



*City of Taunton*  
*Municipal Council Meeting Minutes*  
*City Hall, 15 Summer Street, Taunton, MA*  
*Minutes, February 8, 2022 at 7:10 O'clock P.M.*

*Regular Meeting*

*Mayor Shaunna L. O'Connell presiding*

*Prayer was offered by the Mayor*

*Councilor Coute said today we lost a downtown business owner, Eddie Olney. He opened and ran Acadia Seafood & Bar Restaurant. He lost his two-year battle with cancer. A moment of silence was held. Mayor O'Connell said our thoughts and prayers are with his family.*

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

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

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

**Appointments:**

**Appointment and Swearing in of six (6) Permanent Full-Time Firefighters:**

- Dwight J. Gomes
- Daniel S. Miller
- Connor A. Flynn
- Zachary Grady
- Stephan J. Charbonneau
- Kyle S. Dexter

**Motion was made to approve the list as read on a roll call vote. So voted. On a roll call vote, nine (9) councilors were present, nine (9) councilors voting in favor. So voted. Motion was made to invite the parties into the enclosure. So voted. The City Clerk then swore in each Firefighter for the City of Taunton.**

**Motion was made to take a five-minute recess. So voted.**

**Reappointment of City Officers**

**Reappointment of Michael Patenaude, City Engineer for a three (3) year term expiring February 2025. Motion was made to approve on a roll call vote. So voted. On a roll call vote, nine (9) councilors were present, nine (9) councilors voting in favor. So voted. The City Clerk stated that the City Engineers appointment is a full council appointment.**

Reappointment of Kevin Scanlon, Director of Planning and Conservation for a three (3) year term expiring February 2025. The City Clerk stated that this appointment is a nomination by the Mayor and then the council appoints. She also read a letter from Mayor O'Connell nominating Kevin Scanlon for reappointment as City Planner. **Motion was made to approve the appointment on a roll call vote. So voted. On a roll call vote, nine (9) councilors were present, nine (9) councilors voting in favor. So voted.**

The City Clerk then swore in Michael Patenaude as City Engineer and Kevin Scanlon as the Director of Planning and a Conservation Agent for the City of Taunton.

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

Opportunity for input by the general public. There was nobody present to speak at public input.

**Hearings:**

NONE

**Communications from the Mayor:**

Mayor O'Connell gave a special presentation. She said as we all know, February is Black History Month. It's a time for us to celebrate and honor the many contributions and achievements of African Americans throughout our history. Things like fighting for Civil Rights, creating beautiful classic literature, works of art and making advancements in medicine and science that improves the quality of life for all of us. Contributions and advancements that have shaped our culture and our nation. It's an opportunity to learn and better understand the plight people of color have endured to achieve the freedoms and rights that were so wrongly denied from them for so many centuries. It's also an opportunity for us to reflect on ourselves and our community. To recognize that people of color continue to face barriers, equality and racism. It should be our goal not just this month, but every day to understand history, to learn from it and to work together to ensure a bright future of equality and opportunity for all people. She introduced a special guest, Tanya Lobo from T.R.U.E. Diversity. Mayor O'Connell read and presented Ms. Lobo with a resolution for the proclamation for Black History Month. Mayor O'Connell spoke saying she and Tanya have become friends over the past several years. She has enlightened her in so many areas and it has been a privilege and an honor to get to know her better. She has worked with her on some really important endeavors here in our city that help kids, bring us together and that educate our community. She said Tanya is a real blessing to the City of Taunton and they are pleased that she is here with them to share her reflections on Black History Month. Ms. Lobo spoke thanking the Mayor and the City Council for inviting T.R.U.E. Diversity to celebrate Black History Month. As the founder and president, it's an honor to speak about Black History. She gave a speech on the importance on this month and how it helps the United States to be educated on the contributions of all African Americans from all periods of U.S. History. She also spoke about the theme this year for Black History Month being Black Health & Wellness and gave further explanation of this celebration.

