be best to set up regular evaluations of department heads at least on a yearly basis with the Committee on Finance and Salaries. Councilor Croteau stated that the base issue is that language. The Council's responsibility is appointment and reappointment. It is a contract, and when the contract is up, it's up. **Motion was made to continue for two weeks and get a legal opinion from the City Solicitor on how to move forward with some of the concerns that Councilors have raised prior to having this on the agenda again. So Voted.**

Reappointment of Mark Slusarz, City Engineer for a term of three (3) years. (Council Appointment) Councilor Carr stated that she would vote for the two week continuance because she thinks that whatever is done should be equal across the board. **Motion was made to continue for two weeks. So Voted. Councilor Cleary and Council President Marshall voting in opposition.**

Communications:

Com. from Chairman, Taunton Planning Board stating that they have received a Site Plan Review for property located at 350 ½ Winthrop Street, for the addition of Auto Sales at the existing Auto Repair facility, submitted by Leonard Shani, Leo's Auto Repair. The next scheduled meeting for this petition will be on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 9:30 AM in the Taunton Planning Board Office, 15 Summer Street, Annex Bldg., at which time the application shall be reviewed by the DIRB and again, on Thursday, December 4, 2014 at 5:30 PM at Chester R. Martin Municipal Council Chambers, 141 Oak Street,

Taunton, MA at which this petition will be reviewed by the Planning Board. **Motion was made to receive and place on file. So Voted.**

Com. from Superintendent of Buildings providing a list of City owned property in the vicinity of the Taunton Animal Shelter that would be suitable for the shelter to relocate to. He stated that he reviewed the current listing of public buildings and property in that area and has determined that the City does not possess building space that could be easily converted to an Animal Shelter. The Shelter is currently on City land which may allow for expansion of the existing facility. He stated that he has no documentation or communication from the operators of the facilities. **Motion was made to refer to the Committee on Public Property and invite Manny Massa to attend and send Lillian Burke, volunteer, a copy of this letter. So Voted.**

Com. from Attorney Gregory Koldys, Koldys & Kelleher PC, 449A Faunce Corner Road, Dartmouth notifying of a defect in the sidewalk at 60 Weir St. He stated that Robert Asack informed him that the sidewalk fronting the property has partially sunk creating a defect in the sidewalk and a dangerous condition for pedestrians. He is concerned about the safety of the patrons of Bobby's Place and the general public in walking over what appears to be an unsafe area of the sidewalk. Mr. Asack stated that the City recently had substantial work performed in the area which may be the cause of the current condition of the sidewalk. **Motion was made to refer to the Law Department and the Committee on the Department of Public Works. So Voted.**

Com. from Carmen Maldonado, Community Relations Facilitator, Taunton Public Schools notifying of the 2014 Thanksgiving Food Drive. She stated that they are collecting food in order to assure a better Thanksgiving Day to many families of this great community. To sponsor a family of a Taunton Public School student, please call 508-738-0289 or e-mail cmaldonado@tauntonschools.org. Non-perishable items can be brought to Ms. Maldonado's office at Parker Middle School, 60 Williams Street, Taunton, MA on or before Monday, November 24, 2014. **Motion was made to receive and place on file, put on the Public Access Channel and put on the City's website. So Voted. (The Assistant City Clerk gave a copy to Alyssa for the website and emailed TCAM)**

Petitions:

Hours of Operation License

1. The Picture People located at 2 Galleria Mall Drive, E. Taunton
2. Charlotte Russe located at 2 Galleria Mall Drive, E. Taunton
3. Justice for Girls located at 2 Galleria Mall Drive, E. Taunton
4. Torrid, located at 2 Galleria Mall Drive, E. Taunton
5. D'Angelo's located at 2 Galleria Mall Drive, E. Taunton
6. KJM Restaurant "Tex Barry's" located at 15 Main St., Taunton
7. Hess Corporation #21237 located at 943 County St., Taunton
8. Hess Express located at 23 Cape Road, Taunton

Motion was made to refer to the Committee on Police and License and the Police Chief. So Voted.

Claim submitted by Janice DeStefano, 211 Ferris Lane, Taunton seeking reimbursement for damages to her automobile from paint splashing onto her car and wheel wells from a

walkway that was painted on Lowell Street. **Motion was made to refer to the Law Department and the DPW. 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 except or Finance and Salaries. So Voted. Recommendation to adopt the warrants and payroll that is signed off on every week. So Voted. Councilor Croteau stated that the Committee on Finance and Salaries met and are recommending Daniel Barbour for the position of Tax Assessor. Motion was made to appoint Daniel Barbour. Councilor Croteau stated that appointments are voted on by name. Council President Marshall stated that this has been a very long, windy road for the Council to get to this point, one that he is not proud of. He has made his comments clear in the meetings that have come up. He stated that this process has been shrouded in controversy and has veered from the normal on several occasions. Unfortunately, Mr. Barbour's reputation gets dragged down with that along the way and he does not know whether that is necessarily fair or not. Council President Marshall stated that a Committee was set up to interview nine (9) candidates, and then it was determined on the Council floor that the Council would receive the names of the three finalists and Mr. Barbour no matter where he finished in the interviews. He stated that he was opposed to that because it was not a fair and open process. He thinks it is not an equitable process and several candidates did not receive second interviews; he was concerned how that would be determined. He asked for and received copies of the first round of interview scoring sheets. The first rounds of interviews were conducted by Ms. Gomes, Human Resource Director, Mr. Enos, Budget Director and Ms. LaBelle, Assessor. He stated that he has the scoring sheets and the questions that were asked if anyone is interested in seeing them. Ms. LaBelle's recommendations were; 1. Ms. Williams, 2. Mr. Conti, 3. Mr. Drew, 8. Mr. Barbour. Ms. Gomes's recommendations were; 1. Ms. Williams 2. Mr. Drew 3. Mr. Conti 7. Mr. Barbour. Mr. Enos's recommendations were; 1. Ms. Williams, 2. Mr. Conti, 3. Mr. Drew, 8. Mr. Barbour. Council President Marshall stated that Mr. Barbour was interviewed because he is a Taunton resident. He is concerned about candidates 4, 5, 6 & 7 that did not receive interviews. He is upset that a Council woman requested that the interviews be televised and then the Committee on Finance and Salaries decided to shut the cameras off for the interviews for a department head. He stated that there was a volunteer and a signal but it was chosen to be shut off. He stated that it was wrong and he would have requested himself to have it televised. He discussed how the Committee on Finance and Salaries stated that Mr. Barbour is an excellent candidate, a fine gentleman and an upstanding Tauntonian. Council President Marshall stated that with all things being equal, if there was a tie-breaker, he certainly would give it to a Taunton resident. Unfortunately, he does not see Mr. Barbour as the top candidate after the interviews. He stated that he needs to pick the best candidate for the job whether they live in Taunton or not. He stated that he would not be able to support Mr. Barbour or the motion at this time. Councilor Croteau stated that he seriously objects to the process being shrouded and unfair, and serves as the Chair of the Committee on Finance and Salaries. The charter does place the responsibility to appoint and reappoint in the hands of the City Council. He stated that you cannot delegate responsibility but you can delegate authority. He takes his responsibilities very seriously and stands on his record of hiring quality Taunton people. He stated that as long as he has the responsibility, nobody will tell him who he may speak to and who he may not. Mr. Barbour was told several months ago that he

could not apply for the job. The majority of the City Council cannot tell anyone whether or not they can apply. He stated that when he received the cover sheet of the people who would be interviewed, Mr. Barbour's name was not on it. He then asked for Mr. Barbour's application and resume because he felt uncomfortable. Councilor Croteau personally ran the reference checks by telephone. Several people who live in this community happen to have a high opinion and respect for Mr. Barbour. He doesn't believe that he has done anything to damage his reputation. He stated that Mr. Barbour should be seriously considered along with the others and that is what they did. He ran the reference check and did not see any significant difference between the qualifications of Mr. Barbour and the other candidates. He also did not see any significant difference between the respect for Mr. Barbour and whether or not he would do a good job. He stated that the other two (2) members of the Committee on Finance and Salaries agreed. He stated that his vote is still going to be cast for Mr. Barbour and if anyone is causing damage to his reputation, it certainly is not him. Councilor Borges stated that three (3) weeks ago she made a motion to bring the top three (3) candidates in front of the Council as a whole. That motion did not carry. She stated that she did not remember the Taunton resident being part of the motion and she couldn't confirm that because the minutes will not be online until tomorrow. The following week the interviews were on Wednesday. She stated that she was the one who requested that it be televised. She didn't think that it would be wrong and does not know what the procedures were previously, but she thought it would be a good idea to have it televised. Councilor Borges stated that she will bring up the motion in unfinished business to reevaluate this and look at how to move forward in the future with hiring department heads. She stated that it may want to be considered that they be brought in front of the full council. She was there during the interviews, and she picked the most qualified candidate who doesn't sound like the person any of the three people on the screening committee chose. She questioned why there was a screening committee; it doesn't make sense to have them because whatever they say doesn't mean anything because the Council will just change the rules. She stated that the process needs to be looked at and that it needs to be televised so there is more transparency. She stated that the most qualified candidate was Mr. Conti. Based on his experience and qualifications, she felt that he had a lot to offer and bring to the City. Councilor Costa-Hanlon stated that she agrees with Council President Marshall in that she was very unhappy with the process. Her unhappiness does not rest with her fellow Councilors; it rests with the process as it proceeding through the Human Resources department. She stated that the reason it was not televised, in her opinion, Councilor Borges had every right to ask but she should have gone through the chair first. She stated that the motion to take it out of the Committee should have also gone through the chair. Regardless, she was well within her right to request both of those things to be done. The problem that she has is that the Screening Committee did not have the authority to decide on the finalists; that rests with the Committee on Finance and Salaries. The second issue was that there were four (4) interviews and one (1) of those people was not told that it would be televised; the other three (3) seemed to have known. That is why she supported the motion not to televise. She believes that there was a glitch in the process. She stated that she believes that the Human Resources Director informed three (3) people but failed to inform Mr. Barbour when he was here. When Mr. Barbour was questioned about whether or not he was told if the interview was going to be televised, he was told no. The other three (3) were told yes. She stated that is inconsistent, and as far as she is concerned if they were not all told then nobody was told. She strongly believes that the Committee has every right to interview any of the forty (40) candidates that applied.

