



*City of Taunton
Municipal Council Meeting Minutes*

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*Temporary City Hall, 141 Oak Street, Taunton, MA
Minutes, January 19, 2016 at 7:10 O'clock P.M.*

Regular Meeting

Mayor Thomas C. Hoye, Jr. presiding

Prayer was offered by the Mayor

*Present at roll call were: Councilor's Croteau, Carr, Pottier, Quinn, McCaul
Dermody, Borges, Cleary, and Marshall*

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

Communications from the Mayor:

Mayor Hoye stated that we were all advised via email this morning of a non-credible threat that was made to our schools in a general message in their voicemail. It was sent last night and was heard this morning. The Superintendent contacted the Police Department immediately and it was determined that the threat was not credible. After doing the necessary work, it was decided that it wasn't worthy of an evacuation. He spoke about how people are up in arms about this and as a parent of two children in Taunton Schools, there are obviously some concerns when something like this happens. He knows that we are in good hands and Chief Walsh acted appropriately and he believes that the right decision was made. He stated that he was not part of it as he had no knowledge of it until after 11am because he attended a funeral. There were 14 other communities that received similar threats. They each handled it a little differently. By the time this was received, children were already in route to school. The Superintendent and the Police Department decided that the best course of action was to continue the day. There were also many non-credible threats last Friday on five schools down the Cape. These have extended to New Hampshire, Maine and Rhode Island. People are looking for attention and trying to promote fear. We are not going to put up with that in Taunton or anywhere else in the Commonwealth for that matter. He wanted to let everyone know that we are aware of it and will make sure the children are safe at all times. Councilor Carr asked if the Police Chief is the one who will decide if any threats are credible or not. Mayor Hoye stated in this particular case the Police Department would decide if it was credible. He thinks that it was a general threat as opposed to a specific threat. He stated that yes; the law enforcement would be in charge of that. Councilor Carr wanted to confirm that the Superintendent would call the Chief of Police. Mayor Hoye confirmed and stated that if it was a specific threat against a specific school the action would be different. **Councilor Pottier motioned that the City Clerk reach out to the Superintendent's Office to ask that the members of the Council be added to any blast e-mail that goes out to parents in the community. So Voted.** Especially in a case like this where a large number of parents were concerned, it would help the Councilors stay on top of the information. Councilor Croteau suggested that the city-

wide communication be issued as soon as possible and that parents having the knowledge that there was a problem would have the option of making the decision as to whether or not to send their children to school. He thinks that the legality of actually closing the schools should be looked at.

Communications from City Officers:

Com. from Fire Chief requesting a current Civil Service List to fill two open Firefighter positions created by Private Keavin Duffy who retired last September and Private Wayne Cumbus who is scheduled to retire at the end of this month. **Councilor McCaul made a motion for the City Clerk to call for a Civil Service List to fill the vacancies and to submit it to the Committee on Fires and Wires. So Voted.**

Com. from Human Resource Director submitting a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Taunton and the Massachusetts Laborer's District Council, Local 1144 © Taunton Nursing Home Union. **Councilor Borges made a motion to refer to the Committee on Finance and Salaries. So Voted.**

Com. from Brian Soares, Taunton Fire Department requesting an additional 3 month leave of absence from the Taunton Fire Dept. starting Saturday, January 16, 2016. Councilor Pottier asked if the reason that the extension was being asked for is known. Mayor Hoye stated that he doesn't know and is not sure that it can be asked. Councilor Cleary spoke to the Fire Chief today and he said that it is in compliance with the contract, the individual is continuing in the State Police Academy and has not completed it. Councilor Carr stated that they could deny this if they chose to. **Councilor Borges motioned to move approval. So Voted. Councilor Carr voting in opposition. Councilor Carr motioned for the Fire Chief to submit a report by next week on the amount of overtime that was paid out for the first 90 days that Mr. Soares was in the academy to cover his shifts. So Voted.**

Com. from Chairman, Taunton Planning Board stating that they have received a Site Plan Review for property at 135 Berkley Street to allow the renovations and expansion of the existing Walker School building to create 40 housing units, submitted by Affordable Housing and Services Collaborative Inc. The DIRB review this petition on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 9:30 AM in the Taunton Planning Board Office, 15 Summer Street, Annex Bldg., and then the Planning Board will meet to review the petition on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 5:30 PM at Chester R. Martin Municipal Council Chambers, 141 Oak Street, Taunton, MA. **Motion was made to receive and place on file. So Voted.**

Com. from Chairman, Taunton Planning Board stating that they have received a Modification of a Site Plan Review for property at 899 County Street for the use of several portions of the existing parking lot and creation of several display areas on the site, no new construction is proposed, submitted by Home Depot USA Inc. The DIRB will review this petition on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 9:00 AM in the Taunton Planning Board Office, 15 Summer Street, Annex Bldg., and the Taunton Planning Board will meet to review petition on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 5:30 PM at Chester R. Martin Municipal Council Chambers, 141 Oak Street, Taunton, MA. **Motion was made to receive and place on file. So Voted.**