Mayor O'Connell said there are currently seventy-one (71) active Covid cases here in Taunton. Our numbers have really gone down and that is wonderful news. They did a test-kit distribution over the weekend on Saturday. She thanked all of the volunteers who

were out in the freezing cold weather distributing almost 3,000 tests. It was very successful. If you do need a test-kit, you can call the Covid Hotline at #774-406-5277. As a reminder, there is a special referendum on the Bristol Plymouth School Construction project which is on Saturday, March 5th from 9a.m. to 3 p.m. The last day to register to vote or change your address is this Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. You can do this at the Elections Department which is open 8a.m. to 8p.m. on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Absentee ballots are also available. For more information there is a link on the City of Taunton's website or you can call the Elections Office. They are also doing an Honor Our Military Banners, like they did last year. It was very well received. People really enjoyed being able to buy a banner with their loved ones picture on it and hang it throughout the city. The applications will also be online at the City of Taunton's website Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. If you need help with the application, you can call the Mayor's office.

**Communications from City Officers:**

Com. from the Executive Director of Retirement submitting the Calendar Year 2022 Retirement Expense Budget for informational purposes only, in the amount of \$2,436,250.00 (two-million, four-hundred and thirty-six thousand, two-hundred and fifty dollars). **Motion was made to refer to the Budget Director. So voted.**

Com. from the City Solicitor regarding the request voted at the committee's meeting of December 21, 2021 of the needs of the Airport Committee. Their understanding is that the Airport is operating with an individual acting as interim manager until a long-term manager is hired. They are aware of no reason why said circumstances present a liability issue to the Airport. **Motion was made to receive and place on file. So voted.**

Com. from Executive Director, Office of Economic and Community Development submitting a retirement buyout for Rosanna Pelletier in the amount of \$44,714.17 (forty-four thousand, seven-hundred and fourteen-dollars and seventeen cents). Her retirement date is January 31, 2022. **Motion was made to approve. So voted.** Councilor Pottier asked if someone could let them know at a later date what the Safe Harbor payout is.

Com. from Vice Chairman, Taunton Planning Board stating at the regular meeting held on January 6, 2022 the Taunton Planning Board voted to request that the Municipal Council consider creating an Ordinance requiring a developer seeking approvals for a project within the downtown area which will not have the required amount of parking to contribute towards a fund dedicated to expanding parking within the downtown area. **Motion was made to refer to the Committee on Ordinances and Enrolled Bills. So voted.**

Com. from Councilor Coute requesting a Public Hearing for Proposed Changes to the City of Taunton Zoning Ordinance. **Motion was made to refer to the City Clerk to schedule the appropriate hearing and invite Mr. Scanlon to join. So voted.**

**Communications from Citizens:**

NONE

**Petitions:**

**Temporary Fixed Vendor License - NEW**

1. Hometown's Tacos Locos to be located at 3 Cape Road, Taunton, MA

Second Hand Article License - NEW

1. The King's Court to be located at 386-388 Bay Street, Taunton, MA

**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 to approve February 7, 2022 Committee of the Council as a Whole Executive Session meeting and the February 8, 2022 Committee on Finance and Salaries and the Committee of the Council as a Whole. So voted. Committee on Police and License item #5 to approve a conditional offer for Police Officer for Ruben Cruz. So voted.**

Unfinished Business:

NONE

Orders, Ordinances and Resolutions:

NONE

New Business:

**Councilor Postell motions to refer to the Law Department for an opinion on non-union employees working outside of a valid contracts additionally, any new contracts that have not yet come before the Council. So voted.**

**Councilor Postell motions to request a meeting with the Law Department in Executive Session to receive an update on all pending litigations against the city in the Committee of the Council as a Whole. So voted.** The City Solicitor mentioned the Law Department is working on the litigation update so they will be prepared to make this presentation.

**Councilor Postell motions requesting the City Clerk to provide the council with updated list of all appointed city boards and commissions with term of expirations. So voted.**

**Councilor Coute motions to refer to the Committee to the Council as a Whole to discuss public input on the agenda. So voted.**

**Councilor Dooner motions for an update on the status of the City Charter. So voted.** Councilor Dooner explained, she put this on the agenda because she has received dozens of calls in the past month regarding an update. She knows it was sent to the Senators Office on September 9<sup>th</sup>. **Councilor Dooner made a motion for the Law Department to send a letter on behalf of the Council to Senator Pacheco, the Senate President, the House Speaker, Representative Doherty, Representative Haddad and Representative Oral requesting an update as far as where they stand. So voted.** Councilor Borges asked the City Solicitor, to her understanding that this is sitting in the Clerk's Office at the State House maybe waiting on some information from our Law Department, or is that not the case. The City Solicitor replied stating he is not aware of

that specifically but they will be in contact with the legislative delegation about the status of the petition.