Councilor Costa-Hanlon stated that her first choice was Ms. Williams. She is so concerned for what she sees as a lack of respect for the authority of this Council in general and the Committee itself. She is concerned about moving forward and offering the name of what would have been their recommendation because she feels like there was an undermining of the Council as a Whole and specifically the Committee on Finance and Salaries. She stated that she will stand with the Committee and their recommendation and does not agree with the process. She stated that there was a flaw in the process that she does not believe started with the Council. It started in the Human Resources Department which told the Committee on Finance and Salaries that there were finalists. She stated that both Councilor Borges and Council President Marshall brought that up Councilor Costa-Hanlon stated that the Committee on Finance and Salaries was told that there were finalists and Council President Marshall and Councilor Borges were told by the Search Committee that there were finalists. The Search Committee cannot decide who the finalists are, the Committee on Finance and Salaries can. She stated that Councilor Borges talked about finalists before there was a courtesy discussion with the Chair of the Committee. Ms. Gomes stated that she wanted to clarify a couple of things because her name has been mentioned and she feels like she has been treated unprofessionally. She stated that she never heard from Councilor Costa-Hanlon and she would have been happy to straighten out exactly what the directive was that the screening committee received. The screening committee was made up of herself, the City Budget Director and one member of the Board of Assessors. They interviewed nine (9) candidates and Ms. Gomes asked Councilor Croteau how many applicants the Committee would like to have been sent forward. He said that he would discuss it with his Committee and get back to her. The following Monday or Tuesday she received a message in her office to see Councilor Croteau. She stated that she spoke with him and he informed her that it did not matter if she sent 1, 2 or 3 names forward, as long as Mr. Barbour was one of them. She discussed how people were informed of the next step of the process and that the other two members of the Screening Committee are present to validate exactly what was said to each candidate. She stated that she never told them that it would be on camera they were told that the next step in the process would be to go before the Committee on Finance and Salaries and it would be a final process in open session and that is all that was stated. She has no idea how they interpreted that. She stated that she takes great offense to Councilor Costa-Hanlon saying that she misdirected people. She feels that she is very professional and has never misdirected anyone in her ten years with the City of Taunton. Councilor Croteau stated that he does not recall any instance of anyone telling the Committee on Finance and Salaries to assign the task of interviewing candidates. He did not change the procedure at all. It is the decision of the Committee of Finance and Salaries as to who will be interviewed. He had no objection to the Personnel Director interviewing people with a team. When he received the copies of the applications and the coversheet, Mr. Barbour's name was not on it. He contacted Human Resources and stated that the Committee on Finance and Salaries wished to have Mr. Barbour's paperwork which was then forwarded to him. At that point, he was not even being considered for an interview with the screening team. As Chair, he spoke to the other two members of the Committee who also wanted to interview him. He stated that when Ms. Gomes asked him how many of the ten or twelve people he wanted to bring forward, he told her however many she wanted and the Committee intends to interview Mr. Barbour. He stated that he told Ms. Gomes that if Mr. Barbour was not one of the three, four or five then he will be included and interviewed. As far as the television issue, he was told when he arrived. He stated that he went to see the City

Solicitor who read the law. It is an open meeting, people have the right to take video. However, the Chair of the Committee must be contacted. He stated that people have the right to record with their own equipment, but not put it on cable television. He spoke to the two other members of the Committee on Finance and Salaries and that he was not going to break the precedent which was not to televise. He stated that one City Councilor does not make rules for process and regulations, the majority of the Council does under the direction of the President of the Council. Neither one of the other two members wanted to televise it. He stated that evening on several occasions that he would agree to televise the interviews, but it is an issue that should be discussed by the full Council. He stated that if nobody wishes to make a motion this evening under unfinished business, he will. He believes that every single interview should be televised. Ms. Gomes clarified that when Councilor Croteau asked for the resumes, the position was not yet closed. They keep a rolling list of applicants which changes on a daily basis. Mr. Barbour's application had not been received when Councilor Croteau received his first packet. When his application was received the Council was provided with it. There was no omission. Ms. Gomes stated that there is no underlying motive here, especially from the Human Resources Department which does things by the book. Councilor Pottier stated that he appreciated how the Screening Committee offered questions to the applicants; it seemed like some of the Councilors asked the exact same questions during the interview. He stated that it would further stress out candidates if the interviews were televised. He made a motion not to set precedence to televise a hearing especially when the Chair and Committee members knew about it and apparently one or more of the applicants also did too. Councilor Borges stated that on the day that she requested that it be televised, the City Solicitor did say that it was up to the Committee and the Committee made that decision. She is questioning why it is still being discussed. She stated that she did not know the process. She discussed how she went back to minutes from 2010 from firefighters and other candidates and as far as confidentiality; it talks about their background online so what is the difference. She stated that is why she asked for it to be televised. Councilor Croteau stated that he wanted the record to show that they are discussing the television part of it because Councilor Borges brought it up this evening. **On a roll call vote, nine (9) councilors present, four (4) councilors voted no, one (1) Councilor voted present and four (4) Councilors voted yes. Councilors Cleary, Marshall, McCaul, and Borges voting in opposition. Councilor Quinn voting present, Councilors Costa-Hanlon, Croteau, Pottier, and Carr voting in favor.** **MOTION DOES NOT CARRY.** Councilor Cleary motioned to recommend Richard Conti for the job at the assessor's office. Councilor Pottier stated that he has a concern that Mr. Conti, who is a sitting member of the Attleboro City Council, has his City Council meetings on Tuesdays at 7pm. He stated that City Hall is open until 7pm on Tuesdays and was questioning whether there been any concessions to Mr. Conti leaving work early that day or does the Council know what the situation is on Mr. Conti serving on the City Council in Attleboro. Councilor Cleary stated that Mr. Conti said at his interview that it would have no conflict with his responsibilities and that he was committed to the position. Councilor Croteau stated that he made reference checks all by phone. Mr. Conti's primary experience is in the area of estate appraisal, meaning that he goes into a house and looks at all of the personal property in the house. He asked one person in particular if he, as part of his commission, was asked to appraise the house. They stated he was not and was an estate appraiser primarily. His wife is in the real estate business. He also contacted someone who was on sick leave which Mr. Conti put down as a reference. She did not remember Mr. Conti. As he spoke to her about his

resume, she recalled one experience. His own personal interview and observations was such that he doesn't think it would be a good mix. He would not vote for him. Councilor Costa-Hanlon stated that if the Council is not going with the recommendation of the Committee, then why not go with the person who is actually certified. She stated that she will not have to be sent out and won't cost the City money. She stated that the Council should go with the recommendation of the Screening Committee which is Ms. Williams. Councilor Borges stated that Mr. Conti has completed all of his coursework, he just has the hours to put in which won't cost the City money. Councilor Carr stated that she agrees with Councilor Costa-Hanlon, if the Council is going to approve somebody it should be the person who is certified and is doing that type of job presently, not someone who needs eighteen (18) months of on the job experience. Councilor Croteau stated that he spoke with someone in the City of Attleboro's administration and that individual gave Mr. Conti a very good reference and recommendation. He also spoke to people in Easton which gave Anne Williams a great reference. **On a roll call vote to appoint Mr. Conti, nine (9) Councilors present, five (5) Councilors voting in favor, two (2) Councilors voting in opposition and two (2) Councilors voting present. Councilors Borges, Quinn, McCaul, Marshall and Cleary voting in favor. Councilors Costa-Hanlon and Croteau voting in opposition and Councilors Carr and Pottier voting present.**

Unfinished Business:

Councilor Costa-Hanlon stated that the Police and Fire Chief contracts are needed. **Motion was made to refer to the Mayor's Office and the Law Department. So Voted.**

Councilor Costa-Hanlon stated that the Committee on Police and License is still dealing with the towing contracts. Her understanding is that a motion was made was a request of the current tow operator to provide Lt. McCabe the DPU application. She stated that they still have not received it. She stated that she did not want to keep this going and that we need a resolution on it. It will be in two weeks.

Councilor Quinn stated that she made a motion a while ago to get a status on the parking garage on Trescott Street and she has not heard anything. **Motion was made to refer to the Parking Commission and the Committee on Public Property to get an update on the status of the Parking Garage. So Voted.**

Councilor Borges motioned that the Committee of the Council as a Whole establish or reestablish the process for the hiring of department heads and invite the City Solicitor and the HR Director into that meeting. So Voted.

Councilor Carr discussed the interviews and stated that there should be something in writing to avoid confusion on whether they will be televised. Councilor Croteau stated that the discussion on the process of hiring department heads should include that, if passed, every single interview for a position in the hands of the Council be televised with no exceptions. If the City Solicitor is contacted and feels like there is a valid reason for Executive Session as part of that, then that should be included as well. All interviews will be televised, not just for department heads.

