

*City of Taunton
Municipal Council Meeting Minutes
City Hall, 15 Summer Street, Taunton, MA
Minutes, February 15, 2022 at 7:01 O'clock P.M.*

Regular Meeting

Mayor Shaunna L. O'Connell presiding

Prayer was offered by the Mayor

Councilor Borges said Taunton lost another icon. Someone who knew everyone and remembered their name. Mike George, a well-known developer, owner of Colonial Donut and who silently gave too many in need. A moment of silence was offered. Mayor O'Connell said thoughts and prayers are with his family.

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

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

Opportunity for input by the general public.

Jamie Kelly, 208 Scadding Street, made comments on the Aries Gasification project. She explained her concerns regarding about the PFAS chemicals and how it affects people. She would like to know if our waters are tested for these such chemicals.

Rosemary Moreau, soon to live at 1062 Bay Street, formally of 3 Middle Street, spoke in opposition of the proposed Aries Gasification plant to come to Taunton. She has serious health concerns such as PFAS in the water supply. Her explanation continued.

Maggie Shibley, Linden Street, she explained how she was in opposition for the Tennessee based company, Aries Technologies, proposing the Gasification project here in Taunton. She gave details of her concerns with the PFAS chemicals for the environment and in the body.

Nancy Clark, 9 Clarendon Street, read from a document regarding potential PFAS destruction technology: pyrolysis and gasification, written by EFA and gave a copy to the City Clerk.

Janet Cook, 22 Crane Avenue North, spoke as a consumer. She explained that if we went forward with this project, even if we are unhappy, we are stuck with it. She said herself and many others, think this is a big mistake for the city.

Hearings:

NONE

Communications from the Mayor:

Mayor O'Connell said there are currently thirty (30) active Covid cases in Taunton. If you need a Covid test-kit you can call our City of Taunton Covid hotline at #774-406-5277. They are having a telephone Town Hall to provide the community with information regarding the Bristol Plymouth School Construction Project. There will be a district wide referendum on Saturday, March 5th from 9a.m. to 3p.m. Absentee ballots are available. The telephone Town Hall is Thursday, February 24th from 6p.m. to 7p.m. They will have the following panelist: Elections Director, Chief Financial Officer, Budget Director, Assistant City Solicitor, Bristol Plymouth Superintendent and the construction project team members. You can submit questions ahead of time. They are going to have information on the City's website and Facebook page on how to participate. If you have a landline that is publicly available, you will most likely receive a call that evening right before 6p.m. All you will have to do is stay on the line. If you would like to add your landline or your cell phone number to the call list, you can contact the Mayor's office either by email or telephone and give them your number. You also can call in yourself to participate, and that number is available on the City's website and Facebook page. Additionally, there will be an audio streaming link that will be provided to participate online. We are in the middle of Black History month, and at the end of the month they are going to have a Black History celebration right here at City Hall. That will take place on Friday, February 25th from 6p.m. to 8p.m. in the City Hall Chambers. This will be to closeout Black History Month and honor black history and culture. They will have music, dance, art exhibits and games. All are welcomed. All this information will be on the Facebook page. They have begun their campaign to honor our military banners. Applications are available online on the City of Taunton's website and on the Facebook page. If you don't have access to a computer and need help you can call the Mayor's office. The deadline to apply for a banner is April 7th. As a reminder, city offices will be closed on Monday, February 21st for Presidents Day. In regards to the Aries project, there is a lot of information available right on the City of Taunton's website. They want the community to be informed. They are moving cautiously as they go through this project to ensure that it will be a safe project for our city. Councilor Pottier asked if the Black History month celebration is going to be televised and asked for this matter to be referred to the Mayor's office. Councilor Sanders asked the Mayor if the appointment of Tim Hebert for the TMLP Commission is going to be a public announcement.

Appointments:

NONE

Communications from City Officers:

Com. from the Chairman of the Taunton Planning Board notifying of a Public Hearing for a Special Permit for cluster/inclusionary housing under the Zoning Ordinance section 440-1402 to allow 14-units to be located on Willis Pond Road on Lot 2 and part of lot 4 submitted by Aspen Properties Group LLC. The hearing is set to be on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 5:30p.m. at City Hall. **Motion was made to receive and place on file. So voted.**

Com. from the Chairman of the Taunton Planning Board notifying of a Public Hearing for a Special Permit for a Cluster Development under section 440-1401 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow 14 residential lots to be located on the south side of Hodges Street submitted by Hawthorne Development Co. The hearing is set to be Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 5:30p.m. at City Hall. **Motion was made to receive and place on file. So voted.**