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 P.M.

A true copy:

Attest: 

City Clerk

RMB/KLD

RECEIVED  
CLERK'S OFFICE

CITY OF TAUNTON  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 7, 2022

2022 FEB -9 A 8:43

THE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

TAUNTON, MA

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

PRESENT WERE: COUNCIL PRESIDENT PHILLIP DUARTE AND COUNCILORS DOONER, BORGES, MCCAUL, POTTIER, COUTE, SANDERS QUINTAL AND POSTELL. ALSO PRESENT WAS CITY SOLICITOR MATTHEW COSTA, HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR AMY KAZLAUSKAS, POLICE CHIEF EDWARD WALSH AND CAPTAIN DANIEL MCCABE

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:15 P.M.

1. MEET FOR EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINARY HEARING

THIS MEETING MAY BE HELD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: ON A ROLL CALL VOTE, COUNCILORS DOONER, BORGES, MCCAUL, POTTIER, COUTE, SANDERS, QUINTAL, POSTELL AND DUARTE VOTED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

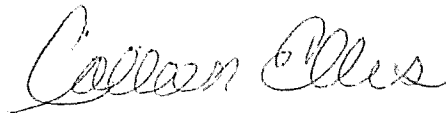
MOTION: ON A ROLL CALL VOTE, COUNCILORS POSTELL, QUINTAL, SANDERS, COUTE, POTTIER, MCCAUL, BORGES, DOONER AND DUARTE VOTED TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.

NO MOTIONS WERE MADE OR VOTES TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:43 P.M.

CITY OF TAUNTON  
FEB 08 2022  
IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen M. Ellis  
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

*RM Beachwell*  
CITY CLERK

CITY OF TAUNTON  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 8, 2022

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2022 FEB 15 A 8:52

**THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES**

TAUNTON, MA

PRESENT WERE: COUNCILOR PHILLIP DUARTE, CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILORS POTTIERK AND MCCAUL. ALSO PRESENT WERE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER PATRICK DELLO RUSSO AND CITY AUDITOR IAN FORTES

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:41 P.M.**

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

**MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL OF THE PAYROLL WARRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,717,898.21. SO VOTED.**

**MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL OF THE INVOICE WARRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,399,426.35. SO VOTED.**

**2. MEET WITH THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND CITY AUDITOR FOR PRESENTATION ON QUARTERLY FINANCIAL UPDATE ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021**

Mr. Dello Russo said that the objective of his presentation tonight is to provide the Council with information regarding new budgetary controls and procedures being implemented per the Mayor's request, review of the Capital Improvement Plan that the Mayor wants reinstated, review of changes to professional consulting service, provide the Council an update on issues that they have now resolved and the current status update from various divisions.

Since the CFO position was created they have implemented several new procedures for the budget cycle to continue improving their processes including requesting that departments add at least two accomplishments their department has achieved inside the current fiscal year, two or more goals for outlay of Fiscal 2023 budget from each department, that the Finance Department be notified of any concerns within each department's budget request and requesting any consultant costs be disclosed in budget request in an itemized fashion.

New procedures requested by the Mayor will improve the way the City does business. Capital projects are no longer going to be included in the operating budget.

Departments will be submitting capital requests with their budget submissions and these requests will be prioritized according to need determined by the department.

These changes will be the first step to a formal Capital Improvement Plan to be reinstated by the Mayor.

Also, all professional consulting services will be removed from departmental budgets and will be under the purview of the Chief Financial Officer unless otherwise specified. To ensure maximum benefit from every tax dollar appropriated, professional consulting requests will require justification as to the role of the consultant and the term of engagement.