Councilor Croteau stated that he discussed with Councilor Carr the timeline on the football bleachers. He stated that he had previously requested timelines on the parking

garage and the microphones and he is now looking for the timeline on the bleachers so that we will be on the field next September. **Motion was made to refer to the Committee on Public Property. So Voted.**

Councilor McCaul stated that a few months ago, Councilor Pottier brought to the Council's attention that the parking meters were cut in half on Frederick Martin Parkway and have not been removed. **Motion was made to refer to the Parking Commission and the DPW to find out what is going on with the meters. So Voted.**

Orders, Ordinances, and Resolutions

Ordinance for a second reading to be passed to a third reading

AN ORDINANCE

Chapter 8

Garbage, Trash, and Refuse

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 8, Section 8-28 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Taunton, as amended, is hereby further amended as follows:

1. In paragraph (d), delete the words "Litter shall be defined for the purposes of section (a)" and replace with " 'Litter' shall be defined for the purposes of this section";
2. In paragraph (e)(2) after the word "property" insert "within 100 feet of a residence";
3. In paragraph (f) delete the word "sections" and replace with "paragraphs";
4. In paragraph (f) add "trash enforcement officer, " after the word "The" and before "Building Commissioner";
5. In paragraph (f) delete the word "shall" after "Police Chief" and replace with "may";
6. In paragraph (g)(1) delete the words "section (f) the city" and replace with "paragraph (f) any of the officials listed in paragraph (f), along with other persons as may reasonably be required to provide sufficient aid, and after obtaining lawful authorization,";
7. In paragraph (g)(2) add ",with or without the declaration of nuisance and notice provisions in paragraph (f)," after the word "enforced" and before the word "by";
8. In paragraph (h), under the definition of *Nuisance*, delete the word "section" and replace with "paragraph";
9. In paragraph (h), under the definition of *Owner*, add "or its agents" after the word "mortgagee";

10. In paragraph (h), under the definition of *Property*, delete the word “of” and replace with “or”;
11. Insert “i)” before “Severability” in order to delineate a new paragraph.

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage. **Motion was made to pass to a third reading. So Voted.**

New Business:

Councilor Pottier stated that tomorrow is Veteran’s Day and the Annual Pancake Breakfast will be held at Coyle Cassidy from 8am-11am. The cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children 11 and under.

Councilor Pottier stated that they will be mustering forces at the Taunton Green around 10:30am-11:00am for the Annual ceremony at the memorial. It is supposed to be a beautiful day and hopefully he will see a lot of people there.

Councilor Costa-Hanlon wanted to talk about the election. She stated that there was a huge turnout, which was approximately 46%, and Ms. Blackwell’s office did a very good job. She stated that there was one incident at Friedman where Ms. Blackwell had to call the police. She was disappointed to hear that someone was harassing someone on the other side. She hopes that there will not be another incident like that at the next election. She stated that she wanted to give a shout out to Ms. Blackwell and the Taunton Police Department for deescalating the situation. Unfortunately, they had to be called and someone had to be escorted off the grounds. She also congratulated all of the winners.

Councilor Cleary gave compliments to the 46% of the voters that came out to vote but he stated that it was disappointing that 54% of the voters did not come out to vote.

Councilor Borges stated that she is going back to the appointment of Mr. Conti as the Assessor that is conditional based on his pre-employment physical and CORI check. Councilor Costa-Hanlon inquired about whether he was certified. She stated that one thing that should be considered starting with this position is that if there is training involved, that the Council considers some kind of portion of the contract that requires the employee to reimburse the City based on a sliding scale of how long they have been here. She stated that there should be a policy in place relative to all training. **Motion was made to refer to the City Solicitor. So Voted.**

Council President Marshall stated that he has been contacted by a couple of residents of Richmond Street and they would like to petition Mass Highway for a traffic light at Route 44 and Richmond Street. **Motion was made to refer to the DPW to send a communication to Mass Highway. So Voted.**

Councilor Borges stated that a couple of Councilors mentioned that tomorrow is Veteran’s Day. She asked Council President Marshall if he had received a schedule of

events, he stated that he has not and he would check the City's website. She stated that people can refer to the City's website to see the schedule of events.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 P.M.

A true copy:

Attest:


Assistant City Clerk

JLL/SJS

CITY OF TAUNTON
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 5, 2014

THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES

PRESENT WERE: COUNCILOR GERALD CROTEAU, CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILORS CARR AND POTTIER. ALSO PRESENT WERE COUNCILORS BORGES, MCCAUL, COSTA-HANLON, MARSHALL AND CLEARY AND ASSESSOR CANDIDATES, DANIEL BARBOUR, RICHARD CONTI, ANN WILLIAMS AND JAMES DREW

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:46 P.M.

1. MEET TO INTERVIEW APPLICANTS FOR THE POSITION OF ASSESSOR

COUNCILOR CROTEAU ASKED THAT THE RECORD SHOW THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING THIS EVENING IS TO INTERVIEW 4 CANDIDATES FOR THE OPEN POSITION OF CITY ASSESSOR. THAT BEING SAID, APARENTLY THERE WAS A REQUEST FROM A COUNCILOR TO TELEVISE THE PROCEEDINGS. THE COUNCILOR CONTACTED THE LAW DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT'S OPINION, AND HE WAS ALSO TOLD BY SOMEONE ELSE, THAT THE DECISION TO TELEVISE RESTS WITH THE CHAIRMAN. HE SPOKE WITH THE CITY SOLICITOR. THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING AND ANYONE IN ATTENDANCE HAS THE RIGHT TO RECORD THE MEETING. THE QUESTION STILL COMES BACK, THOUGH, DOES THAT PERSON HAVE THE RIGHT TO UTILIZE PUBLIC FACILITIES TO DO THAT AS OPPOSED TO COMING IN WITH THEIR OWN EQUIPMENT. THERE IS NOTHING IN THE STATUTE ABOUT THAT. IT IS COUNCILOR CROTEAU'S OPINION, BASED ON CONVERSATION WITH THE CITY SOLICITOR AS WELL, THAT IT IS AN OPEN MEETING. THAT IS NO QUESTION. IF SOMEONE CAME IN HERE, THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO RECORD THE MEETING. THEY DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT SINCE THE LAW IS SILENT TO UTILIZE PUBLIC FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT TO DO THAT.

COUNCILOR CROTEAU FURTHER STATED THAT FIRST OF ALL, WHOEVER WISHES TO TELEVISE THESE PROCEEDINGS MUST ADDRESS THE CHAIR. THIS WAS TALKED ABOUT RECENTLY – ABOUT BEING BLINDSIDED. COUNCILOR CROTEAU STATED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN CONTACTED. IF SOMEONE WISHES TO MAKE THAT REQUEST AND TO USE THE PUBLIC FACILITIES, HE WILL BRING THAT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE TWO MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE. HE ASKED IF SOMEONE WISHED TO MAKE THAT REQUEST. COUNCILOR BORGES STATED THAT SHE WISHED TO MAKE THE REQUEST THAT THE MEETING BE TELEVISED THIS EVENING.

COUNCILOR MCCAUL SAID HE SECONDED THIS, BUT NO MOTION WAS MADE, IT WAS A REQUEST. COUNCILOR CROTEAU SAID THAT HE IS NOT TAKING A VOTE NOW. FIRST OF ALL HE WANTS TO KNOW THE COUNCIL'S SUPPORT, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER AND TO DISCUSS IT WITH THE TWO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WHO HAVE VOTING AUTHORITY.

COUNCILOR CROTEAU ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYONE ELSE WHO WANTED TO MAKE THAT REQUEST BESIDES COUNCILOR BORGES AND COUNCILOR MCCAUL.

COUNCILOR BORGES SAID THAT SHE DOES NOT KNOW THE PROCESS FOR THIS BECAUSE SHE IS A NEW COUNCILOR. SHE DOES NOT THINK IT IS A BAD IDEA TELEVISING THE MEETING THIS EVENING, SO SHE REQUESTED THAT THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE HONOR HER REQUEST.

COUNCILOR MCCAUL SAID THAT THIS IS A PUBLIC HEARING AND PEOPLE AT HOME SHOULD HEAR THE HEARING AND WHAT IS GOING ON AND HE IS ALSO IN FAVOR OF TELEVISING THIS.

COUNCILOR CROTEAU SAID THE PEOPLE AT HOME WILL HEAR IT IF THIS COMMITTEE VOTES TO TELEVISE IT.

HE FURTHER STATED THAT THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT OF THIS COMMITTEE BY LAW TO DO THIS. IF YOU WANT TO COME IN HERE WITH YOUR OWN EQUIPMENT AND TELEVISE IT, OR RECORD IT, THAT IS FINE. THERE IS NOTHING IN THE LAW THAT SAYS THIS COMMITTEE MUST LET YOU OR SOMEONE ELSE USE THE EQUIPMENT.

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NOVEMBER 5, 2014

THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES – CONTINUED

COUNCILOR MCCAUL SAID WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, THERE IS A VOLUNTEER HERE TONIGHT TO TELEVISION THIS AND HE CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY COUNCILOR CROTEAU IS TRYING TO SHUT THIS DOWN. COUNCILOR CROTEAU ASKED IF HE SAID HE WAS SHUTTING THIS DOWN, AND THAT HE WAS JUST EXPLAINING THE LAW.

COUNCILOR MCCAUL SAID HE IS TELLING THE COMMITTEE HOW HE FEELS.

COUNCILOR CROTEAU ASKED COUNCILOR MCCAUL NOT TO ACCUSE HIM OF DOING SOMETHING BEFORE HE DOES IT.

COUNCILOR MCCAUL SAID THAT COUNCILOR CROTEAU GAVE HIM THE FLOOR TO SPEAK AND NOW HE IS SHUTTING HIM DOWN.