Com. from the Chairman of the Taunton Planning Board notifying of a Public Hearing for a Special Permit from section 440 attachment #1 of the Zoning Ordinance for a two-family use in Highway District on Winthrop Heights Drive, Lot B submitted by Dora Estates LLC. The hearing is set to be Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 5:30p.m. at City Hall. **Motion was made to receive and place on file. So voted.**

Com. from the Chairman of the Taunton Planning Board notifying of a public meeting for a site plan review modification for the property at 163 Oak Street to allow a concrete pad with two sheds, an overhang for outdoor storage and an addition 18,700 square feet of outdoor gravel storage area submitted by 163 Oak Street LLC. The meeting is set for Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 9a.m., in the Taunton Planning Board Office. Then again, on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at City Hall. **Motion was made to receive and place on file. So voted.**

Com. from the Safety Officer of the Taunton Police Department reporting on the speed study that was done for the area of 110 Highland Street. At this time he could not find any evidence that there is an issue with speeding in this area. **Motion was made to receive and place on file. So voted. Councilor Sanders added to the motion for the full report be forwarded to the Council. So voted. (The Assistant City Clerk stated that the report was emailed to the Councilors on Friday.)**

Com. from the City Solicitor regarding “review matters in file” as an agenda topic. The letter explained that under the Open Meeting Law public bodies must be sufficiently specific to reasonably inform the public of the matters to be discussed at the meeting. Based on the standard “review matters in file” is not sufficiently specific to serve as a public notice of discussion of any matter in particular. Therefore, it cannot be used as a placeholder to bring up for discussion any topic that happens to be on file with the committee. The only purpose that “review matters in file” can serve, by itself, is to provide notice that the committee literally review what is in the file for the purpose of scheduling future meetings. If the matters in file are not identified on the agenda, there can be no substantive discussion of such matters other than to refer them for discussion at a future meeting. If the matters in file are actually listed out on the agenda then the committee would have the right to discuss any or all of them at its meeting in compliance with the Open Meeting Law. Councilor Pottier feels what Attorney Costa stated, does make sense. He wrote explaining if there was a controversial topic that gets referred to a committee, the committee doesn’t post it, so the public at large doesn’t think it’s going to be discussed, and then they do bring it up and vote on it anyway, that certainly is a challenge. He said perhaps what would be better, to be considered, that Attorney Costa could consider an unfinished business item instead for those times were a department head might have a matter that was referred prior but would give an update on an earlier matter to the benefit of the public, with no further discussion involved, just so they can keep things moving. **Councilor Pottier made a motion to refer to the City Solicitors**

Office to have them consider an unfinished business item as an agenda topic. So voted. Councilor Duarte was in opposition.

Com. from the Special Assistant City Solicitor regarding an Order of Taking for 0 Winthrop Street (Assessors' Parcel 77-123) for the total price of four-thousand, five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00). This was approved by the Municipal Council on October 12, 2021 in the Committee of the Council as a Whole. They are ready to move forward with the recording of the Order of Taking and asked for the municipal Council to take a roll call vote confirming the approval of the Order of Taking. Councilor Pottier asked if his new colleagues were comfortable with the vote. Nobody spoke. **Motion was made to approve the Order of Taking on a roll call vote. So voted. On a roll call vote, seven (7) councilors were present, seven (7) councilors voted in favor. So voted.** Councilors Postell and Coute were absent.

Com. from the City Solicitor in regards to receiving a Civil Service hearing request from Police Chief for a potential termination of an employee. **Motion was made to refer the scheduling of a hearing potentially in Executive Session to the Committee of the Council as a Whole. So voted.**

Com. from the City Solicitor and the Special Assistant City Solicitor regarding Aries Taunton, LLC. They provided a copy of the previously approved Host Community Benefits and Pilot Agreement and Option Agreement with Aries, Taunton, LLC. **Councilor Borges made a motion that they received some new communications on this project and would like to refer the entire letter and packet to the Mayor's Office, the Law Department and the Committee on Solid Waste for future discussion. So voted.**

Communications from Citizens:

NONE

Petitions:

Application for a Marijuana Cultivation Establishment

Application submitted by Tower Three LLC, 341 Savin Hill Avenue, Boston, MA for a Marijuana Cultivation Establishment to be located at 30 Sherwood Drive, Taunton. **Motion was made to refer to the Law Department and the Committee on Police and License. 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:

Resolution submitted by Bristol County Savings Bank, 29 Broadway, Taunton, MA 02780 designating public depository and authorizing withdrawal of Municipal Public Moneys for the City of Taunton Christine M. Clymens, Treasurer/Collector, Julie A.

Venerus, Asst. Treasurer/Collector and Donna J. Andrews, Fiscal Agent/Asst. Treasurer. **Motion was made to approve. So voted.** Councilor Pottier asked if the City Solicitors Office is fine with them voting on this, this evening. The Special Asst. City Solicitor said yes. Patrick brought this to their attention. This is one of many banks that they deal with and this is an internal request from Bristol County. The account in question handles payroll. Mayor O'Connell stated they just brought it to their attention, it's their policy not ours.