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THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES – CONTINUED

The Mayor asked the Finance Department for a thorough review of purchase orders and old capital projects. They have identified several projects and accounts carried over from years or no longer active and are in the process of closing them out. These funds can now be used for new projects or be closed to the original funding source. With the new procedures the Mayor has asked to put in place they will close the fiscal year for the first time in recent history on July 15, 2022. Any and all prior year bills will go before Council and be subtracted from the FY 2023 budget. They have also eliminated blanket purchase orders going forward, meaning they will all be closed out at year end and specific purchase orders will be issued for specific projects. Department Managers will need to articulate the need for their appropriation requests and these budgetary controls will allow for a more consistent budget and a streamlined process.

Mr. Dello Russo said that General Government services are the administrative backbone for the entire City. General Government activities are on pace to come in under budget overall based on their forecasting and historical trends. The City is also under way on the implementation of a new municipal software system. So the total appropriation for General Government was \$7,979,511 and to date is on pace to be under budget overall. The total appropriation for public safety was \$40,429,542 with to date spending of \$18,975,014 which is approximately 49% of the budgeted allocation. Police and Fire were once again challenged with Covid-19 variants and subsequently have incurred above average overtime expenses in their personnel lines. Their overall expenditures are going to be monitored frequently by the Finance Division. The total appropriation for FY 2022 for Health and Human Services/Culture Recreation was \$6,654,929 and to date \$3,101,840.95 has been spent so they are under budget as well. These departments also received funding outside General Fund by way of grants. The Public Works FY 2022 appropriation was \$14,713,661. The current expense drivers for DPW are snow and ice and solid waste disposal costs. Currently they have expended and encumbered costs of \$10,142,974 or 69%. This is not alarming because many of the costs are encumbered expenses.

Revenues are in line with prior year trends. Currently they are waiting on an \$8,000,000 excise commitment to be sent out as well as \$3.1 Million in pilot payments. They forecast local receipts conservatively to ensure they have a surplus of revenues at year end. The collection rate is currently over 97.5%. During the budget process this year they have asked that all Department Managers compare our fee structures with five comparable communities. To date they have received \$104,778,741 and again this is in line with prior year trends.

Mr. Dello Russo said the next quarterly update will provide an update to Enterprise Funds and capital spending. The third quarter report provides more detail on the rate of spending and allows them to get an idea on how the excise tax commitment collections



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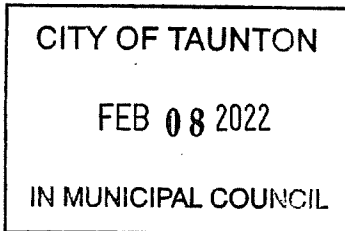
FEBRUARY 8, 2022

THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES – CONTINUED

are coming along. He said they have a solid path forward to keep costs down and are looking into new revenue streams with their new budget controls and procedures. Mr. Dello Russo also provided a document showing each department, their FY2022 budget amount with amendments, the year to date spending and encumbrances, the balance in their budget and the percent expended and a second document listing the revenue types, prior year actual, current year estimate, the action as of 12/31/2021, the funds needed to meet the estimate, the percent to be collected and the change in value, 12/31/2021 actual and the funds to meet the estimate.

**MOTION: TO MAKE THE DOCUMENTS PROVIDED PART OF THE RECORD. SO VOTED.**

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:10 P.M.



Respectfully submitted,

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

Colleen M. Ellis  
Clerk of Council Committees

**REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to the City Clerk.  
**CITY CLERK**

CITY OF TAUNTON  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
FEBRIARU 8, 2022

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2022 FEB 15 A 8:54

**THE COMMITTEE ON POLICE AND LICENSE**

TAUNTON, MA

PRESENT WERE: COUNCILOR JEFFREY POSTELL, CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILORS BORGES AND SANDERS. ALSO PRESENT WERE POLICE CHIEF EDWARD WALSH, DETECTIVE WILLIAM RUTHERFORD AND CITY PLANNER KEVIN SCANLON

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:15 P.M.