COUNCILOR CROTEAU SAID THAT IS CORRECT BECAUSE HE ACCUSED HIM OF DOING SOMETHING HE DID NOT DO, BUT COUNCILOR MCCAUL'S CONCERN IS NOTED.

COUNCILOR MARSHALL SAID THAT HE WAS NOT THE COUNCILOR THAT REQUESTED THAT THIS BE TELEVISIONED, BUT THE VOLUNTEER IS HERE, ALL OUR MEETINGS ARE TELEVISIONED. IF WE DID NOT HAVE A VOLUNTEER HERE, HE WOULDN'T HOLD THIS UP TO GET ONE, BUT HE'S HERE SO IT CAN BE TELEVISIONED, IT IS A PUBLIC MEETING SO JUST MOVE ON.

COUNCILOR CLEARY SAID THAT PERHAPS BECAUSE COUNCILOR QUINN COULD NOT BE HERE IT MAY HAVE BEEN HER ASKING TO HAVE THIS TELEVISIONED.

COUNCILOR CROTEAU SAID NOT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE, AND THAT THE ONLY THING HE KNOWS, BECAUSE HE WAS NOT CONSULTED, IS COUNCILOR BORGES AND COUNCILOR MCCAUL WANT THIS TELEVISIONED.

COUNCILOR CARR ASKED COUNCILOR BORGES IF SHE DID NOT SAY THAT SHE REQUESTED THIS TO BE TELEVISIONED.

COUNCILOR BORGES SAID THAT SHE THINKS IT IS A GREAT IDEA AND SHE IS REQUESTING OF THE CHAIR THIS EVENING THAT HE HONOR HER REQUEST TO TELEVISION THIS MEETING. COUNCILOR BORGES FURTHER STATED THAT SHE DOES NOT THINK IT REALLY MATTERS WHO REQUESTED IT, BUT AS THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT SAID, THE VOLUNTEER IS HERE NOW. WHETHER THE CHAIR WISHES TO TELEVISION THIS THIS EVENING IS THE CHAIR'S CALL AND THE COMMITTEE'S CALL, AND SHE DOES NOT THINK IT IS AN IMPORTANT THING TO KNOW WHO CALLED FOR IT. IT DOES NOT MATTER. IF IT IS THE COMMITTEE'S CALL, THEN THEY MAKE THE DECISION AS A COMMITTEE AND MOVE ON.

COUNCILOR CARR STATED THAT SHE WAS JUST TRYING TO CLARIFY BECAUSE PEOPLE WERE SAYING THEY DID NOT DO IT AND SHE THOUGHT THAT COUNCILOR BORGES SAID THAT SHE DID IT. COUNCILOR CARR STATED THAT SHE DOES NOT CARE WHO CALLED FOR IT TO BE TELEVISIONED EITHER. HER COMMENTS ON THE MATTER ARE THAT WE HAVE NEVER DONE THIS BEFORE SO IT LEADS HER TO BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE ULTERIOR MOTIVES FOR DOING IT. SHE ASKED MRS. GOMES IF THE PEOPLE HERE FOR INTERVIEWS WERE AWARE THAT IT WAS GOING TO BE TELEVISIONED.

MRS. GOMES STATED THAT IT WAS INDICATED WHEN THEY WERE CONTACTED – YES.

COUNCILOR CROTEAU STATED THAT HE HAD JUST SPOKE TO ONE OF THE APPLICANTS AND HE INDICATED NO.

MRS. GOMES SAID THAT THIS WAS DISCUSSED AND THE APPLICANTS WERE AWARE THAT THEY WOULD COME BEFORE THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE.

COUNCILOR POTTIER STATED THAT HE HAS NEVER SEEN OR TAKEN PART IN AN INTERVIEW WITH POTENTIAL CANDIDATES TO THE CITY THAT HAS BEEN TELEVISIONED. WHY THIS IS COMING UP TODAY, HE HAS SUSPICIONS, BUT IT HAS NEVER HAPPENED. SECONDLY, IN OTHER INTERVIEWS THAT THEY HAVE HAD WITH OTHER APPLICANTS PREVIOUS CRIMINAL HISTORIES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AND QUESTIONS ABOUT SOME TRUTHFUL OR LACK THEREOF STATEMENTS ON RESUMES. SOMETIMES INTERVIEWS CAN BE, IF NOT CONFRONTATIONAL SOMETIMES ADVERSARIAL. HE DOES NOT THINK IT IS FAIR TO EITHER THE

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NOVEMBER 5, 2014

THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES – CONTINUED

APPLICANT OR THE COMMITTEE NOT TO KNOW THAT THIS WAS GOING TO BE TELEVISED WELL IN ADVANCE. HE WOULD CERTAINLY MAKE A MOTION THAT WE NOT START THIS PRACTICE TODAY. COUNCILOR COSTA-HANLON STATED THAT WHEN THE INTERVIEWS FOR THE TREASURER WERE HELD ONE OF THE REASONS IT WAS NOT TELEVISED IS THAT SOME OF THESE PEOPLE ARE STILL WORKING AND WE DO NOT KNOW IF THEY ALL HAVE TOLD THEIR EMPLOYERS. IN THE PAST THIS WAS ONE OF THE ISSUES. IN SOME CASES THERE ARE APPLICANTS THAT ARE ACTIVELY GAINFULLY EMPLOYED AND MAY NOT WANT THEIR EMPLOYERS TO KNOW THEY ARE LOOKING FOR OTHER WORK. COUNCILOR CLEARY STATED THAT HE BELIEVES THE OPEN MEETING LAW STATES THAT FINALISTS DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY, THEY CAN BE INTERVIEWED IN OPEN SESSION. COUNCILOR POTTIER STATED THAT HE THINKS IN THE PAST THEY HAVE GIVEN THE APPLICANT AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAY WHETHER IT IS GOING TO BE OPEN OR CLOSED. MRS. GOMES SAID THAT SHE INFORMED ALL FINALISTS THAT THEY SHOULD NOTIFY THEIR EMPLOYER BECAUSE REFERENCES WILL BE CHECKED. SHE HAS ALREADY SPOKEN TO THEIR CURRENT EMPLOYERS. COUNCILOR BORGES SAID WITH ALL DUE RESPECT IF IT HIS COUNCILOR CROTEAU'S CALL AS CHAIR, WHY IS THIS BEING DISCUSSED. COUNCILOR CROTEAU SAID BECAUSE HE BELIEVES IN INVOLVING PEOPLE IN THE DISCUSSION BEFORE A DECISION IS MADE.

COUNCILOR POTTIER MADE THE FOLLOWING MOTION:

MOTION: THAT LIKE EVERY OTHER INTERVIEW HE HAS TAKEN PART IN AS A MEMBER OF THIS BOARD, THAT WE DO NOT TELEVISE THE INTERVIEWS THIS EVENING.

COUNCILOR CARR SECONDED THE MOTION.

ON DISCUSSION, COUNCILOR MARSHALL SAID THAT HE THINKS THIS IS SILLY. THE CAMERA PERSON IS HERE, WE ARE GOING TO SHUT A CAMERA OFF FOR A PUBLIC MEETING WHEN EVERY ONE HAS SAT HERE AND COMPLAINED TO THE CABLE COMMISSION THAT THE MEETINGS ARE NOT TELEVISED. NOW WE ARE GOING TO SHUT THE TV OFF.

COUNCILOR POTTIER ASKED TO PRESS THE MOTION.

COUNCILOR CROTEAU STATED THAT HE WILL SUPPORT THE MOTION THAT THIS MEETING NOT BE TELEVISED. HE WOULD AGAIN URGE EVERYONE IN THE FUTURE THAT IF THEY WISH TO CHANGE A PROCESS, YOU DO IT PRIOR TO THE PROCESS BEING IMPLEMENTED. INDIVIDUAL COUNCILORS DO NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO CHANGE THE PROCESS. THE COUNCIL DOES BY 5 VOTES.

COUNCILOR MCCAUL SAID THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT THE COMMITTEE IS SHUTTING THIS OFF FOR THE PUBLIC TO SEE.

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

COUNCILOR CROTEAU INFORMED COUNCILORS BORGES AND MCCAUL, THAT IF THEY WISH TO CHANGE THE PROCESS, BECAUSE HE HAPPENS TO AGREE WITH COUNCILOR BORGES AND THINKS THAT ALL OF THESE INTERVIEWS SHOULD BE TELEVISED, BUT WE DO NOT MAKE CHANGES IN THE PROCESS ON THE FLY AND TO A MINORITY OF THE COUNCIL. YOU NEED 5 VOTES AND YOU NEED TO PLACE THIS ON THE AGENDA. YOU DO NOT CHANGE THE PROCESS AT A COMMITTEE MEETING. IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE THE PROCESS, AND HE WILL SUPPORT IT, YOU PUT IT ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND IT WILL BE DEBATED, AND IF THERE ARE 5 VOTES, ONE OF WHICH WILL BE HIS, THEN THE PROCESS WILL BE CHANGED. BUT EVERY INTERVIEW WILL BE TELEVISED – EVERY ONE.

