



City of Taunton
Municipal Council Meeting Minutes
City Hall, 15 Summer Street, Taunton, MA
Minutes, February 1, 2022 at 7:00 O'clock P.M.

Regular Meeting

Mayor Shaunna L. O'Connell presiding

Prayer was offered by the Mayor

*Present at roll call were: Councilors Postell, Quintal, Sanders, Couté,
 Pottier, McCaul, Borges, Duarte and Dooner*

Record of preceding meeting was read by title and approved. So voted.

Motion was made to go out of the regular order of business to Appointments. So voted.

Appointments:

Appointment of Sarah Riendeau for a permanent full-time Fire Lieutenant for the Taunton Fire Department. Mayor O'Connell spoke saying Sarah Riendeau is making history here in Taunton. She is the first woman Lieutenant in the history of the Taunton Fire Department. Sarah has been on the department for 15-years. She was also the second woman to be a Fire Fighter here in Taunton. She also mentioned that she is very impressed that she plays hockey when the Police/Fire hockey games happen. They offered Sarah their excited and enthusiastic congratulations. She serves with bravery, honor and commitment to our community. **Motion was made to approve appointment on a roll call vote. On a roll call vote, nine (9) councilors were present, nine (9) councilors voted in favor. Motion was made to invite Sarah Riendeau into the enclosure to be sworn in. So voted.** The City Clerk swore in Sarah Riendeau as a Fire Lieutenant for the City of Taunton.

Motion was made to take a brief recess. So voted.

Motion was made to revert back to the regular order of business. So voted.

Opportunity for input by the general public.

Bill Moore, Smith Street of Dighton, spoke about the Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical High School project. He explained, we all love our children and we want them to have the best education they possibly can, and we all respect Bristol Plymouth as being a very fine school, but there is a project they are proposing that has a staggering cost that is going to affect all of our communities. He wanted to pass along some information that they may have not of heard. Some of the statistics were a cost of \$726.00 per square foot on this school. He stated the average cost in the Boston area is \$480.00 per square foot, which is a huge increase. He gave further thoughts on this project.

Paul Reynolds, 725 Main Street of Dighton, also spoke about the Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical High School project. He expressed his admiration in respect for BP as an institution. He gave details on why he thinks the price tag is rankly staggering while only increasing capacity by 102-students. He gave further thoughts on this project. He also stated he is not in support of this project.

Leonard Hull, Jr., 760 Main Street of Dighton, a member of the Dighton Board of Selectmen, said he taught at Bristol Plymouth High School and recognizes they have an outstanding academic program. He was there to represent the tax payers. He was in hope that the tax payers of Taunton and Dighton, understand the difference between needs and wants. He continued to give his thoughts on this project. He personally feels Bristol Plymouth should reconsider the building of a new school and focus their attention on remodeling of the existing structure.

Hearings:

On the petition submitted by Ricardo Camara, 207 Washington St., Taunton to allow a Grade 2 (7-12 dogs) kennel license for personal use/dogs (NOT BUSINESS USE) at 207 Washington Street, Taunton, MA. **Motion was made to open the Public Hearing and invite the interested party into the enclosure. So voted.** Com. from the Animal Control Officer submitting an Inspection Report with a positive recommendation and a sketch of the property. **Motion was made to make part of the record. So voted.** Ricardo Camara, 207 Washington Street, Taunton said he does have seven dogs. It's not for business. He has had the dogs for a long time and now he is just getting a complaint about them. He came before the council to ask them to consider that he has had these dogs for a while and he is just trying to keep his dogs. Councilor Pottier asked what kind of dogs he has or what breed. Mr. Camara said they are terriers, small dogs. All seven of them are the same. Councilor Pottier asked if these dogs are spayed/neutered. Mr. Camara said no. Councilor Pottier asked when these dogs have litters, does he sell these dogs or give them away. Mr. Camara said he usually gives them away. Councilor Pottier asked if he is raising any other animals on the property. Mr. Camara said he has some chickens, rabbits, and a couple quails. Councilor Pottier said he sees that they will be inside dogs, but does he have a fenced in yard. Mr. Camara said yes. Councilor Pottier asked if they roam around free. Mr. Camara said yes. Councilor Pottier said the challenge he has is that it's a really high density in an urban area and with other animals on the site, he is concerned with the location of the abutters. It's a really tight neighborhood. It's a very urban area compared to some of the others that have come before them, which may not have had the acreage allowable, but are more in a rural area. Council Borges asked Mr. Camara if he didn't realize that he needed to have a Kennel License in order to have seven dogs. Mr. Camara said yes he didn't know and found out when there was a complaint and the dog officer showed up at the house. Councilor Borges asked if he had any complaints at all from the neighbors in regards to these dogs. Mr. Camara said he did awhile back regarding his chickens and he had a video call with the City Council. The dog complaint was just recently. Councilor Borges asked if the dogs were ever let loose. Mr. Camara said no. Councilor Borges asked if the dogs bark. Mr. Camara said no they don't bark all day only if they see something, they are dogs and they are going to talk. Councilor Borges asked Mr. Camara regarding the chickens, rabbits and birds, how many do you actually have and where are they located. Mr. Camara said they are outside in their cages. Mr. Camara said he is getting rid of the bunnies and the quails. Councilor Coute asked the City Solicitor if the Ordinance calls for 1-acre and added this is less, is this a variance