**1. MEET WITH THE POLICE CHIEF AND DETECTIVE RUTHERFORD ON THE FOLLOWING PETITIONS FOR RENEWAL OF CLASS II LICENSES:**

**A. A T.N.T. AUTO SALES, LLC, 391 WINTHROP STREET**

**MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL. SO VOTED.**

**B. CORRAO MOTORS, 251 BROADWAY**

**MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL. SO VOTED.**

**C. LEO'S AUTO SALES & SERVICE, 350 1/2 WINTHROP STREET**

**MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL. SO VOTED.**

**D. NORTHEAST AUTO EXCHANGE, INC., 406 TREMONT STREET**

**MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL. SO VOTED.**

**E. RPM'S LLC, 404 WINTHROP STREET**

**MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL. SO VOTED.**

**F. TUCAN AUTO SALES, 295 BROADWAY**

**MOTION: TO DENY THE LICENSE APPLICATION. SO VOTED.**

**2. MEET WITH THE POLICE CHIEF AND DETECTIVE RUTHERFORD ON PETITION FOR RENEWAL OF BILLIARD TABLE LICENSE FOR FRANK'S GOOD TIMES, INC., 381 WINTHROP STREET – 1 TABLE**

**MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL. SO VOTED.**

**3. MEET WITH THE POLICE CHIEF AND DETECTIVE RUTHERFORD ON PETITION FOR RENEWAL OF JUNK COLLECTOR'S LICENSE FOR WILLIAM BUTLER, 195 FIELD STREET**

**MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL. SO VOTED.**

**4. MEET WITH THE POLICE CHIEF AND DETECTIVE RUTHERFORD TO DISCUSS TRANSIENT VENDOR LICENSES**

Councilor Borges said this issue came before the committee a few years ago because of an issue with someone selling Christmas Trees on Route 44. The committee had looked at the Transient Vendor License and felt that it needed to be buttoned up and come up with an application that clearly identified all the steps that needed to be taken, so people knew exactly what they needed to do in order to get this Transient Vendor License.

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**THE COMMITTEE ON POLICE AND LICENSE – CONTINUED**

Mr. Scanlon said one of the problems with the current process is that there is no real application. There is just a petition that is filled out by the petitioners in the City Clerk's office. So what happens is that you have applicants that don't have something to look at that give them a clear picture of what they need to do and they end up getting a information that differs from applicant to applicant. One of the ideas was to come up with a uniform application that would spell out exactly what is needed to be provided, as well as a checklist of the documentation and steps that they need to take to have everything in place. Mr. Scanlon further said they started looking at the ordinance and started making some tweaks to it to accommodate that, for instance putting what the requirements are in the ordinance so that it can be enforced. That is kind of where they stopped, but the idea at that point, which was with the former City Solicitor's Office, was to maybe take a more holistic look at the three ordinances, Fixed Vendors, Temporary Fixed Vendors and Hawkers and Peddlers and modernize those three statutes over all, taking a harder look at it from a legal standpoint and maybe potentially combining them to make it easier. He thinks the idea tonight would be to refer it to the Law Department to look at how it could be streamlined and modernized, then for the Council to start looking at the potential application and what they may have an appetite to include and not include in a final ordinance when it comes back. It would have to come back to ordinance because the ordinance does not specify some of the items that are being requested to be provided.

The current Law Office has not reviewed this as to how this can be modernized or streamlined, so the first step would be to refer it to the Law Office.

**MOTION: TO REFER THE TRANSIENT VENDOR LICENSE APPLICATION AND ORDINANCE TO THE LAW DEPARTMENT FOR REVIEW. SO VOTED.**

**5. MEET TO DISCUSS CONDITIONAL OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT**

The Chairman noted that this was on the Council agenda last week from the Chief's office requesting a conditional offer for a candidate for a Police Officer by the name of Ruben Cruz. That should have been taken care of at that time, but unfortunately it was referred to the Committee.

The following motion was then made:

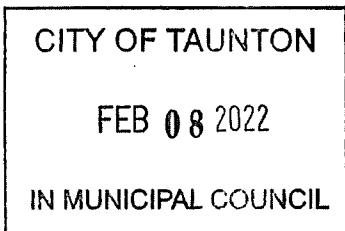
**MOTION: TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COUNCIL TO OFFER A CONDITIONAL OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT TO RUBEN CRUZ. SO VOTED.**

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FEBRUARY 8, 2022

THE COMMITTEE ON POLICE AND LICENSE – CONTINUED

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:24 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, appearing to read "Krn Beacwell".

**CITY CLERK**

CITY OF TAUNTON  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 8, 2022

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2022 FEB 15 A 8: 54

**THE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE**

TAUNTON, MA

PRESENT WERE: COUNCIL PRESIDENT PHILLIP DUARTE AND COUNCILORS DOONER, CLERK BORGES, MCCAUL, POTTIER, COUTE, SANDERS, QUINTAL AND POSTELL. ALSO PRESENT WERE CITY SOLICITOR MATTHEW COSTA AND BUILDING COMMISSIONER ROBERT PIROZZI

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:36 P.M.**

**1. MEET WITH BUILDING COMMISSIONER ROBERT PIROZZI TO DISCUSS STATUS OF MARIJUANA PROJECTS**

**MOTION: TO MAKE THE DOCUMENT TITLED CURRENT BUILDING PERMIT STATUS OF RECREATIONAL/NON-MEDICAL MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS PART OF THE RECORD. SO VOTED.**

Mr. Pirozzi began with Commonwealth Alternative Care at 30 Mozzone Boulevard. They have two occupancies. The first one was issued in 2018. That was the original construction and the occupancy included the factory use, the cultivation business use and mercantile. The sales floor was open at that point. The second permit was issued in 2019 and occupancy on that one issued in December of 2020. That was for the addition of more cultivation, and he thinks they considered that Section B of 30 Mozzone Boulevard. There was also approval for Section C but they did have some issues with the pre-fabricated building that was being installed and that came to a halt. He thinks they are re-evaluating what they want to do with the rest of that property at this point.

MassMedicum at 300 Revolutionary Way, they started with a foundation only permit that goes back to December of 2015. That was inspected in February of 2016. Permit to construct the actual building was not issued until this past September. His understanding is, and he just had a conversation with the contactor on Monday, the building is now weathertight and the interior sub-contractors are beginning their work. No rough inspections have been made on that property but they are moving along. At 144 West Britannia Street, Freshly Baked was issued a Building Permit back in June of 2020. They closed out that permit and got their Occupancy Certificate in November of 2020. That is just for an F1 use for the food processing. Bracts & Pistils, LLC at the same address, he does not have a submission for that approval yet.

9 Cape Road, Tree Market Taunton, LLC, all they have issued there is a Demolition Permit back in October. No inspections there, not typically done for interior demos, usually they will be back with a Building Permit for the tenant fit up which would start with their rough inspections but they have not yet seen the Tenant Fit Up Permit application.

30 Sherwood Drive, Tower Three, LLC, their Building Permit was issued back in July of

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FEBRUARY 8, 2022

THE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE – CONTINUED

2020. They wrapped that permit up and got their Occupancy Certificate this past November. This one is just a cultivation facility, F-1 Factory use.

83 County Street, that building started with a Shell Only Permit back in July of 2020. Since then the Tenant Fit Up Permit was issued in February of 2021 but they have not made any inspections out there, have not been called for any rough inspections. His understanding is that the work has ceased, so most likely at this point the permit has expired. If it has gone for more than 180 days without any construction going on, the permit would expire. Mr. Pirozzi's best guess would be that it has expired.

0 Hart Street, San Holdings, LLC, Mr. Pirozzi does not have any application for that property.

354 Winthrop Street, HTC Trinity, LLC, Foundation Only Permit was issued July of 2021. That foundation has been completed. As the Council is aware the building had begun without any permit and has since gone back for approval for the size of the building expansion that they had made. Right now they are waiting on a revised plan for the building. Just today he did receive a revised application and a code review for the construction, but he has not yet received a set of plans. As soon as they do get the set of plans they will be distributing them to the departments that need to sign off.

491 West Water Street which is also HTC Trinity, LLC. No submissions yet, no application has been made.

284R Winthrop Street which is Herbal Logic, no application has been made to the department.

404 Winthrop Street, Blazin' D's Delivery, LLC, no applications have been made.

And 445 Myles Standish Boulevard, Greater Goods, LLC, no application has been made.

Mr. Pirozzi said it has come to his attention that they did miss one, 295 Broadway should have been on the list. They tried to apply for a permit via Express Permit via Assella but the application was denied because the system was not set up for this, it was set up for just simple permits such as roofing and windows, so they were asked for a paper application and a set of plans. He believes that they had sent a pdf in but did not follow up with any permit application, paper application, so nothing has been distributed yet for that property. This was back in April of 2021.

Councilor Coute said he asked that this come before the Council because he feels that a lot of marijuana applicants in the City of Taunton are sitting on their licenses and not taking any action. He is happy to hear that MassMedicum has a shell up and is going to start interior work, so that sounds like the project is heading in the right direction. He also said that Bracts & Pistils has a permit for delivery only. Attorney Costa said their Host Community Agreement was initially in August of 2020, the first Amendment was in September of 2021, Special Permit approved October of 2020 and their local license was approved May 4 of 2021. Councilor Coute said this is close to a year with no activity so

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FEBRUARY 8, 2022

THE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE – CONTINUED

that concerns him. He also said Tree Market LLC was in last week or the week before and they were granted a 6 month extension to get going because they are one of the groups that has sat on their license. He said it was great to hear that Tower Three LLC has an Occupancy Permit, and they probably have already started operations and revenue will start coming into the City. Regarding LMCC, Councilor Coute asked Mr. Pirozzi if he thought their permit had been dormant for 180 days, to which Mr. Pirozzi said he does, and that the conversation he had with the contractor was that the work had begun about a year ago and he thinks it ceased shortly thereafter, to which Councilor Coute said that sounds like sitting on a license to him. He also said that he would not have any appetite to extend HCA's for anyone who has not done anything in months.

Councilor Pottier said he is less concerned with the non-recreational licenses only because it is not a limited number. His concern is with the 7 recreational licenses. They are seeing movement on these with the exception of 295 Broadway who have at least made some effort and 284 Winthrop which was only granted in August.

Councilor Postell asked when the Building Department reviews the progress on these permits, what is the system that is in place.

Mr. Pirozzi said that they rely on the contractors to contact the Building Department. Councilor Postell asked why they cannot stay on top of these due to the licenses being issued. He does not want these just put on a shelf with no follow up. He feels that there needs to be a review from the Building Department on these projects, he wants an expiration date.

It was said that the Council's review process is when they renew the Host Community Agreements. There is also an annual license renewal so the permits issued by the Council can be reviewed.

Councilor Duarte said there are a lot of variables in getting these businesses up and running so it is difficult to have a timeframe. The Council does have oversight on these projects.

The following motion was made:

**MOTION: THAT THE LAW DEPARTMENT SEND A LETTER WHEN THE HCA'S AND LICENSES COME UP FOR RENEWAL THAT THE PARTIES BE READY TO DISCUSS THEIR PROGRESS, THEY ARE TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COUNCIL TO SHOW SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS.**

Councilor Quintal asked if a stipulation could be made that on the 180<sup>th</sup> day they must provide an update to the Building Inspector.

Attorney Costa said that could have been done in the Special Permit, but he can look at an amendment to the ordinance.

Councilor Postell said maybe the best approach would be that when they come in for

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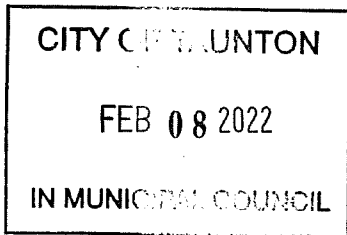
THE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE – CONTINUED

their renewals that they have the Building Inspector here as well.

THE MOTION WAS VOTED ON AND SO VOTED.

MOTION: TO REFER TO THE COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCES AND ENROLLED BILLS AND THAT THE COUNCIL REVISIT THE 180 DAYS OF THE PERMIT AND HAVE A DISCUSSION TO PERHAPS AMEND THE CURRENT ORDINANCE. SO VOTED.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:24 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, likely belonging to the City Clerk.  
CITY CLERK