Petitions:

Claim submitted by Carole Martins, 9 Greylock Ave., Taunton seeking reimbursement for damages to her automobile from hitting a pothole on Smith Avenue near Dewert Avenue. **Councilor McCaul made a motion to refer to the Law Department and the DPW. So Voted.**

Petition submitted for a Special Permit submitted by Affordable Housing Services Collaborative, Inc., 536 Granite Street, Braintree for a 40-unit multi-family inclusionary residential development at 135 Berkley Street, Taunton located in the Urban Residential District. **Councilor Marshall made a motion to refer to the City Clerk to schedule a public hearing. So Voted.**

Committee Reports:

Motion was made for Committee reports to be read by Title and Approved. So Voted. Recommendations adopted to reflect the votes as recorded in Committee Reports. So Voted.

Unfinished Business:

Councilor Borges stated that on December 15th there was a motion made to refer to the Committee on the Needs of the Airport to have MassDOT come in and speak to some people who had issues with the Airport Commission. **Councilor Borges made a motion to amend the previous motion and postpone that meeting until Monday, February 1, 2016 at 6pm if the Council Chambers are available as she is still trying to schedule MassDOT and is gathering information that she thinks will be helpful for that meeting. So Voted. Councilor Marshall voting in opposition.** Councilor Marshall asked why it would be on a Monday night. Councilor Borges stated that she thinks that there is a lot of information that needs to be talked about and she would like the extra time to have that meeting.

New Business:

Councilor Pottier stated that the packets are on all of the Councilors desks and there will be interviews held tomorrow for two open Police Officer positions. They will be held in the room across from the Clerk of Committee's Office at 6pm.

Council President Quinn stated that a constituent reached out to her regarding 36 Clinton Street and the accumulation of a big pile of trash. She drove by and it is quite unsightly. **Motion was made for the Zoning Enforcement Officer, Board of Health and the Trash Enforcement Officer be asked to take a look at the property and take any appropriate actions. So Voted.**

Councilor McCaul spoke about how the weather is changing and it is getting cold. He wanted to bring to everyone's attention that the Matthew 25:40 Mission at the First Parish Church will be opening up their doors at 6am to help needy families and the homeless to get out of the cold and will be open until 2 or 3pm. It will be open every morning until otherwise posted.

Councilor Carr wanted to thank T-Cam for the program that was put on last night. It was very uplifting and they always put a lot into that every year.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

A true copy:

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kim Blumwell".

City Clerk

RMB/SJS

CITY OF TAUNTON
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
JANUARY 19, 2016

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2016 JAN 21 A 11:51

THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES

PRESENT WERE: COUNCILOR GERALD CROTEAU, CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILORS CARR AND
CLEARY. ALSO PRESENT WERE MAYOR THOMAS HOYE AND BUDGET DIRECTOR
GILL ENOS

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:08 P.M.

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

MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL OF THE PAYROLL WARRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$1,045,698.73 AND THE VOUCHER WARRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$646,097.05. SO VOTED.

MOTION: TO RECESS THE MEETING. (6:10 P.M.) SO VOTED.

MOTION: TO CALL THE MEETING MACK TO ORDER (6:19 P.M.) SO VOTED.

2. MEET WITH THE MAYOR AND BUDGET DIRECTOR TO DISCUSS EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS

THE CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT THERE ARE 5 CONTRACTS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE. THEY ARE
FOR CITY SOLICITOR JASON BUFFINGTON, ASSISTANT CITY SOLICITOR DANIEL DE ABREU, CHIEF
OF STAFF ALYSSA HAGGERTY, LEGAL ASSISTANT SHANNON VALENTINO AND SECRETARY TO THE
MAYOR MARIANN PUNDA.

THE MAYOR SAID THAT HE HAD NO SPECIFIC PRESENTATION TO MAKE BUT NOTED THAT THESE
CONTRACTS ARE CO-TERMINOUS WITH THE MAYOR. THE CITY SOLICITOR'S CONTRACT CALLS
FOR A 5% INCREASE BRING HIS SALARY TO \$131,145.04. THE ASSISTANT CITY SOLICITOR'S
CONTRACT ALSO CALLS FOR A 5% INCREASE BRINGING HIS SALARY TO \$94,395.08. THE LEGAL
ASSISTANT CONTRACT BRINGS HER HOURS FROM 37 ½ TO 40 HOURS AND SHE WILL ALSO BE
TAKING ON THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION DUTIES. THIS IS A 14.5% INCREASE BRINGING
HER SALARY TO \$55,823.04, KEEPING IN MIND THAT \$3,000 OF THIS IS FOR THE ADDED DUTIES
WITH THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION.

IT WAS NOTED THAT THIS WAS ABOUT \$250.00 A MONTH FOR THE HISTORIC DISTRICT
COMMISSION. THAT SALARY HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN \$2600.00/YEAR AND NOW IT IS \$3000.00 A
YEAR. OTHER THEN ANSWERING CALLS AND A MEETING ONCE A MONTH THERE IS NOT A LOT
TO IT.

THE SECRETARY TO THE MAYOR'S HOURS WILL INCREASE FROM 32.5 HOURS TO 40 HOURS.
THIS CONTRACT IS FOR A 10% INCREASE FOR THE ADDITIONAL HOURS.

THE MAYOR NOTED THAT THE CHIEF OF STAFF CONTRACT CALLS FOR A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE.
THERE HAS BEEN NO INCREASE FOR 2 YEARS AND THE FORMER SALARY WAS UNDERPAID. HE
NOTED THAT A SALARY COMPARISON WAS DONE, AS WAS DONE WITH THE LIBRARY AND THE
ELECTRONICS POSITION.

COUNCILOR CARR SAID THAT SHE AGREES THAT MRS. HAGGERTY DOES A GOOD JOB, BUT YOU
HAVE TO COME TO THE REALIZATION THAT JUST BECAUSE OTHER CITIES AND TOWNS PAY BIG
SALARIES IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT TAUNTON HAS TO. SHE ALSO NOTED THAT THE OVER
\$30,000 INCREASE COULD PAY A PORTION OF A DPW WORKER'S SALARY AND THAT

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THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES - CONTINUED

DEPARTMENT IS UNDERSTAFFED. SHE FEELS THAT A 72% INCREASE IS TOO MUCH, HER DUTIES ARE THE SAME AND IN GOOD CONSCIENCE SHE CANNOT GIVE A 72% RAISE. THE SALARY IS AN ISSUE WITH HER AS WELL AS SOME WORDING IN THE CONTRACTS.

THE MAYOR NOTED THAT MRS. HAGGERTY HAS GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND, AND HE DOES UNDERSTAND WHAT KIND OF A JUMP IN SALARY THIS IS.

COUNCILOR CLEARY SAID THAT THIS IS A DIFFICULT TOPIC. HE SEES A LOT OF INCREASES IN THE CONTRACTS BUT VERY LITTLE RETURN. HE FEELS THAT 5 PERSONAL DAYS IS TOO MANY AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT DOWN TO 4. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE IN THE 75% BUYBACK FOR SICK LEAVE AS THIS IS AN UNFUNDED LIABILITY. HE ALSO NOTED THAT 10 DAYS BEREAVEMENT LEAVE IS TOO MUCH. HE FEELS THAT THE CITY IS GETTING NOTHING ON THESE EXPENSIVE BENEFITS. HE SAID THE INCREASE IN THE SALARY, THE \$1650.00 INCENTIVE, THE EDUCATION BENEFITS OF \$3700.00 AND THE FACT THAT AT 5 YEARS LONGEVITY WILL BE PAID IS A HUGE JUMP. HE WOULD LIKE THE MAYOR TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING MORE REASONABLE.

COUNCILOR CARR SAID THAT EVERYONE HAS AN IMPORTANT JOB TO DO. SHE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT \$45,000 IS A STARTING SALARY FOR A TEACHER AND \$47,000 IS A STARTING SALARY FOR A POLICE OFFICER. IT IS NOT UNREASONABLE TO GIVE A 10-15% RAISE, BUT 72% IS TOO MUCH. SHE AGAIN NOTED THAT SHE HAS ISSUES WITH SOME OF THE OTHER LANGUAGE IN THE CONTRACTS. SHE ALSO SAID THAT A LOT OF THINGS NEED TO BE ADDRESSED WITH THE UNION CONTRACTS AND THIS SHOULD START WITH THE MAYOR'S OFFICE. THEY SHOULD LEAD BY EXAMPLE.

THE MAYOR SAID THESE POSITIONS ARE TEMPORARY POSITIONS. THEY ARE CO-TERMINOUS WITH THE MAYOR. THERE ARE NO GUARANTEES AND NO UNION PROTECTION.

MOTION: REFER ALL CONTRACTS BACK TO THE MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.

THE MAYOR REQUESTED THAT THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PROVIDE A MEMO TO HIM WITH THEIR CONCERNS PRIOR TO MEETING.

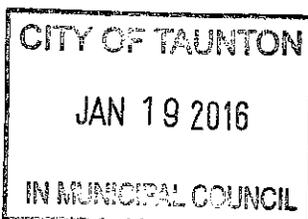
IT WAS REQUESTED THAT THE MEETING BE SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK.

THE ABOVE MOTION WAS CLARIFIED TO BE AS FOLLOWS:

MOTION: REFER THE FIVE CONTRACTS BACK TO THE MAYOR AND THE COMMITTEE IS TO COMMUNICATE ITS CONCERNS TO THE MAYOR AND FOLLOW UP WITH A MEETING. SO VOTED. CONCERNS ARE TO BE PROVIDED TO THE MAYOR NO LATER THEN FRIDAY, JANUARY 22ND. SO VOTED.

IT WAS NTOED THAT THIS WILL BE A POSTED COMMITTEE MEETING.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:58 P.M.



RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Colleen Ellis

COLLEEN M. ELLIS
CLERK OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

REPORTS ACCEPTED, RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

Rm Blackwell
CITY CLERK