COUNCILOR BORGES STATED THAT SHE CALLED THE CITY SOLICITOR THIS AFTERNOON AND ASKED HIM IF SHE COULD BRING A TAPE RECORDER TO RECORD THIS MEETING. SHE ASKED HIM IF SHE COULD TAPE RECORD THIS MEETING OR IF IT WAS GOING TO BE TELEVISED. AS A NEW COUNCILOR SHE DOES NOT

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NOVEMBER 5, 2014

THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES – CONTINUED

KNOW WHAT WAS DONE IN THE PAST AND SHE DOES NOT CARE. SHE IS SITTING AS A NEW COUNCILOR. SHE ASKED COUNCILOR CROTEAU TO NOT BE DISRESPECTFUL TO HER JUST BECAUSE SHE GOES TO THE PEOPLE THAT ARE IN CHARGE, NOT KNOWING AS A NEW COUNCILOR. SHE DOES NOT KNOW WHY THE COMMITTEE THINKS THIS IS SUCH A BAD THING. IF THIS IS THE PROCESS, FINE. MAYBE WE NEED TO MAKE A CHANGE.

COUNCILOR CROTEAU STATED THAT THE LAW IS ONE PARAGRAPH AND IT STATES THAT YOU WILL CONSULT THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE AND THIS WAS NOT DONE.

THE FIRST INTERVIEW WAS WITH DANIEL BARBOUR. MR. BARBOUR IS A LIFELONG CITY RESIDENT. HE ATTENDED LOCAL PUBLIC AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS. HE RECEIVED A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE FROM SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY WITH A BUSINESS MANAGEMENT CONCENTRATION IN MARKETING. HE IS CURRENTLY THE BROKER/OWNER OF THE BARBOUR REALTY GROUP AND DEVELOPMENT IN TAUNTON, MA. HE ALSO WAS THE BROKER/OWNER OF RE/MAX TOWN & COUNTRY IN DARTMOUTH, MA. MR. BARBOUR IS A MEMBER OF THE MLS/BOSTON, MA., GREATER BOSTON BOARD OF REALTORS, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS, MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS, MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS, CERTIFIED DISTRESSED PROPERTY EXPERT, CERTIFIED RESIDENTIAL SPECIALIST, AND IS A MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND LICENSED BROKER. MR. BARBOUR IS ALSO FAMILIAR WITH VISION, GIS AND CAMA SYSTEM SOFTWARE. HE IS ALSO FAMILIAR WITH DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE FILING REQUIREMENTS AND IS FAMILIAR WITH GATEWAY. MR. BARBOUR ALSO SERVED MANY YEARS ON THE BOARD OF PRO HOME, INC.

COUNCILOR POTTIER ASKED MR. BARBOUR IF HE WAS NOTIFIED THAT HIS INTERVIEW WOULD BE TELEVISED. MR. BARBOUR SAID NO.

THE NEXT INTERVIEW WAS WITH RICHARD CONTI OF ATTLEBORO, MA. HE HAS A BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AND IS PRESIDENT OF CONTI APPRAISAL SERVICE. HE IS ALSO AN ASSOCIATE BROKER FOR CONTI REAL ESTATE AS WELL AS A CURRENT COUNCILOR AT LARGE FOR THE CITY OF ATTLEBORO, MA. HIS PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS INCLUDE THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF APPRAISERS AND THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL APPRAISERS. HE IS A LICENSED MASSACHUSETTS AUCTIONEER, A MASSACHUSETTS REAL ESTATE BROKER, MASSACHUSETTS VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR AND A MASSACHUSETTS REAL ESTATE INSTRUCTOR. HE HAS ALSO DONE PERSONAL PROPERTY EVALUATIONS FOR THE TOWN OF SWANSEA, MA. MR. CONTI HAS NO EXPERIENCE IN ABATEMENTS AND HAS NEVER BEEN BEFORE THE APPELLATE TAX BOARD.

COUNCILOR POTTIER ASKED MR. CONTI IF HE WAS AWARE THAT THIS INTERVIEW WAS GOING TO BE TELEVISED. MR. CONTI SAID YES.

THE NEXT INTERVIEW WAS WITH ANN WILLIAMS OF SOUTH EASTON, MA. SHE IS CURRENTLY AN ASSESSOR'S ASSISTANT WITH THE TOWN OF EASTON. SHE IS FAMILIAR WITH VISION GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS, SOFTRIGHT, MICROSOFT EXCEL AND WORD AND APPLIED GEOGRAPHICS WHICH IS THEIR GIS SYSTEM. SHE DOES A LOT OF FIELD WORK FOR THE TOWN OF EASTON, BOTH INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR AS WELL AS HELPING OUT WITH THE EVERY DAY OFFICE WORK SUCH AS MOTOR VEHICLE ABATEMENTS, REAL ESTATE EXEMPTIONS, CPA EXEMPTIONS, CHAPTER LAND, DEEDS, CHANGES IN VISION AND SOFTRIGHT AS NEEDED, BUILDING PERMIT INFO AND SKETCHES. SHE RECEIVED HER MAA DESIGNATION IN 2014. SHE DOES NOT HAVE A COLLEGE DEGREE. SHE IS FAMILIAR WITH THE TRI-ANNUAL CERTIFICATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND FEELS CONFIDENT THAT SHE COULD DEAL WITH THE D.O.R. IN TAUNTON. SHE DOES NOT HAVE APPRAISAL EXPERIENCE, JUST ASSESSING. SHE IS TRAINED IN THE CAMA SYSTEM AND HAS EXPERIENCE IN CLASSIFICATIONS CODES.

WHEN ASKED MS. WILLIAMS STATED THAT SHE WAS TOLD THAT THE INTERVIEW MAY BE TELEVISED.

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NOVEMBER 5, 2014

THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES – CONTINUED

THE LAST INTERVIEW WAS WITH JAMES DREW OF EXETER, RI. HE IS A CERTIFIED MASS. ASSESSOR AND A RHODE ISLAND ASSESSOR. HE HAS DONE REVALUATION WORK AND HAS GIS MAPPING EXPERIENCE. HE WAS AN APPRAISER FOR THE ASSESSORS OFFICE IN THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN, MA., A CITY ASSESSOR FOR THE CITY OF ATTLEBORO, MA, TOWN ASSESSOR FOR THE TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE, RI AND AN ASSISTANT ASSESSOR/GIS TECHNICIAN FOR THE CITY OF CRANSTON, RI. HE IS FAMILIAR WITH VISION CAMA SOFTWARE, WINDOWS, MS. OFFICE SUITE AND ARCGIS. HE HAS ATTAINED THE MAA DESIGNATION ALSO. HE WAS A PART TIME ELECTED ASSESSOR IN EXETER, RI. HE HAS A DEGREE FROM PROVIDENCE COLLEGE. HE HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE VALUATIONS, BUT WHEN HE DID THEM THEY WERE DIFFERENT, BUT HE IS FAMILIAR WITH IT.

AFTER THE LAST INTERVIEW, THE FOLLOWING MOTION WAS MADE:

MOTION: TO POST A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND SALARIES COMMITTEE FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2014 TO DISCUSS THE CANDIDATES FOR THE ASSESSOR POSITION AND TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL COUNCIL. SO VOTED.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:55 P.M.



RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

COLLEEN M. ELLIS
CLERK OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

REPORTS ACCEPTED, RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

CITY OF TAUNTON
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 10, 2014

THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES

PRESENT WERE: COUNCILOR GERALD CROTEAU, CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILORS CARR AND
POTTIER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:55 P.M.

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

MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL OF THE VOUCHERS & PAYROLLS FOR THE WEEK. SO VOTED.

2. MEET TO DISCUSS CANDIDATES FOR ASSESSOR POSITION AND TO MAKE A RECOMMENDTION TO THE FULL COUNCIL

COUNCILOR CARR NOTED THAT THE COMMITTEE INTERVIEWED 4 CANDIDATES. SHE GAVE A LOT OF THOUGHT TO THIS MATTER AND THAT WHENEVER POSSIBLE SHE GIVES A TAUNTON RESIDENT HER VOTE. CANDIDATES ARE REQUIRED IN THIS PROFESSION TO DETERMINE REAL ESTATE VALUES. MAA DESIGNATION CANNOT BE ATTAINED UNLESS EMPLOYED IN AN ASSESSOR'S OFFICE. AS FAR AS A COLLEGE DEGREE, SOME OF OUR OWN ASSESSORS NOW DO NOT HAVE A COLLEGE DEGREE. THERE WAS ONLY 1 TAUNTON CANDIDATE, AND THAT CANDIDATE DID NOT HAVE A COUPLE OF THE RECOMMENDED REQUIREMENTS, HOWEVER THEY WERE RECOMMENDED NOT REQUIRED. THE TAUNTON CANDIDATE DID HAVE A DISTRESSED PROPERTY DESIGNATION WHICH SHE FELT WOULD BE GOOD. SHE FEELS THAT DANIEL BARBOUR WOULD BE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE ASSESSOR POSITION.

COUNCILOR POTTIER STATED THAT OF THE 12 RESUMES PROVIDED, THERE WAS ONLY 1 FROM TAUNTON. NOT ONE OF THE CANDIDATES HAD ALL OF THE CRITERIA. HE HOPES THAT WHOEVER IS HIRED IS COMMITTED TO THE COMMUNITY. HE WILL CAST HIS VOTE FOR DANIEL BARBOUR.

COUNCILOR QUINN STATED THAT SHE AGREES 100% THAT PREFERENCE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO SOMEONE LOCALLY. SHE RESPECTS MR. BARBOUR AND FEELS THAT HE WILL DO A GOOD JOB BUT SHE WILL NOT OVERLOOK THOSE WHO MET MORE OF THE CRITERIA. SHE ALSO NOTED THAT SOME OF THE APPLICANTS WERE FURTHER ALONG IN THE MAA PROCESS. PERSONALLY, SHE FEELS THAT RICHARD CONTI IS THE BEST CANDIDATE.