and how does that play into discussion. The City Solicitor explained the standard requirements for a Class I, Class II and Class III Kennels, in Section D, E and F of the Ordinance, including the 1-acre requirement. The Ordinance states that the requirement stipulated in in sub-section D, E and F, which would include the 1-acre requirement. This could maybe waved or reduced by a 2/3rd vote by the Municipal Council upon finding the waiver or reduction will not be detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare. Councilor Postell asked the City Solicitor on the Ordinance, under Chapter 191-8, under Section E were it says the Class II license, sub-section 9, shows that no more than three dogs shall be kept in the residential dwelling of the applicant. How does that lineup with seven dogs. The City Solicitor responded saying each of the eleven items listed for the requirements for the Class II license, are all subjected to that standard that they may be waved or reduced by a 2/3rd vote by the Municipal Council upon of finding the waiver or reduction will not be detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare. Those are all the general requirements but of the 2/3rd vote, the Council can wave those or alter them. Councilor Postell asked Mr. Camara if the dogs would survive outside the dwelling. Mr. Camara said no and he would never do that to them, they are like his kids. Councilor Sanders asked how he came to have seven dogs. Mr. Camara explained he got them from other people who were getting rid of them and took them in, basically like a rescue. Councilor Sanders asked if he heard right, that they are not spayed/neutered. Mr. Camara said no they are not. Councilor Sanders asked what would prevent him from having twelve or fifteen dogs in a short amount of time. Mr. Camara said the way he got them is the way he has them now. He never got them fixed. He stated they are not for business and if they have puppies, he just gives them away. Councilor Sanders asked if he is in a position to have them spayed/neutered if that was a condition on the kennel license. Mr. Camara explained he doesn't want any more dogs and if they were to breed, he wouldn't keep them. Councilor Quintal asked if all the dogs are licensed with the city. Mr. Camara said no, they all have their shots but he never knew he had to get them licensed. Councilor Quintal asked the ages of the dogs. Mr. Camara said he believes the youngest is about 2-years old. Councilor Quintal asked why is reluctant to spay/neuter them. Mr. Camara said they were born that way. Councilor Quintal explained that by law he doesn't have to but in this situation it would be tough to keep seven dogs apart and not to breed and have more puppies. Mr. Camara said he doesn't see the problem with giving them away. Everybody loves dogs. Councilor Quintal explained that if he were to have them spayed/neutered, it would solve a lot of the problem and these dogs should be licensed with the city. Mr. Camara said he would do what it takes. Councilor Quintal asked if the Animal Control Officer has ever been to his property before. Mr. Camara said never, besides recently for this and he passed inspection with no problem. Councilor Quintal stated he would hope he would spay/neuter his animals. Councilor Dooner asked City Solicitor, Atty. Costa, are they legally able to add that condition regarding spaying or neutering. The City Solicitor said in his opinion you are able to. The Ordinance is silent on it but he thinks as a condition, if there's a waiver requested, his position is that the council has the inherent authority to impose conditions as part of the granting the license. Councilor Borges asked if he would give any of the seven dogs to good homes. Mr. Camara said he wouldn't give any of these seven dogs away, only the puppies. The City Solicitor wanted to point out that there is a report that the Animal Control Officer did issue that is on the agenda and a part of the record. Councilor Pottier referenced the Ordinance, that Class I is for keeping 4-6 dogs and is a half-acre requirement. He would qualify for that. The Class II is 7-12 dogs and is a one-acre or more requirement. He does not qualify for that. **Motion was made to open public input. So voted.** John Paiva, 13

