

City of Taunton  
Municipal Council  
January 10, 2023

**The Committee on Finance and Salaries**

The meeting was held at Taunton City Hall, 15 Summer Street, Taunton, MA 02780 in the Chester R. Martin Municipal Council Chambers.

Present were Councilor Phillip Duarte, Chairman and Councilors Pottier and McCaul; Patricia Dello Russo, CFO, Paul Slivinski, Executive Director of the Taunton Retirement Board, Gill Enos, Budget Director and Retirement Board member, and Christine Clymens, Treasurer-Collector were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM.

**1. Meet to review the weekly vouchers and payrolls for City departments.**

*MOTION: Approve the payroll warrant in the amount of \$3,987,024.39. So voted.*

*MOTION: Approve the accounts payable warrant in the amount of \$4,315,355.30. So voted.*

**2. Meet to discuss the proposed cost of living adjustment for City retirees/survivors.**

Paul Slivinski of the Retirement Board gave a synopsis of the two issues at hand. Recently legislation was passed that allowed the COLA increase to go as high as 5%. Secondly, the Board voted to increase the base to \$16,000. He indicated that there would be minimal impact on the budget since the retirement system has had excess earnings. This is an opportunity to benefit members of the retirement system and share some of the gains.

Councilor Pottier asked about the basis going from \$15,000 to \$16,000 and Mr. Slivinski indicated that this would take effect in FY2024. The increase of 3 to 5% would be as of July 1, 2022. Councilor Pottier asked for the total impact of this increase and Mr. Dello Russo answered that this would be covered by earnings. Mr. Pottier further questioned the impact of the last few challenging years and Mr. Slivinski explained that they use a technique called actuarial smoothing that mitigates impacts.

Councilor McCaul questioned the impact of last year as it was a tough year and Mr. Slivinski answered that they haven't measured that yet but that they aim to earn 7.6%.

*MOTION: Adopt Ch. 269 of the Acts of 2022. So voted.*

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**MOTION:** Approve the COLA base increase to \$16,000 pursuant to G.L. c.32, §103(j). *So voted.*

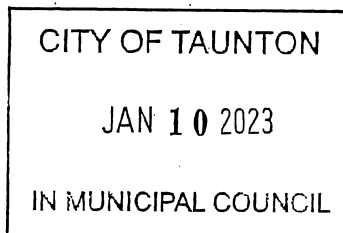
**3. Meet with CFO, Treasurer-Collector, and Budget Director for an update on Investment and Revenue Performance.**

Patrick Dello Russo, Christine Clymens, and Gill Enos gave a brief presentation on the revenue strategies and investment activity of the City. Mr. Dello Russo indicated that the City has changed the way it does banking. Ms. Clymens reported that 78.5% of funds are operational or liquid and are housed in 8 banks. 4 institutions hold 87% of the liquid assets. 17.5% of funds are in an investment portfolio and 4% of funds are in savings accounts. She reported that the City's investment income is over \$1 Million for the first six months of the year where in FY22 investment income totaled \$353,000 for the entire year. Mr. Dello Russo pointed out that municipal dollars are more favorable to financial institutions than borrowing from the Federal Reserve and that they have been able to move funds into higher yielding accounts. Ms. Clymens stressed that the objectives of safety, liquidity, and yield are always kept in mind. She takes a conservative approach and the majority of funds are no longer held in one bank. Ms. Clymens reported that the team has negotiated higher rates and they are shooting for \$4 Million in 2024. She also indicated that they have greatly improved the collection rate of police detail payments and have cross trained the treasurer staff on collection functions.

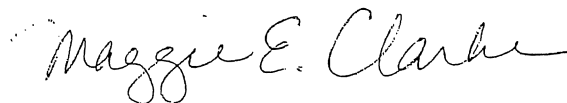
Councilor Pottier asked why funds are spread out over four institutions and Mr. Dello Russo stated it was for competition. Mr. Pottier further asked how readily the funds can be transferred and Ms. Clymens informed him that it was instantaneous.

Councilor Postell asked for more information on the collection for police details and Mr. Dello Russo indicated that he will provide more. Mr. Postell further indicated that he would like to see a list of those who are delinquent.

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 PM.

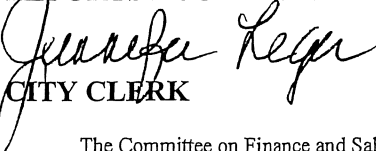


Respectfully submitted,



Maggie E. Clarke  
Clerk of Council Committees

**REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.**



CITY CLERK

City of Taunton  
Municipal Council  
January 10, 2023

**The Committee on Police and License**

The meeting was held at Taunton City Hall, 15 Summer Street, Taunton, MA 02780 the Chester R. Martin Municipal Council Chambers.

Present were Councilor Jeffrey Postell, Chairman, and Councilors Sanders and Borges > Detective William Rutherford, Building Inspector Robert Pirozzi, City Planner Kevin Scanlon, John DeSousa of Northcounty Group, Andy Amaro of Amaro Family Auto Sales, Flavio Hungaro of LMCC and Attorney William Rounds were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

1. **Meet with Detective Rutherford on the following applications for renewal of Class II Used Car Dealer Licenses:**
  - a. **Leo's Auto Sales and Service at 350 1/2R Winthrop Street**

Detective Rutherford gave a positive recommendation.