COUNCILOR MARSHALL NOTED THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL MAKE A RECOMMENDATION AND THEN IT WOULD BE RATIFIED BY THE FULL COUNCIL. OBVIOUSLY THE RECOMMENDED CANDIDATE OF THE COMMITTEE IS DANIEL BARBOUR. HE WILL HOLD FURTHER COMMENTS UNTIL THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING.

COUNCILOR CLEARY ASKED IF CANDIDATE "A" IS NOT THE ONE THE FULL COUNCIL WANTS, IS THERE A SECOND CANDIDATE? THE COMMITTEE DID NOT RECOMMEND A SECOND CANDIDATE.

COUNCILOR COSTA-HANLON STATED THAT SHE IS CONCERNED WITH THE LACK OF WILLINGNESS TO DETER TO THE COMMITTEE'S AUTHORITY. ONE CANDIDATE IS CERTIFIED, SO IS THE CITY GOING TO ALLOW PEOPLE TO BE TRAINED AND IS IT DONE DURING WORK TIME? DOES THE CITY PAY FOR THIS TRAINING? COUNCILOR COSTA-HANLON SAID THAT IF THE CITY PAYS FOR THE CERTIFICATION, PERHAPS IT SHOULD BE A REQUIREMENT THAT THE PERSON MUST STAY FOR A CERTAIN LENGTH OF TIME, OF IF THAT PERSON LEAVES BEFORE A DESIGNATED TIME, THE CERTIFICATION COSTS MUST BE PAID BACK TO THE CITY. DANIEL BARBOUR IS NOT HER FIRST CHOICE, BUT SHE WILL DEFER TO THE COMMITTEE.

COUNCILOR CARR NOTED THAT COUNCILOR QUINN WAS NOT HERE FOR THE INTERVIEWS. SHE STATED THAT SHE DID NOT CHOOSE MR. CONTI BECAUSE HE IS A REAL ESTATE PERSON WITH PERSONAL PROPERTY APPRAISING EXPERIENCE, SO THAT IS ONE REASON WHY SHE DISCOUNTED HIM.

COUNCILOR CROTEAU STATED THAT HE PERSONALLY CHECKED REFERENCES ON ALL 4 CANDIDATES. THERE WAS NOT ONE NEGATIVE COMMENT ABOUT DANIEL BARBOUR. ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS FELT

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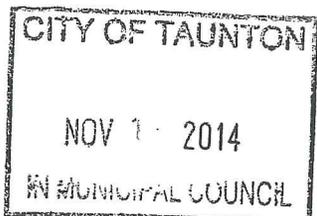
NOVEMBER 10, 2014

THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES – CONTINUED

THAT EXPERIENCE AS A REALTOR WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE ASSESSOR POSITION. HE SUPPORTS FULLY THE CANDIDACY OF DANIEL BARBOUR. HE ALSO FULLY SUBSCRIBES TO HIRING TAUNTON PEOPLE. WE KNOW THEM AND THEY KNOW US. THERE IS NO REASON NOT TO SUPPORT MR. BARBOUR.

MOTION: TO MOVE THE NAME OF DANIEL BARBOUR FORWARD AS THE COMMITTEE'S CHOICE FOR THE ASSESSOR POSITION. SO VOTED.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:25 P.M.



RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colleen M. Ellis".

COLLEEN M. ELLIS
CLERK OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

SEE MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL OF NOVEMBER 10, 2014

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Regan".
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

CITY OF TAUNTON
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 10, 2014

THE COMMITTEE ON THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PRESENT WERE: COUNCILOR ANDREW MARSHALL, CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILORS BORGES, COSTA-HANLON, CLEARY AND MCCAUL. ALSO PRESENT WERE ASSISTANT DPW COMMISSIONER TONY ABREAU, WATER DIVISION SUPERVISOR CATHAL O'BRIEN, LINDA ANDRADE, ERIC ANDRADE, KENNETH MOTTA OF FIELD ENGINEERING AND KENDALL CALDWELL OF TAUNTON DEVELOPMENT CORP./MASS. DEVELOPMENT

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:35 P.M.

1. SEWER EXTENSION HEARING

In accordance with Chapter 19-1 of the City of Taunton Ordinance and on the Petition of Eric Andrade and Linda Andrade of 565 North Street, Somerset, MA, a hearing will be held on Monday, November 10, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Chester R. Martin Municipal Council Chambers, Temporary City Hall, 141 Oak Street, Taunton, MA for a proposed sewer extension on Summer Street.

The proposal is to install a 2" forced main beginning at 115 Summer Street, A.P. 66 Lot 221 and extending easterly to the existing 2" forced main in Summer Street.

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.

MOTION: TO OPEN THE HEARING AND INVITE THE PARTIES IN. SO VOTED.

MR. ANDRADE REPORTED THAT THEY OWN 115 AND 113 SUMMER STREET. 115 SUMMER STREET'S SEPTIC IS IN FAILURE RIGHT NOW. THEY ARE PROPOSING TO TIE INTO THE EXISTING FORCE SEWER MAIN BY EXTENDING IT TO THEIR PROPERTY AND LEAVE A STUB FOR THE PROPERTIES THAT THEY ARE GOING TO PASS BY. THEY WANT TO TIE BOTH OF THE PROPERTIES IN AT THE SAME TIME AS THEY ARE STARTING TO HAVE ISSUES WITH 113 SUMMER STREET ALSO. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE PETITIONERS ARE PROPOSING TO PUT IN STUBS FOR THE PROPERTIES THAT THEY PASS, BUT THEY ARE NOT PROPOSING TO PUT THEM TO THE PROPERTY LINE.

COUNCILOR MARSHALL ASKED WHAT THEY WOULD DO IF THIS WAS A CONDITION OF APPROVAL. THE PETITIONERS SAID THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD IT.

COUNCILOR MARSHALL NOTED THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT A REQUEST FOR A SEWER EXTENSION HAS EVER BEEN GRANTED WHERE THE CITY DID NOT REQUIRE STUBS TO GO TO THE PROPERTY LINES IN ORDER TO AVOID THE STREET BEING DUG UP AGAIN.

THE PETITIONERS NOTED THAT THEY UNDERSTAND THIS, BUT AS IT IS IT WILL COST THEM OVER \$60,000.00.

THIS WILL BE A FORCED MAIN WITH A GRINDER PUMP IN EACH HOUSE.

COUNCILOR COSTA-HANLON STATED THAT THIS IS A UNIQUE SITUATION AND SHE DOES NOT HAVE A PROBLEM JUST LETTING THEM PUT STUBS AND NOT REQUIRING THEM TO GO TO THE PROPERTY LINE.

COUNCILOR MARSHALL SAID THAT HE CAN SEE NOT REQUIRING THEM TO PUT A STUB TO THE PROPERTY LINE OF NAPA/TAUNTON AUTO AS THEY ARE NOT INTERESTED, BUT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE STUBS TO THE PROPERTY LINE OF THE RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS. THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A REQUIREMENT.

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NOVEMBER 10, 2014

THE COMMITTEE ON THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – CONTINUED

LETTER DATED 11/7/2014 OF ASSISTANT DPW COMMISSIONER ANTHONY ABREAU WAS READ. THE LETTER STATED THAT THEY HAVE REVIEWED THE PLANS AND CORRESPONDENCE SUBMITTED TO THE DPW BY PROLINE ENGINEERING, INC. DATED 9/26/2014, ON BEHALF OF THE APPLICANT.

THERE ARE A FEW MINOR TECHNICAL DETAILS TO WORK OUT WITH THE APPLICANT'S ENGINEER AND VEOLIA; HOWEVER THE DPW HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO THE SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT. THE PROJECT CONSISTS OF APPROXIMATELY 100 LF OF 2-INCH PVC LOW PRESSURE SEWER WITH TWO SERVICE CONNECTIONS; ONE FOR NO. 115 SUMMER STREET AND ANOTHER SERVICE CONNECTION FOR NO. 113 SUMMER STREET. THE SEWER EXTENSION WILL CONNECT TO THE CITY'S EXISTING 2-INCH PVC LOW PRESSURE SEWER LOCATED IN SUMMER STREET. BASED ON THE PLANS SUBMITTED, THEY RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE SEWER EXTENSION.

MOTION: LETTER TO BE PART OF THE RECORD. SO VOTED.

THE ASSISTANT DPW COMMISSIONER STATED THAT WITH THE 2 SERVICES GOING TO 113 AND 115 IT IS REALLY TIGHT, THE LOT LINES, THERE MAY BE A NEED FOR AN EASEMENT TO BE RECORDED BECAUSE IT IS REALLY CLOSE. THE PETITIONERS ARE OK WITH THIS.

COUNCILOR MARSHALL ASKED WHEN THE PETITIONERS WANTED TO START THIS PROJECT.

MR. ANDRADE STATED THAT THEY DID NOT MEET THE ROAD CUT DEADLINE SO PROBABLY IN THE SPRING. COUNCILOR MARSHALL SAID THAT THEY COULD TALK ABOUT AN EARLIER OPENING IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY, WEATHER PERMITTING. HE WILL MAKE IT A STIPULATION THAT THEY WORK WITH THE DPW COMMISSIONER TO BEGIN THIS PRIOR TO APRIL 1ST, BASED ON THE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

COUNCILOR BORGES STATED THAT SHE AGREES THAT THIS IS A UNIQUE SITUATION AND SHE IS NOT OPPOSED TO ALLOWING THIS EXTENSION THE WAY IT WAS PRESENTED.

THE ASSISTANT DPW COMMISSIONER SAID THAT HE COULD LIVE WITH THE PROPOSAL AS IT IS. HE DID NOTE THAT THEY DID WORK WITH THE PETITIONERS BEFORE IN 2011 TO DO THIS WITH A BETTERMENT BUT THEY DID NOT WANT TO DO IT AT THAT TIME.