Pine Street of Berkley, he's the owner of Paiva's Catering at 203 Washington Street, which is next-door to the petitioner. He said most of the time the dogs are outside. They run around barking. His tenants that live on the third floor, they get up in the summer, they have the windows open and the dogs make noise. He is getting a lot of mice coming from that side. They have been watching the dogs chase the mice. The mice go to his kitchen. His kitchen is the cleanest kitchen in town. He is against Mr. Camara having the Kennel License. Steve Paiva, 201 Washington street, he's the third floor tenant that's next door to Mr. Camara. He said he has great respect for Mr. Camara, they are good neighbors but the noise is definitely there. It's very disturbing when the windows are open in the summer time. The winter is not so bad. His dad's catering business is right next door and with all the food around, the dogs with the noise and the rodents that run down the fence line, the cats chasing them at night, it's not really a good look for the neighborhood. He feels having a few dogs is fine, but 7-12 dogs he thinks is a little excessive. Nick Dooley, 41 Benefit Street said he feels it's too many dogs in that small area. The neighborhood is very close and the noise factor is basically what he's objecting to. Johnny Mello, 37 Benefit Street said the issue he has with this is the noise factor. 7-12 dogs is a lot. John Vieira, owns the property at 40 Purchase Street, which is a direct abutter to the property in question. He strongly is opposed in passing this request. He feels it's going to open a can of worms. There is no doubt about it. From the stand point of some of veterinarian care, food, the correct housing and licensing. This is going to run into a huge amount of money for that number of animals. We have already had problems with another abutter. It went on for 2-years with the City Police coming, the State Police coming and it still didn't stop until they moved away. They just can't continue this. It's too tight of a neighborhood. One of his family members currently lives there. It's been a family home for over 100-years. He said it's the wrong place. He said everyone sitting here wouldn't want this in their backyard, he's sure of that. It's something nice to do, but in another area. Gail Martin, 197 Washington Street, she said there is a lot of noise. She is an animal lover as well, and she applauds him for what he's trying to do. It's a very compact area and other neighbors have dogs also. So, when other neighbors are walking their dogs, it seems like it aggravates all the dogs when there is so many. It's the noise factor. **Motion was made to close public input. So voted. Motion was made to approve the Kennel License on a roll call vote. So voted.** On discussion, Councilor Quintal explained why he was reluctant due to him not being willing to spay or neuter the dogs. **On a roll call vote, nine (9) councilors were present, nine (9) councilors voted in opposition. Motion did not pass.**

On the petition submitted by Attorney Edmund J. Brennan, Jr., 174 Dean Street, Unit B, Taunton, MA 02780 on behalf of his clients William M. McCaffrey and Mary L. McCaffrey to allow: A Zoning Map Amendment for a portion of the property located at the intersection of Middleboro Avenue/ Pinehill Street, known as property I.D. Map 95 Lot 51 from Suburban Residential to Business District. The property consists of 68,282 sq. ft. and is currently located in two different zoning districts. 42,482 sq. ft. is located in the Business District and 25,800 sq. ft. is in the Suburban Residential District. **Motion was made to open the Public Hearing. So voted. Parties were invited into the enclosure.** Com. from Chairman, Taunton Planning Board submitting a positive recommendation. Com. from City Planner submitting recommended approval comment. Com. from Conservation Agent submitting no issue comments. Com. from City Engineer submitting no comments. Com. from Board of Health Assistant Executive Director submitting no comments. Map of property was submitted. **Motion was made to make all**

communication a part of the record. So voted. Atty. Ed Brennan, office on 174 Dean Street, Taunton and with him was his client William McCaffrey. Atty. Brennan gave details on his materials submitted, this intersection on Middleboro Avenue/Pinehill Street, this is the northwest corner of the intersection. It's a vacant lot. Mr. & Mrs. McCaffrey have owned the property since 1995. It's a split zone. From the numbers that were submitted with the petition, currently 62% of the lot is in the business and 38% of it is in the residential. He said our bylaw does allow an extension into the residential zone if the larger part of the lot is business. Right now they could use 80% of the lot for business purposes under the ordinance. What they are asking to do is make the lot uniform so that zoning will be consistent throughout and potential to develop the property for business purposes. Councilor Pottier asked what the plans for the site are. Atty. Brennan stated there is no development proposal at all. This is just the McCaffrey's have had on their mind for a longtime. Again, they have owned since 1995, so they are at a point in their life that they want to get things in order and one of the things was to uniform this parcel. Councilor Borges said this makes total sense to her, that 62% of it is already that. She has no issues with this and will be in support of it. **Motion was made to open public input. So voted.** Timmy Furtado, 55 Liberty Street, East Taunton, said he is 100% for this. **Motion was made to close public input and approve the petition. So voted.**