New Business:

Councilor McCaul explained after receiving many concerns about potholes in the city, he announced that the DPW on Wednesday, February 16th, will be setting up the cold patches and doing paving as well. They will be doing the main streets first and then start hitting the side streets.

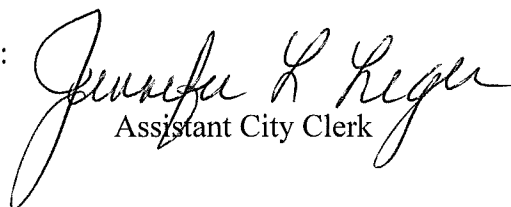
Councilor Borges announced that the Bristol Plymouth Regional Tech Building Project will host a Taunton Community Information Center in the Council Chambers at City Hall on February 28th from 6-7:30 p.m. There will be lots of opportunity for questions and answers. There will be a list for people to sign up, who will be able to speak. The panelist will include the Building Committee, the Superintendent and the Architects that are involved in this project. She would like to encourage anyone that has any questions and wants to meet them in person, come to City Hall February 28th. This will be televised.

Councilor Sanders made a motion to request a response from the Water Superintendent about whether or not the City's water is routinely tested for PFAS. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

A true copy:

Attest:


Assistant City Clerk

JLL/KLD

CITY OF TAUNTON
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 15, 2022

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2022 FEB 16 P 1:12

THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES

TAUNTON, MA

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:38 P.M.

- 1. MEET TO REVIEW THE WEEKLY VOUCHERS & PAYROLLS FOR CITY DEPARTMENTS
- MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL OF THE PAYROLL WARRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,465,921.82. SO VOTED.
- MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL OF THE INVOICE WARRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,003,012.27. SO VOTED.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:40 P.M.

CITY OF TAUNTON
FEB 15 2022
IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Ellis
Colleen M. Ellis
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

Jennifer R Leger
ASST. CITY CLERK

CITY OF TAUNTON
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 15, 2022

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THE COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCES AND ENROLLED BILLS

TAUNTON, MA

PRESENT WERE: COUNCILOR BARRY SANDERS, CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILORS DOONER, CLERK AND MCCAUL. ALSO PRESENT WAS ASSISTANT CITY SOLICITOR TOM GAY

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:47 P.M.

1. MEET TO DISCUSS ORDINANCE FOR NO PARKING ON BOTH SIDES OF SHORES AVENUE

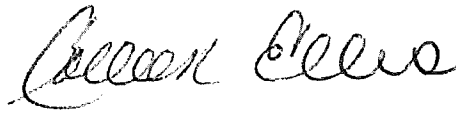
Attorney Gay said this is a very narrow street off of Shores Street. All the homes on Shores Avenue have driveways and ample parking, however there are vehicles parking on the side of the street. The residents are concerned with the ability of a fire truck or ambulance being able to get down the street in case of an emergency with vehicles parked on the side of the street. The Safety Officer provided his recommendation which was that a no parking ordinance for both sides of Shores Avenue be adopted by the City Council.

MOTION: REFER THIS MATTER TO THE LAW OFFICE TO ADD SHORES AVENUE TO THE NO PARKING ORDINANCE. SO VOTED.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:53 P.M.

CITY OF TAUNTON
FEB 15 2022
IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen M. Ellis
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

ASST. CITY CLERK 

CITY OF TAUNTON
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 15, 2022

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2022 FEB 16 P 1:12

THE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

TAUNTON, MA

PRESENT WERE: COUNCIL PRESIDENT PHILLIP DUARTE AND COUNCILORS DOGNER, BORGES, MCCAUL, POTTIER, SANDERS AND QUINTAL
CITY CLERK

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:11 P.M.

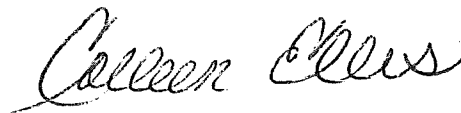
1. MEET TO DISCUSS POLICY FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

The Council President requested that this matter be tabled this evening and scheduled at a later date.

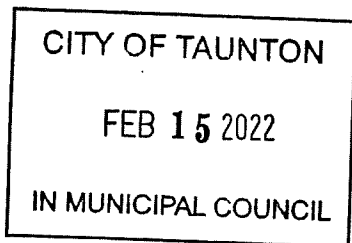
MOTION: TO TABLE THIS MATTER. SO VOTED.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen M. Ellis
Clerk of Council Committees



REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

ASST. CITY CLERK
Jennifer R. Regan