NO ONE SPOKE IN FAVOR OF THE PETITION.

NO ONE SPOKE IN OPPOSITION OF THE PETITION.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE PROJECT AS PROPOSED BY THE ANDRADES AND WITH THE RECOMMENDATION THAT ANY TECHNICAL ISSUES THEY DEFER TO THE DPW.

COUNCILORS BORGES, COSTA-HANLON, CLEARY AND MCCAUL VOTED IN FAVOR, COUNCILOR MARSHALL VOTED IN OPPOSITION. MOTION CARRIES.

2. SEWER EXTENSION HEARING

In accordance with Chapter 19-1 of the City of Taunton Ordinance and on the Petition of Taunton Development/Mass Development Corporation, a hearing will be held on Monday, November 10, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Chester R. Martin Municipal Council Chambers, Temporary City Hall, 141 Oak Street, Taunton, MA for a proposed sewer extension to service the Dever Drive section of the Phase IV Expansion area of the Myles Standish Industrial Park.

The proposed sewer extension is intended to service a redevelopment of a portion of the former Dever School property located off of Bay Street in the Myles Standish Industrial Park. The wastewater collection system will service seven (7) proposed mixed

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NOVEMBER 10, 2014

THE COMMITTEE ON THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – CONTINUED

office/industrial lots in addition to six (6) existing multi-residential dwellings adjacent to the subject property.

The proposed system will involve the construction of approximately 3,300 linear feet of 8 inch gravity sewer, 1,200 linear feet of 6 inch force main sewer and sewage pumping station to be located in part within the new Dever Drive roadway right of way and partially cross country within dedicated access and utility easements on the Dever property.

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.

MOTION: TO OPEN THE HEARING AND INVITE THE PARTIES IN. SO VOTED.

MR. MOTTA STATED THAT THE ORIGINAL PHASE IV AROUND CHARLES F. COLTON ROAD AND AROUND PIONEER WAY ARE GRAVITY LINES THAT WERE TIED INTO CONSTITUTION DRIVE. THE ONE ON PIONEER WAY WAS TIED INTO THE MAIN LINE ON JOHN HANCOCK WHICH ULTIMATELY IS A DIRECT CONNECTION TO THE MAIN PUMPING STATION. THIS LEAVES THE REMAINING 121 ACRES OF LAND THAT IS NOW BEING PLANNED FOR DEVELOPMENT. PLANS ARE NOW IN THE WORKS FOR A CONNECTOR ROADWAY FROM BAY STREET TO THE END OF CHARLES F. COLTON ROAD WHICH IS GOING TO INVOLVE BOTH THE LOOPING OF THE WATER SYSTEM AND THE LOOPING OF THE OTHER SITE UTILITIES – GAS, ELECTRIC, ETC. THE EXISTING SEWER WITHIN THE AREA IS ALL PART OF THE OLD DEVER COLLECTION SYSTEM AND A PORTION OF THIS IS STILL ACTIVE. THEY STILL HAVE SOME ACTIVE BUILDINGS THAT ARE ON THE SITE, MAINLY THE COTTAGE AREAS AND A NUMBER OF OFF SITE AREAS THAT ARE STILL OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES THAT ARE TIED INTO THIS SEWER. ULTIMATELY THE GAME PLAN IS TO TAKE ALL OF THE OLD EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE OFF LINE WHILE MAINTAINING THE CONNECTIONS TO THE STATE BUILDINGS AND ALSO TO THE TAUNTON HOUSING AUTHORITY FACILITY JUST RECENTLY BUILT ON BASSETT STREET AND TIE THEM INTO A NEW PUMPING STATION THAT WILL BE LOCATED JUST ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE MAIN ENTRANCE COMING IN OFF OF BAY STREET. ULTIMATELY THE FLOWS FROM THERE WILL BE PUMPED INTO CHARLES F. COLTON ROAD GRAVITY COLLECTION SYSTEM. COUNCILOR MARSHALL ASKED IF ALL OF THIS PHASE IV AND PHASE V, CHARLES COLTON AND PIONEER WAY ALL HAVE CURRENT CAPACITY TO HANDLE ALL OF THIS POTENTIAL NEW EXPANSION IF THIS WAS TO BE COMPLETELY BUILT UP AT 100% WITH THE DESIGN PROPOSED. MR. MOTTA SAID YES. MR. MOTTA FURTHER STATED THAT THEY DEVELOPED A MASTER PLAN FOR ALL OF THESE PHASES AND THEY LOOKED AT THE CAPACITY OF THE GRAVITY SYSTEM IN CHARLES F. COLTON ROAD AND THE GRAVITY SYSTEM THROUGH JOHN HANCOCK WHEN THEY DID THE STREET ACCEPTANCE PLANS FOR THE OPENING OF THESE FACILITIES AS WELL.

THEY ALSO DID AN I AND I STUDY ON THE PROPERTY AND THIS WILL ULTIMATELY ELIMINATE A LOT OF THE I AND I THAT IS GOING INTO THE SYSTEM – ABOUT 8,000-10,000 GALLONS.

IT WAS NOTED THAT THIS IS PAID FOR BY PART OF THE MASS. WORKS GRANT. ALSO STATED WAS THAT THERE WILL BE NO ACTIVITY WITHIN THE BUFFER AREAS.

THEY WILL GO BEFORE THE PLANNING BOARD THE FIRST OR SECOND WEEK IN DECEMBER, AND THEY HAVE FILED WITH CONSERVATION COMMISSION WHICH WILL ALSO BE IN DECEMBER.

A LETTER DATED 11/7/2014 OF ASSISTANT DPW COMMISSIONER TONY ABREAU WAS READ. THE LETTER STATED THAT THE DPW HAS BEEN COORDINATING WITH VEOLIA AND FIELD ENGINEERING CORP. (FEC) REGARDING THE PROPOSED SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE PHASE IV OF THE

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NOVEMBER 10, 2014

THE COMMITTEE ON THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – CONTINUED

INDUSTRIAL PARK. FEC IS THE PROPONENTS ENGINEERING FIRM HANDLING THEIR SEWER EXTENSION.

THEIR ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS ARE STILL IN THE PROCESS OF WORKING OUT TECHNICAL DETAILS ASSOCIATED WITH SOME OF THE COMPONENTS OF THE PUMPING FACILITIES, BUT HAVE INDICATED TO THEM THAT SUFFICIENT CAPACITY EXISTS IN THE SEWER SYSTEM AND THE MAIN PUMPING STATION FOR THE INDUSTRIAL PARK AS A WHOLE, THAT CONVEYS THE WASTEWATER TO THE GRAVITY SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY. THE DPW EXPECTS THAT THE FINAL REVIEW AND COMMENT PROCESS WILL TAKE ANOTHER TWO TO THREE WEEKS.

THE DPW HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO THE SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT AND RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT WITH THE CAVEAT THAT THE TECHNICAL DETAILS ARE COORDINATED AND ACCEPTED BY THE DPW'S CONSULTANTS.

MOTION: LETTER TO BE PART OF THE RECORD. SO VOTED.

COUNCILOR CARR ASKED WHO WILL MAINTAIN THE NEW PUMP STATION THAT IS BEING PUT IN.

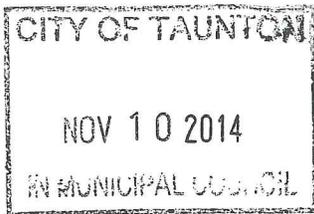
THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SAID VEOLIA WILL BECAUSE IT IS A REPLACEMENT.

NO ONE SPOKE IN FAVOR OF THE PETITION.

NO ONE SPOKE IN OPPOSITION OF THE PETITION.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE PROJECT AS PRESENTED WITH THE STIPULATIONS AS STATED IN THE ASSISTANT DPW COMMISSIONER'S LETTER. SO VOTED.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:11 P.M.



RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

COLLEEN M. ELLIS
CLERK OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

REPORTS ACCEPTED, RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

CITY OF TAUNTON
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 10, 2014

THE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

PRESENT WERE: COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANDREW MARSHALL AND COUNCILORS CLEARY, COSTA-HANLON, CROTEAU, POTTIER, MCCAUL, QUINN, CARR AND BORGES. ALSO PRESENT WERE SCOTT DESANTIS AND LISA LABELLE OF THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:21 P.M.

1. MEET WITH THE CITY ASSESSORS FOR A DISCUSSION ON HOW REAL ESTATE PROPERTY VALUATIONS ARE DETERMINED.

MR. DESANTIS STATED THAT THERE ARE 3 APPROACHES TO VALUE AND THEY UTILIZE ALL 3 WHEN VALUING PROPERTY – COST APPROACH, MARKET APPROACH AND INCOME APPROACH – DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF PROPERTY THAT IT IS. BASICALLY THE RESIDENTIAL IS ALL BASED ON SALES THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THIS IS THE BASIS OF THEIR ANALYSIS TO ESTABLISHING VALUES. COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AND INCOME PROPERTY IS BASED ON THE INCOME APPROACH, HOW MUCH REVENUE A BUILDING CAN GENERATE BASED ON THE INCOME.

MS. LABELLE ADDED THAT RESIDENTIAL IS BASED MOSTLY ON THE SALES APPROACH, BUT NOT ONLY DO THEY TAKE THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S SALES THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT FACTORS SUCH AS SQUARE FOOTAGE, TYPE OF HOME, ALL THE PHYSICAL COMPONENTS.