*MOTION: Approve. So voted.*

- b. **Amaro's Family Auto Sales at 503 Middleboro Ave**

Detective Rutherford reported that the applicant has not met the requirements of the site plan review and has started another business on the property.

Councilor Postell referred to the August 10, 2022 correspondence from Mr. Pirozzi that detailed where the applicant was not in compliance since those conditions had not been met. Mr. Scanlon explained that Mr. Amaro had started doing auto repair for outside clientele which requires a special permit. He further indicated that auto repair would require some storage spaces so that would likely reduce the available spaces for the Class II business. However, he expressed his belief that Mr. Amaro is working towards compliance but that is going to take some time.

Councilor Postell pressed Mr. Amaro on when the outside repair work began and Detective Rutherford indicated that when this went before the Planning Board it was just for an auto sales business. Mr. Scanlon clarified that with a Class II license he can do accessory repair such as getting cars ready to sell. Mr. Scanlon indicated that the site plan needs to be adjusted and, therefore, recommended a several month temporary extension. Councilor Postell asked Mr. Amaro how long he had been doing outside repair work and Mr. Amaro suggested 3-4 months. Detective Rutherford emphasized that he is allowed to do repair work on vehicles for sale.

Councilor Postell asked Mr. Amaro if he had advertised the vehicle repair and Mr. Amaro confirmed that he had and that he thought that he could do it without a permit. Since he's learned that he cannot, he has ceased and desisted outside repair operations. Detective Rutherford confirmed that the signs are down and reiterated that he needs to apply with the planning board for a special permit. Mr. Postell asked Mr. Amaro if he understands that he will need to apply with the Planning Board and Mr. Amaro indicated his understanding. Mr. Postell also asked how long the process will take and Mr. Amaro said that he didn't know.

Councilor Borges indicated that Mr. Amaro owned up to his mistake, took down the sign, and now knows what he needs to do. She indicated that an oil/water separator, which is required by the site plan, is very expensive. She expressed her support for a 6 month extension with the condition that he files with the Planning Board for a Special Permit to revise his site plan. She also emphasized that he will need to get a license with the City Clerk at the end of the process.

Councilor Sanders stressed that it is important for business owners to find out what is expected but also indicated that he would be comfortable with a 6 month extension.

***MOTION:*** *Grant the petitioner a 6 month license extension with the following conditions: (1) Cease and desist on outside repair operations. (2) Apply with the Planning Board for a Special Permit by the end of February and (3) Return in 5 months to report on progress.*

Councilor Sanders requested that the applicant should communicate with the Committee Chair if he is unable to meet those dates and Mr. Amaro agreed.

Councilor Couté suggested that the oil/water separator and the sewer tie in could be worked on immediately since those are not going to change.

***So Voted.***

## **2. Meet with Detective Rutherford to discuss the application for the renewal of a marijuana retail license for LMCC, LLC at 83 County Street.**

Detective Rutherford indicated this is a renewal and that the Council had previously given the petitioner a 6 month extension. He reported that they meet all the criteria. Mr. Pirozzi reported that the original building permit had expired due to 6 months of no work being done but they were issued a new building permit on 7/8/22. The rough plumbing and gas inspections were done and electrical work is ongoing with the electrical rough inspection expected soon. Attorney Rounds stated that they are moving as quickly as possible, that significant work has been completed, and that work continues every day. They hope to be virtually complete in 6 months.

Councilor Borges affirmed that there has been significant progress since last time. She indicated that she had visited the site and had taken photos which she would share. She expressed her support for a 6 month extension.

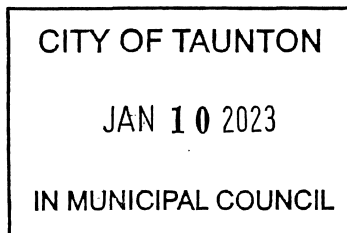
Councilor Sanders asked for the status of the state license and Ms. Hungaro indicated that they are in good standing with the State. He also supported a 6 month extension.

Detective Rutherford indicated that it won't be 6 months exactly since the license expires on June 30.

Councilor Coute agreed that significant progress has been made and asked when they expected to be complete and Ms. Hungaro stated that she hopes to be done with construction in 6 months.

**MOTION:** *Extend the license until June 30. So voted.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 PM.



Respectfully submitted,



Maggie E. Clarke  
Clerk of Council Committees

**REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.**



CITY CLERK

City of Taunton  
Municipal Council  
January 10, 2023

**The Committee on Public Property**

The meeting was held at Taunton City Hall, 15 Summer Street, Taunton, MA 02780 in the Chester R. Martin Municipal Council Chambers.

Present were Councilor Christopher Coute, Chairman, and Councilors McCann, Dooner, and Borges. Councilor Quintal was absent. Attorney Ed Brennan, Ed Correira, Chairman of the Taunton Redevelopment Authority, Bill Roth, Executive Director of OECD and the Taunton Redevelopment Authority, and Dennis Ackerman were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

**1. Meet to discuss the proposal to turn over parcels (22-29, 22-30, 23-9, 23-10, 23-12, and 23-13) on Harvey Street to the Taunton Redevelopment Authority.**

Attorney Ed Brennan gave an overview of the proposal. 6 parcels, owned by the City, for a total of about 20 acres would be transferred from the City to the Taunton Redevelopment Authority (TRA). They would make two parcels shovel ready and sell those two parcels. This would provide the seed money for the TRA. The proposal is to use approximately 3 acres for 2 house lots and approximately 17 acres would be preserved as open space in perpetuity. On the two parcels, houses would be built on Harvey Street and returned to the tax rolls and be added to the housing stock. Bill Roth stated that the TRA would need to contract with an engineer who would do all the preparation such as a survey, a wetlands survey and an ANRAD. Attorney Brennan suggested that this plan is both fiscally responsible and preserves open space.

Councilor Borges asked if members of the TRA can purchase the land and Mr. Brennan confirmed that members of the TRA are prohibited from purchasing. Mr. Roth stressed that the 17 acres of land to be open space is approximate at this time.

***MOTION:*** *Approve of this land being transferred to the Taunton Redevelopment Authority with the clauses that it be limited to the minimum area for 2 single family lots with the remainder to have a deed restriction for conservation.*

Councilor Dooner asked how this works and Attorney Brennan indicated that he would work with the City Solicitor's office to draw up binding documents for the transfer.

Councilor Pottier asked how much in taxes were owed Attorney Brennan did not know. Mr. Pottier wondered why the previous owners didn't sell and Mr. Ackerman indicated that there several owners so they really couldn't do anything.

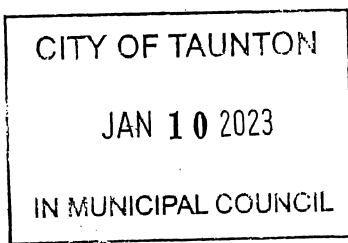
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Councilor Sanders indicated that he originally was opposed to this proposal but recognized that this is a good opportunity to preserve 16-17 acres of open space in perpetuity. He also expressed his support for the TRA.

Mr. Roth suggested that the biggest issue will be perc testing and finding the areas for the septic systems.

*So voted.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maggie E. Clarke".

Maggie E. Clarke  
Clerk of Council Committees

**REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.**

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

City of Taunton  
Municipal Council  
January 10, 2023

**The Committee on Ordinances and Enrolled Bills**

The meeting was held at Taunton City Hall, 15 Summer Street, Taunton, MA 02780 in the Chester R. Martin Municipal Council Chambers.

Present were Councilor Barry Sanders, Chairman, and Councilors Dooner and McCaul. Police Chief Edward Walsh was also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM.

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**1. Meet with the Police Chief to discuss proposed ordinance to exclude out of town constables.**

Chief Walsh stated that the Council had voted on 9/24/2013 to modify the ordinance by adopting the general law where the appointment of constables was put under the Mayor. He suggested referring this to the Law Department since this vote was never codified.

***MOTION:** Request the Law Department codify the vote taken on 9/24/2013. So voted.*

***MOTION:** Make that vote part of the record. So voted.*

**2. Meet with the Police Chief to discuss request to remove parking meters on Grovener Street.**

Councilor Sanders stated that this is not Grovener Street but, rather, should be Governor Street. Since this was not properly posted it will be reposted for another day.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.

CITY OF TAUNTON  
JAN 10 2023  
IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie E. Clarke  
Clerk of Council Committees

**REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.**

  
CITY CLERK



City of Taunton  
Municipal Council  
January 10, 2023

**The Committee of the Council as a Whole**

The meeting was held at Taunton City Hall, 15 Summer Street, Taunton, MA 02780 in the Chester R. Martin Municipal Council Chambers.

Present were Council President Kelly Dooner and Councilors Duarte, Borges, McCaul, Pottier, Coute, Sanders, and Postell. Councilor Quintal was absent.

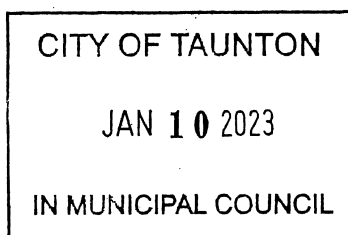
The meeting was called to order at 7:43 PM.

**1. Meet in executive session with the City's legal representation to discuss the pending litigation of Greater Goods, LLC vs. City of Taunton Municipal Council.**

President Dooner reported that Attorney Costa was unable to attend due to an unforeseen circumstance and, due to a Councilor's absence next week, requested this be postponed for 2 weeks.

***MOTION: Postpone for 2 weeks. So voted.***

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM.



Respectfully submitted,

*Maggie E. Clarke*

Maggie E. Clarke  
Clerk of Council Committees

**REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.**

*Jennifer Regan*  
CITY CLERK