Communications from the Mayor:

Mayor O'Connell said there are currently 92 (ninety-two) active Covid cases in Taunton and there were a little over 12,000 (twelve-thousand) confirmed new cases in Massachusetts today. We still do have the City of Taunton Covid-19 info line #774-406-5277. This weekend, Saturday, February 5, 2022, there will be a drive through for our Covid test-kit distribution. This will be at Taunton High School from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is for Taunton residents only. Taunton residency proof is required. Residents are asked to enter through the front of the high school at the Gordon Owen Blvd. entrance and go around the back and exit through William Street. If you have any questions, you can call the Covid info line or the Mayor's office. She discussed our big storm that we had Saturday. This was one of the biggest storms since 2015. Taunton and our surrounding areas got over 2-feet of snow. Preparations for the storm started on Friday. A lot of people worked around the clock all the way into Sunday and even Monday to clear all the snow. They wanted to send their sincerest thank you to DPW, the contractors who worked the storm, Park & Rec, the Taunton Police Dept. and TMLP for all being on the front lines throughout the duration of the storm.

Councilor McCaul said he heard of other communities having issues getting snowplow drivers. He asked if this was a concern or obstacle for our city. Mayor O'Connell said no it wasn't. Councilor McCaul asked if the snowplowing has been completed. He knows of some folks who have expressed their concern that the roads are not exactly the way they would like them to be. Mayor O'Connell explained they worked Saturday, Sunday and Monday, if someone does not have their road completed or they think it needs to be plowed further, looked at, or sanded, they can call the DPW. **Councilor Postell made a motion to have an after action submitted to the City Council from all the departments involved as an oversight of numbers that they had just so they can look at calls for service from police and fire, any power outages from TMLP reported and anything they can identify some vulnerabilities. Also, to outline some of the questions that were just asked regarding challenges they may have had in terms of staffing for the plows. Just an after action after a significant incident. So voted.**

Mayor O'Connell stated they do have a debriefing meeting scheduled already with all of the key stakeholders to talk about what they did right, what they could do better and what they need to do for the next storm. Councilor McCaul said he actually spent the weekend at the DPW. He actually took a ride around with the plow trucks. It was a very difficult storm. It seemed like they went down the street and by the time they came back again, the wind was so powerful it filled the snow back in again. He thanked the residents that were being patient during this snowstorm. He also thanked the DPW, plow drivers, Lopes Construction who was out there with 50-piece of apparatus and along with Hyde paving who had their plow guys out there. He thanked everyone and it was a great team effort.

Mayor O'Connell said in February they celebrate Black History month. Her office has been working with the Taunton High School African American Club and True Diversity to organize some activities and to have some special guests here in the chamber at the council meetings throughout the month. They will be starting this next Tuesday.

Appointments:

Taunton Cultural Council

Appointment of Josephine Dwuye, 37 Madison Street, Taunton to serve on the Taunton Cultural Council for a term of three (3) years expiring in January 2025.

Motion was made to move approval. So voted.

Appointment of Tara Sousa, 103 Flintlock Road, Taunton to serve on the Taunton Cultural Council for a term of three (3) years expiring in January 2025. **Motion was made to move approval. So voted.**

Communications from City Officers:

Com. from City Solicitor submitting Xfinity Correspondence in regards to channel changes occurring effective March 22, 2022. Afro will only be available in HD; Afro HD will move from Digital Proffered to Expanded Basic and Entertainment remaining on channel 1623. Also, Kids Street HD will be added to Expanded basic and Kids & Family channel 1772. **Motion was made to receive and place on file. So voted.**

Com. from Police Chief requesting to declare a 2009 Crown Vic, which is no longer suitable for police patrol and is in need of repair which is cost prohibitive, as surplus property, so that it may be donated to the Dighton Police Department for use with their new comfort dog. **Motion was made to move approval. So voted.**

Com. from Police Chief requesting a conditional appointment for Ruben Cruz subjected to the listed nine conditions. **Motion was made to refer to the Committee on Police and License and the Police Chief. So voted.**

Com. from City Solicitor regarding the proposed Home Rule Petition – Operations and Maintenance of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This proposed special act will allow the City of Taunton to extend its present contract with the operator of the Wastewater Treatment Plant for one additional five-year term under the 1996 special legislation (Chapter 362 of the Acts of 1996) which authorized the City to enter into a long-term contract of up to 25-years for the operation and maintenance of the WWTP. **Motion was made to adopt the proposed special act as a home rule petition to be transmitted to**

the City's legislative delegation as possible on a roll call vote. Councilor Duarte recused himself from this matter do to his employment as an employee of the State Legislator. **On a roll call vote, nine (9) councilors were present, nine (8) councilors voted in favor. One (1) councilor was recused. Councilor Duarte did not vote.**

Com. from City Solicitor regarding the Civil Service Appeal to the Municipal Council of Disciplinary Decision in regards to a personnel issue with an employee appealing a disciplinary action taken by his supervisor at a requested hearing for Monday, February 7, 2022. Councilor Borges said she would prefer to have it on Tuesday, February 8th at a regular council meeting as she would like to be present for this and is not available on the 7th. Councilor Pottier asked if the employee was offered to have this in open or executive session and did they chose to have it in Executive Session. The City Solicitor said to his understanding that they are in agreement to do this in Executive Session. Councilor Postell asked if this decision is in writing whether the employee would rather have it in executive or public session, just so that the base is covered. The City Solicitor said he could ask his attorney to provide communication on this. Councilor Postell said he feels it provides a level of comfort in case someone ever comes back and says well we did this or we did that. He thinks having anything reduced to writing is the preferred method. The City Solicitor said the employee certainly has that right, unless he provokes the open session. He thanked the councilor for his suggestion. Councilor Coute asked about details about meeting dates and times. The City Solicitor said they discussed the 7th as apart of prior communications but if the council wants to do it a different night, he can go back to them to see. He feels it could have a potential of being a 2-hour meeting. Discussion continued on dates and times. **Motion was made to refer to the Committee of the Council as a Whole for an Executive Session Hearing on Monday, February 7, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. So voted.**

Com. from City Solicitor in regards to the former Leonard School Property/Assessors Parcels 46-235; 45-229; 46-212, requesting that the former Leonard School property be referred to the Committee on Public Property for consideration of its future status including the potential of its disposal by sale in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Procurement Act. **Motion was made to refer to the Committee on Public Property. So voted.**

Com. from First Assistant City Solicitor regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The total anticipated amount of the county funds will be up to \$10,134,653.85. The city's total confirmed ARPA funding, exclusive of the county funds, is \$20,992,932.00. Therefore, they are requesting that the council vote to authorize the Mayor to accept all available ARPA funds on behalf of the City inclusive of the aforementioned amounts, to be expended in accordance with the rules and regulations governing ARPA funds. **Motion was made to move approval. So voted. Councilor Pottier added to the motion that the overall issue of ARPA be referred to the Committee of the Council as a Whole. So voted.**

Communications from Citizens:

Com. from Greater Taunton Area Allied Veterans Council, 82 Ingell St., Unit 4, Taunton, notifying of the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 30, 2022. Formation begins at 12:30p.m. on Dartmouth, Coram, Bradford and Adams Streets. It will start at 1:15p.m. with right turns to Broadway, South to Taunton Green and East on Main Street to the

junction of Summer and Spring Streets and Church Green, turn right on Spring Street and disband in the Allan's Avenue Parking lots. If canceled, there is no rain date. **Motion was made to refer to the Council President and to receive and place on file. So voted.**

Petitions:

Fortune Teller License - RENEWAL

1. Dawn Lorraine located at 159 Silverwood Dr., Taunton. **Motion was made to refer to the Committee on Police and License and the Police Chief. So voted.**

Committee Reports:

Motion was made for Committee reports to be read by title and approved. So Voted. Recommendations adopted to reflect the votes as recorded in committee reports. So Voted.

Unfinished Business:

NONE

Orders, Ordinances and Resolutions:

NONE

New Business:

Councilor Borges motioned to meet with the Human Resources Director and the City Solicitor regarding a policy for Council appointments in Council of the Whole. Motion was made to move approval. So voted. Councilor Coute said the updates that are proposed to the City Charter would make any rule unnecessary but they may not be passed in time for future appointments. If they had the Charter to vote on, they wouldn't have this issue. Mayor O'Connell said this discussion is really for the Councilors in the Council as a Whole to decide what they want to do and present that to the City Solicitor to put into Ordinance language for you. It's very time consuming for them to sit through lengthy meeting of the Council as a Whole. She asked for councilors to keep that in mind in passing this motion. **Councilor Borges amended her motion. Councilor Borges made a motion to meet in the Committee of the Council as a Whole and if they have any questions they can refer it to the City Solicitor and to the Human Resource Director. So voted.**

Councilor Borges motioned to meet with the representatives of Bristol Plymouth regarding financial impact on the new school project on the City of Taunton in the Council of the Whole. **Motion was made to move approval on a roll call vote.** In discussion, Councilor Coute explained, he feels they just received the Financial Impact from the CFO and the Budget Director. He doesn't see how the Superintendent from Bristol-Plymouth School is going to speak dedicatedly about the financial impact of the City of Taunton. Councilor Duarte spoke as the Chair of Finance and Salaries, he explained the purpose of the presentation they had a few weeks ago, was to do this very thing and talk about the financial implications of the project on the City of Taunton. When we have the representatives from the school district and the project team come in front of the City Council, they already provided the financial information that they do have which, is a general overview of the project costs as a whole, how it's broken down in the communities and the projected tax impacts. The reason we had the presentation with the CFO and the Budget Director, was to take that baseline information and apply it

to our cities finances, given that the school district is not in charge of the minutia associated with our finances, that's what their job is. Discussion continued. Councilor Dooner agreed with Councilor Coute and Councilor Duarte. Unless, there is any new information to be provided, she doesn't believe the representatives at Bristol-Plymouth can provide any new financial impact on the city, other than what they already put out there. Councilor Borges said there has been much discussion regarding Bristol-Plymouth and getting information. She thought it would be a good idea for them to comeback in after the meeting last week, for them to talk about more of the financial impact. If this council does not want more information, Bristol-Plymouth has been presenting to every other community involved in this project, then that's up to them. **On a roll call vote, nine (9) councilors were present, three (3) councilors voted in favor (Councilor Sanders, Pottier and Borges). Six (6) councilors voted in opposition (Councilor Postell, Quintal, Coute, McCaul, Duarte and Dooner). Motion did not pass.**

Councilor Dooner motioned to make Taunton a Purple Heart City. Councilor Dooner added she feels a thank you for our Veteran's is never enough or what we do will never be enough. **Motion was made to refer this to the Committee on Military & Veterans Affairs and to the Mayor's Office to go over the process of becoming a Purple Heart Community. So voted.** Councilor Sanders appreciated Councilor Dooner bringing this matter up again. He actually referred this matter to Military and Veterans Affairs during the last term and it was not addresses. To the best of his knowledge, it continues to be an item for the Military & Veterans Affairs for their agenda already but he appreciated Councilor Dooner's support on this effort.

Councilor Borges said it was brought to her attention that Department Heads have been asked to craft their budget from the CFO with a reduction in other by 10%. **Councilor Borges made a motion to get an explanation from the CFO, on what the rationale for that was. With that, also a balance of the stabilization and whether or not they have been certified for free cash yet. So voted.**

Councilor Quintal referred the matter of the abandoned water tank (across from Lopes Corp. Office) to the Committee of Public Property. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

A true copy:

Attest:



City Clerk

RMB/KLD

CITY OF TAUNTON
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 1, 2022

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2022 FEB -2 A 10:47

THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES

TAUNTON, MA

PRESENT WERE: COUNCILOR PHILLIP DUARTE, CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILORS POTTER AND MCCAUL

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:09 P.M.

- 1. MEET TO REVIEW THE WEEKLY VOUCHERS & PAYROLLS FOR CITY DEPARTMENTS
MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL OF THE PAYROLL WARRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,356,135.85. SO VOTED.
MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL OF THE INVOICE WARRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,032,035.90. SO VOTED.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:10 P.M.

CITY OF TAUNTON
FEB 01 2022
IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen M. Ellis
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

CITY CLERK

CITY OF TAUNTON
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 1, 2022

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THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND RECREATION

TAUNTON, MA

PRESENT WERE: COUNCILOR BARRY SANDERS, CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILORS POSTELL AND DUARTE
CITY CLERK

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:16 P.M.

1. MEET TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF THE YOUTH COMMISSION

The Chairman said that there has been inquiries about the Youth Commission, so he wanted to bring the Committee up to speed on the status of the Youth Commission. On January 16, 2007 the City Council adopted by Home Rule Petition Mass. General Law Chapter 40, Section 8E which is the piece of legislation which allows communities to establish a Youth Commission. To the best of his knowledge a Youth Commission once existed in the City of Taunton and they produced a set of bylaws. The Youth Commission membership are all appointed by the Mayor. The bylaws speak to a certain cross section of the City and certain members should come from Taunton High School, certain members should come from Bristol Plymouth and certain members should come from the now closed Coyle Cassidy High School.

The Chairman opened the floor to any thoughts or questions from the Committee on how they might help to resurrect the Youth Commission. He did send the Mayor an e-mail letting her know that he is interested in this project and that he would be interested in working with her to do what is necessary to bring the Youth Commission back into a functioning status.

Councilor Postell said that he feels it is important to engage with the community and the youth in the community. There is a definite interest in this with the youth and this is a good opportunity for them to get engaged and bring ideas to the table. He supports the resurrection of the Youth Commission. He feels they should think outside the box and get, not just City government, but other departments within the City and programs and organizations involved that are within the City. He thinks of the YMCA, the Boys and Girls Club. There are a lot of tools that they can pull from so that something can be built and maybe bridge some gaps.

Councilor Duarte supports resurrecting the Youth Commission. He also said he spoke with the Mayor and he knows that the Youth Commission is something that has been brought up by a lot of different people and he thinks of the folks from the Unite Task Force, True Diversity, the Taunton Diversity Network have all been discussing either the Youth Commission specifically or the idea of youth involvement in the City in general. The Mayor did say that the Administration has been looking at this through their work on the Unite Task Force. One of the things about the Youth Commission as it is laid out in Mass. General Laws is that it can have up to 21 people which was included in the bylaws of the original Taunton Youth Commission, so it can be difficult to recruit that

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FEBRUARY 1, 2022

THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND RECREATION – CONTINUED

many people. The Mayor also said the strategy that they were trying to use was to figure out who the 4 adults would be first, and then have that group of people work to create a strategy to ensure that the Youth that are recruited to serve on the Commission are truly representative of the community because when you publicize something like this you may have the same group of people that are already involved in the government that you already see at these types of events. It is important that they make sure that it is a truly representative group of people in the community. He further said he thinks what this Committee can do is maybe make some recommendations about how to do that. He would agree with Councilor Postell about including organizations like the Y, the Boys and Girls Club and Girl's Inc. that are already involved with the youth in the community. The Chairman touched on the schools that were mentioned in the bylaws and he thinks it is important not to generalize them by school but maybe just require Taunton residency. Bristol Aggie was not listed in the bylaws so that is something that is important to include, and there are also youth that go to school outside of the City but they still live in the City and interact with City government and City services so he thinks it would be best to have a general residency requirement in the City.

Councilor Sanders said had the bylaws been a part of City ordinance, one of his thoughts was to refer this to the Ordinance Committee to tighten this up to reflect what Councilor Duarte is talking about. Looking at some language to ensure a broader representation of students in Taunton, not necessarily tied to what school they attend but perhaps including that as one of the criteria that they are looking for in terms of getting that cross section of kids who attend Bristol Aggie, kids who are home schooled. There is the opportunity of course to include nominations from other sources, all of that are excellent ideas. The Youth Commission bylaws and nomination document are on the City's website.

Councilor Borges said she feels this is a great idea and would like to see this go back to Ordinance Committee. She also would like to see a youth representative for the Council and agrees with the residency requirement even if the person goes to school out of Taunton.

Councilor Sanders said there is interest by the Committee and some Councilors to bring the Youth Commission back to life as well as interest from the community. He did note that the Youth Commission would have to look at the bylaws to change them as they are not in the City ordinances.

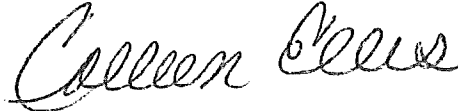
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THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND RECREATION – CONTINUED

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen M. Ellis
Clerk of Council Committees

CITY OF TAUNTON
FEB 01 2022
IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.



CITY CLERK