COUNCILOR POTTIER STATED THAT THIS WAS BROUGHT UP BECAUSE OF THE MARTIGNETTI DISCUSSION. IT WAS PROPOSED TO THE COUNCIL THAT IT WAS GOING TO BE A \$100 MILLION DEVELOPMENT, APPROXIMATELY \$25 MILLION WAS GOING TO BE SOFT COSTS AND \$75 MILLION GOING INTO THE CONSTRUCTION. SO THE \$75 MILLION DOLLAR FIGURE WAS FLOATING AROUND, THEN WHEN MR. SHEA CAME TO GIVE THE TIF PRESENTATION, HE WAS OPERATING UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE BUILDING PLUS THE LAND WOULD BE ASSESSED AT \$21 MILLION. SO THEY WERE LOOKING AT THE \$75 MILLION CONSTRUCTION BUDGET, AND \$21 MILLION ASSESSMENT. MR. SHEA DID SAY THAT THIS WAS A VERY CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE ON HIS PART BECAUSE HE DID NOT WANT TO PROMISE A \$50 MILLION BUILDING AND IT COMES OUT TO \$40 MILLION. HE LET THE COUNCIL KNOW AHEAD OF TIME IT WAS A VERY CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE. WHAT THE COUNCIL WANTED TO GET A HANDLE ON WAS THAT THEY WERE NOT GOING TO DO \$75 MILLION IN HARD COSTS AND THEN THE ASSESSMENT WAS GOING TO BE AROUND \$20 MILLION. THE COUNCIL WANTED TO GET FAMILIAR WITH THE PROCESS THAT THE ASSESSORS GO THROUGH FOR HOW THEY COME UP WITH A COMMERCIAL ASSESSMENT.

MR. DESANTIS SAID IT WOULD BE BASED ON THE SQUARE FOOTAGE OF THE BUILDING, THE USE OF THE BUILDING, AND THEY KNOW IT IS GOING TO BE A WAREHOUSE AND OFFICE SPACE AS WELL. A COMPARABLE BUILDING WOULD BE THE JORDAN'S FURNITURE WAREHOUSE WHICH IS ABOUT 800,000 SQUARE FEET. THAT IS ASSESSED AT ABOUT \$28 MILLION, SO IT WOULD BE IN THAT BALLPARK, PROBABLY \$30-\$35 MILLION WILL PROBABLY BE THE BALLPARK FOR THE ASSESSMENT ON THE BUILDING, DEPENDING ON THE COMPONENTS AND A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT THINGS. THEY WILL NEED TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT.

COUNCILOR CROTEAU STATED THAT ONE OF THE THINGS HE NOTED AS THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT THE MARTIGNETTI BUILDING WAS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE COST OF PUTTING UP A STRUCTURE AND THE ACTUAL ASSESSMENT. WITH RECENT CONSTRUCTION THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A RESIDENTIAL ASSESSMENT AND THE COST SEEMS TO BE FAR LESS THEN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CONSTRUCTION OF COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY - THE ACTUAL COST OF CONSTRUCTION AND THE ASSESSMENT.

MR. DESANTIS SAID THAT IS WHY THEY RELY ON THE MARKET FOR THAT. SOMEONE CAN OVER IMPROVE SOMETHING VERY EASILY, BUT IT IS WHAT THE MARKET WILL BARE. ADJUSTMENTS ARE MADE FOR OVER

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IMPROVEMENTS, BUT IT IS PRETTY MUCH THAT THE MARKET WILL DICTATE THEIR ASSESSMENTS. WHEN THEY USE COST, THEY HAVE COST TABLES THAT THEY USE, BUT THEY ARE NOT SPECIFIC TO ANY SPECIFIC HOUSE, IT IS ACROSS THE BOARD, THE WHOLE MARKET.

COUNCILOR CROTEAU THEN SAID IN THE CASE OF INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL, THE COST OF PUTTING UP A STRUCTURE IN THE INDUSTRIAL PARK AS OPPOSED TO PUTTING UP A STRUCTURE IN MANSFIELD INDUSTRIAL PARK, THE COST OF PUTTING UP THE STRUCTURE MAY NOT VARY A GREAT DEAL BUT BECAUSE OF THE LOCATION AND THE MARKET, DESIRABILITY, WHATEVER, IT COULD BE LESS OF A GAP IN THE MANSFIELD PARK AS OPPOSED TO THIS PARK HERE?

MR. DESANTIS SAID THE ASSESSMENT WOULD BE SIMILAR, VERY SIMILAR.

COUNCILOR CROTEAU NOTED THAT THE NUMBER FOR THE MALL IS ABOUT \$4 MILLION, BUT HE REALIZES THE MALL HAS BEEN GOING THROUGH SOME DIFFICULT TIMES WHICH AFFECTS PERHAPS THE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY, BUT AT ONE POINT IN TIME HE THINKS THE PROPERTY TAX BILL WAS THE LARGEST SINGLE TAX PAYER IN THE CITY.

MR. DESANTIS SAID IT WAS ASSESSED AT \$100 MILLION AT ONE TIME. MS. LABELLE SAID IT IS CURRENTLY AT ABOUT \$29 MILLION.

COUNCILOR COSTA-HANLON STATED THAT ONE THING SHE LEARNED FROM SPEAKING TO THE ASSESSORS IS THAT THIS IS ALL AGGREGATE, SO WE KEEP TALKING ABOUT VERY SPECIFIC PROPERTIES BUT WHEN YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT THE INCOME GENERATED AND THINGS LIKE THAT THE NUMBERS THAT THEY RECEIVE ARE IN AGGREGATE. SO EVEN THOUGH WE KEEP TALKING ABOUT SPECIFIC PROPERTIES, WHEN YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT THE INCOME APPROACH IT IS AN AVERAGE OVER HOWEVER MANY COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES WE HAVE AND HOW THEY WOULD CALCULATE THE INCOME EACH WOULD GET BASED ON THE SQUARE FOOTAGE. SHE KNOWS THEY RELY ON PERMITS PULLED AND THINGS LIKE THAT TO GET INFORMATION.

COUNCILOR CLEARY STATED THAT IN INFORMATION PROVIDED TO HIM, THE ASSESSORS INDICATE THAT THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 600 HOME SALES IN TAUNTON LAST YEAR. COUNCILOR CLEARY SAID ONCE THE ASSESSOR'S GET THE WORD THAT THE PROPERTY WAS SOLD, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR THE OFFICE, WHAT DO THEY DO.

MS. LABELLE SAID THAT THEY RECEIVE THE DEED FROM THE REGISTRY OF DEEDS AND THEY GO OUT AND VISIT THE PROPERTY. SHE FURTHER NOTED THAT JUST BECAUSE A HOME SOLD FOR \$200,000 IT DOES NOT MEAN THE ASSESSMENT IS \$200,000. IT GOES INTO A DATA BASE AND THEY ARE DOING A MASS APPRAISAL, SO THEY ARE SEEING THAT A RANCH HOME WITH 3 BEDROOMS WITH DIFFERENT CHARACTERISTICS ARE SELLING AT A CERTAIN PRICE.

IT WAS NOTED THAT THEY DO NOT NECESSARILY ADJUST THE ASSESSMENT OF EACH INDIVIDUAL HOUSE AFTER IT IS SOLD.

COUNCILOR CLEARY FURTHER CONFIRMED THAT IF HE WERE TO PUT ON A PORCH OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT IT WOULD IMPACT THE VALUATION OF THE PROPERTY.

COUNCILOR QUINN ASKED ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LEVY LIMIT AND THE LEVY CEILING.

MS. LABELLE SAID THE CURRENT LEVY LIMIT IS A COMBINATION OF WHAT LAST YEAR'S LEVY LIMIT WAS PLUS THE 2.5%; PLUS NEW GROWTH, PLUS THE DEBT EXCLUSION GIVES YOU THIS YEAR'S LEVY LIMIT. THE LEVY CEILING IS THAT THE TAX PAYERS COULD VOTE ON TOP OF THAT TO ADD IF WE DO ANOTHER DEBT EXCLUSION OR AN OVERRIDE OR SO FORTH.

COUNCILOR MARSHALL CLARIFIED SOME OF THE DISCUSSION REGARDING THE LEVY LIMIT. HE SAID IT IS LAST YEAR'S LEVY LIMIT, . 2.5% OR A PERCENTAGE THEREOF, PLUS NEW GROWTH, BECOMES THIS YEAR'S CEILING, PLUS THE DEBT EXCLUSION. NEXT YEAR THAT SAME NUMBER BECOMES THE FLOOR AND WE START AGAIN, SO THAT IS HOW NEW GROWTH GETS CALCULATED IN.

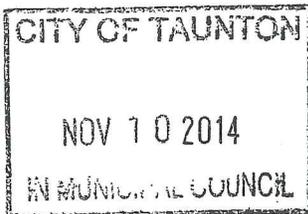
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COUNCILOR CARR NOTED THAT SHE NOTICED THERE WAS AN RFP OUT FOR A COMPANY TO DO THE PERSONAL PROPERTY, SO IS THAT THE ONLY THING THE OFFICE PUTS AN RFP OUT ON? IT WAS NOTED THAT THEY HAVE ANOTHER RFP FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL – IT IS PART OF THEIR SOFTWARE WHERE THE COMPANY COMES OUT WITH VALUATIONS. COUNCILOR CARR ASKED IF THEY PUT ALL THOSE THINGS OUT FOR RFP, SHE IS NOT SURE WHAT THE ASSESSOR'S DO. MS. LABELLE SAID THE COMPANY HELPS THEM ANALYZE THE DATA.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:45 P.M.



RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colleen M. Ellis".

COLLEEN M. ELLIS
CLERK OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

REPORTS ACCEPTED, RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer R. Regan".
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK