

City of Taunton  
Municipal Council  
February 14, 2023

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**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.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM.

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

*MOTION: Approve the payroll warrant in the amount of \$1,472,773.90. So voted.*

*MOTION: Approve the accounts payable warrant in the amount of \$4,509,882.89. So voted.*

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 PM.

CITY OF TAUNTON  
FEB 14 2023  
IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie E. Clarke  
Clerk of Council Committees

**REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.**

  
CITY CLERK

City of Taunton  
Municipal Council  
February 14, 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, McCauley, Pottier, Sanders, and Postell. Councilors Coutte and Quintal were absent.

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM.

**1. Meet to discuss a potential proposal requiring all HCAs and Licenses for cannabis to provide their business plan to the Committee of the Council of the Whole and Police and License prior to a meeting moving forward.**

Councilor Dooner stated that she had spoken to the Law Department and learned that this is already in the Ordinance and the applicant’s business plan, experience, and expertise must be provided. She suggested that the Council just ask for the information.

Councilor Borges, who had brought this forward, indicated that she has never had the opportunity to look at the business plan of applicants. She further stated that when applicants come forward for renewal, the Council is looking at how the building is coming along without looking at their business plans and documents such as financial projections. Ms. Borges suggested that if the Law Department already has these documents the Council can request that they be forwarded prior to the meeting. She indicated that the Mayor had made a commitment that part of the cannabis monies would be allocated towards the new public safety building and, as such, people should be held accountable. To that end, the Council should look at the entire plan including financial projections and community commitment. She expressed her frustration in applicants returning for extension after extension. She made the following motion:

**MOTION:** Have business plans in front of the Council prior to any meeting for the HCA or license.

Councilor Duarte stated that this was added to the Ordinance and that business plans, in addition to other documents, are required when filing for the municipal license so should be on file.

Councilor Pottier expressed his support for the concept and suggested that the Council has not always chosen the best, rather, first in the door has received the license. He suggested that he is supportive of the idea especially if the intent is to deny some applicants in the hope that there may be better companies out there.

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Councilor Borges suggested that the alternative would be to increase the number of licenses since the City is counting on the revenue.

Councilor Dooner stated that while she remembers discussion on this, she is not sure that the funds were promised to the Public Safety building.

Councilor Borges indicated that she believes a certain percentage of the 3% was going toward the public safety building.

Councilor McCaul expressed his frustration with applicants coming back for extension after extension. He also believes that the Council needs to know their business plans because there are other people who would like to have this kind of business and agrees with and supports this motion.

Councilor Postell also expressed his support for the motion but wondered if there are other people ready to come forward. He stated that he has had the Building Inspector attend the Police and License Committee meetings to give a report and suggested that Mr. Pirrozi has the independent background and experience to bring information to the table from the field. He suggested that more information is better than less to make informed decisions.

Councilor Sanders indicated that he has no objection to this concept and councilors should have available information to inform their votes. He suggested that there is an issue of fairness and if cannabis businesses are going to be required to provide a business plan then, perhaps, other businesses should as well. He believes that the Council should be well informed. Mr. Sanders stated that 50% of the cannabis revenue goes to the fund for the public safety building.

Councilor Duarte stated his understanding that 50% of the 3% retail excise tax goes into the stabilization account for the public safety building but that is separate from the HCA payments. He requested that the motion be amended to be directed to the City Clerk and Clerk of Committees to provide those documents in advance of a meeting.

Councilor Borges stated that since licenses are not available, people are not coming to Taunton. She agreed with Councilor Duarte and amended the motion:

**AMENDED MOTION:** Request that the City Clerk and Clerk of Committees provide the City Council with the business plan and any other documentation one week before the meeting.

Councilor Sanders questioned the Clerk of Committees on the required timing to provide the documents based on the publishing of the agenda. Councilor Borges suggested beginning to assemble the documents now based on the list that will be scheduled in the upcoming months.

**So voted.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,



Maggie E. Clarke  
Clerk of Council Committees

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