



City of Taunton
Municipal Council Meeting Minutes
City Hall, 15 Summer Street, Taunton, MA
Minutes, May 17, 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, Coute,
 Pottier, McCaul, Borges, Duarte and Dooner*

Record of preceding meeting was read by title and approved. 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 said there are currently sixty (60) active reported Covid cases here in the City of Taunton. The Regional Vaccine Clinic at Northwoods is open through June 30th. All vaccines and boosters are available. You can find more information on the City of Taunton website. Last week they held a community listening session on the ongoing study of our 911 Emergency Dispatch Services. They feel they need to do more outreach. In an effort to create more awareness and community engagement, they will be taking further steps. They will be sending out a mailer to all residents to educate them about what's happening on this ongoing study. They will be holding two community focus groups with their consultant MRI and residents. They are also accepting email input as well. The email address is publicinfo2022@taunton-ma.gov. You can always contact the Mayor's office if you have any questions. As a reminder, City Offices will be closed on Monday, May 30th in observance of Memorial Day. She gave some brief information on the new outdoor seating area downtown. This was an area funded by a grant that they received. Specifically, for creating outdoor spaces. This concept was recommended in two different major downtown plans. One being the Downtown Plan and the other being the Master Plan. OECD (Office of Economic & Community Development), Police, Fire, the Safety Officer, Engineering, Planning, the Downtown Taunton Foundation and the Business Improvement District were all involved in this process. With the slight uptick of Covid, this outdoor space really gives people more options and access for outdoor activities and dining. Also to just enjoy it in the summer months. It's a temporary project that they are finally able to offer downtown and they will be evaluating it over the summer months.

Mayor O'Connell gave a special presentation for National Police Week. She asked Chief Ed Walsh and Councilor Postell to join her at the podium. She said Councilor Postell is a

Lieutenant with the Boston College Police Department. We appreciate our Taunton Police Officers each and every single day. National Police Week is an opportunity to give special recognition to the members of our Police Department. They do an unimaginably hard job every single day. They see things, deal with things and hear things that most of us probably really couldn't imagine. They often do this with little recognition. They don't ask for recognition either. They love their jobs, they want to protect our City and they want to do their jobs. We appreciate them every single day. We want them to know how much we realize their dedication to our community, our residents and to the safety of our City. Chief Walsh has been a member of the Taunton Police Department for 30-years+ and 12-years as Chief. Chief Walsh is a well-respected leader of our Police Department which has one-hundred and twenty-five (125) members. During National Police Week we also honor our fallen heroes. This past Saturday at the thirty-fourth candlelight vigil in Washington D.C., the names of six-hundred and nineteen officers were read to memorialize the officers who died in the line of duty just last year. Some of our Taunton Police department members were there. Sadly, that list included our own patrolman John Borges who passed away in 2021. In Taunton, we also remember Sgt. Edward Neves and Patrolman Clarence Bolton, who were both killed in the line of duty. Chief Walsh offered a few words in regards to his fallen brothers. Councilor Postell read the proclamation for National Police Week, May 15th - 22nd, 2022 and presented this to Chief Walsh.

Appointments:

Reappointment of Jeffrey Riccitelli to serve as the Director of Veteran's Services for term of three (3) years which will expire in April 2025. **Motion was made to move approval. So voted.**

Appointment of Councilors Christopher Coute, Kelly Dooner and Estele Borges to the COTMA Grievance Committee for appointments to be served coterminous with the Mayor. **Motion was made to move approval. So voted.**

Appointment of Manuel Spencer, Jr., 80 Avalon Drive, Taunton to serve on the Taunton Redevelopment Authority fulfilling the unexpired term of Heidi Taylor which expires February 2023. **Motion was made to move approval. So voted.**

Reappointment of Samuel Delgado, 895 Norton Ave., Taunton to the Golf Course Commission for a term of three (3) years expiring April 2025. **Motion was made to move approval. So voted.**

Communications from City Officers:

Com. from our State Representative Carol Doherty notifying of adoptions. The first earmarks provides \$50,000.00 for roof repairs to three of Taunton's historic fire stations, continuing the renovation work begun with last year's appropriation of \$25,000.00 for the Weir Fire Station. Also approved is a second earmark which will provide \$50,000 to help develop a plan for the mitigation of invasive weed species plaguing Lake Sabbatia. **Motion was made to refer to the Building Department, Environmental Affairs Office and the Council also thanked the Legislative Delegation for the funds. So voted.**

Com. from the Safety Officer submitting a response to look into the area of Washington Street in the area of Frederick Martin Parkway. The issue in this location is that vehicles

traveling in the right lane north toward the City, continued throughout the intersection at Frederick Martin Parkway, and turned right onto Court Street. He discovered that the signage on Washington Street may be confusing to motorists and the arrows on the roadway were placed just before Frederick Martin Parkway. The roadway markings and signage, don't give motorists enough notice that it's a turning lane. After working with the City Engineer and the DPW, they decided to add several more roadway arrows and the word *turn* to the right lane on Washington Street to indicate to motorists that the right lane is a turning lane. The DPW also placing more signs on Washington Street to indicate that the right lane is for a *right turn only*. **Motion was made to receive and place on file. So voted.**

Com. from the Safety Officer submitting a response to check into the area of the former Reed & Barton properties to ensure work was completed. The Planning Board and the former Safety Officer, Chris Williams, requested that *no parking* signs and double yellow striping, be placed in the area that construction had occurred. He checked the area that had been outlined and it appears that the work has been completed. **Motion was made to receive and place on file. So voted.**

Com. from the Safety Officer submitting a response in regards to the crashes at the intersection of Highland Street and Florence Street. He researched the intersection at Highland Street and Florence Street from 2018 to present. He found four crashes in 2018 (two with injury), three crash in 2019 (two with injury), one crash in 2020 (with injury), one crash in 2021 (with injury), and two crashes in 2022 (both with injury). He also observed the slight line on both sides of Highland Street and Florence Street and found no obstructions in place. Although we have had several crashes in that area over the past years, the amount of crashes is not excessive. At this time, he doesn't believe that this intersection warrants a four way stop. **Councilor Postell made a motion to refer this issue back to the Committee on Police and License for further discussion on the amount of property damage that was caused from these accidents. So voted.**

Com. from the Chairman of the Taunton Planning Board notifying of a public meeting for a site plan review for 150 John Hancock Road for the addition of a 245.6' x 60' (14,736 sq. ft.) outdoor storage for the warehouse/distribution use and proposed incidental office within an existing building in the Industrial district submitted by Pool Corp., owned by Atlantic Oliver, II 150 John Hancock Road LLC. The meeting is set to be on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 8:45a.m. at the Taunton Planning Board Office located at 1298 Cohannet Street to be reviewed by the DIRB and then again on Thursday, June 2, 2022 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 for 59-63 Broadway to add auto sales for three (3) vehicles to the existing auto repair center, submitted by Christine Pereira. The meeting is set to be on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 8:30a.m. at the Taunton Planning Board Office located at 1298 Cohannet Street to be reviewed by the DIRB and then again on Thursday, June 2, 2022 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 for 50 John Hancock Road for the addition of four (4) saw tooth loading docks and a loading ramp for the warehouse/storage and light

industrial/manufacturing use within and existing building submitted by VMD Industrial III, LLC. The meeting is set to be on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 8:45a.m. at the Taunton Planning Board Office located at 1298 Cohannet Street to be reviewed by the DIRB and then again on Thursday, June 2, 2022 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 for Dever Drive – Property I.D. 19-59 to allow the 105,000 sq. ft. building (70,000 sq. ft. for light industrial & 35,000 sq. ft. for office space) on a 9.95 acre lot submitted by Rhino Light Industrial Facility, owned by Taunton Dev. Corp. The meeting is set to be on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 9:15a.m. at the Taunton Planning Board Office located at 1298 Cohannet Street to be reviewed by the DIRB and then again on Thursday, June 2, 2022 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 for Dever Drive – Property I.D. 19-59 to allow the 180,000 sq. ft. building (120,000 sq. ft. for light industrial & 60,000 sq. ft. for office space) on a 9.95 acre lot submitted by Rhino Light Industrial Facility, owned by Taunton Dev. Corp. The meeting is set to be on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 9:30a.m. at the Taunton Planning Board Office located at 1298 Cohannet Street to be reviewed by the DIRB and then again on Thursday, June 2, 2022 at City Hall. **Motion was made to receive and place on file. So voted.**

Com. from the Superintendent-Director/District Secretary, Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School District submitting a re-statement of Bristol-Plymouth Regional Vocational Technical School District. This amendment agreement was approved by the Bristol-Plymouth Regional School Committee on May 4, 2022 which includes the addition of the Town of Freetown as a new member of the district. This amendment has also been presented to the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education for its initial review and comment. Pursuant to Section VII and VIII of the Agreement, they respectfully submitted this Re-Statement to the City of Taunton City Council for their approval at the next scheduled meeting. Following the approval of each member of the School District, the Re-Statement of the Bristol-Plymouth Regional Vocational Technical School Agreement will be approved by the Commissioner of Education. Atty. Costa said the Law Department is suggesting that this be referred to the Committee of the Council as a Whole and the Law Department so they have the opportunity to review it and advise the City Council about the changes that are reflected in the document that is being submitted. **Motion was made to refer to the Committee of the Council as a Whole and the Law Department. So voted.**

Com. from the Chairman of the Taunton Planning Board notifying of a public hearing for a Definitive Cluster Subdivision, Gracey Estates the creation of fourteen (14) residential lots to be located on the south side of Hodges Street, property I.D. Map 24, Lot 46, Taunton, submitted by Hawthorne Development Inc. The public hearing is set to be on Thursday, June 2, 2022 at 5:30p.m. at the City Hall. **Motion was made to receive and place on file. So voted.**

Com. from the Acting Director of the Taunton Public Library recommending the appointment of Patricia Morris of 12 Shepard Street, to the Library Board of Trustees. This appointment would fill one current open appointment which will expire in January 2023. **Motion was made to approve. So voted.** On discussion, Councilor Pottier asked if he should assume this is a City Council appointment and not a Mayor appointment. Mayor O'Connell said this is correct. Councilor Sanders asked who is being replaced. The City Clerk said this is an empty seat. Mayor O'Connell stated it's not that someone isn't getting reappointed, its people who resigned or no longer on the Board. Councilor Sanders asked if next week they can get a list of who is on the Library's Board of Trustees. The City Clerk said she will send this list to the Councilors tomorrow. Councilor Duarte said this was from last week's packet and there was two appointees and only one space. He believes this is just a re-statement of what was on last week's agenda. The City Clerk stated they appointed one last week and this is the second appointment which was an open seat.

Com. from the City Engineer in regards to street acceptances. A formal acceptance request was forwarded to the City Council for following listed street (an attachment was provided). The Engineering Department in conjunction with the Planning and Conservation Department and the Law Department created a list from the inventory of private and/or unaccepted City streets. Of the 66 streets listed, 65 have layout plans already recorded at the Northern Bristol County Registry of Deeds (the other streets has a certified plan created hat is available to be recorded). Research indicated that these streets were intended for acceptance but the process was never completed. Additionally, all of the streets are being maintained by the City and the abutters are benefiting from City services. A positive recommendation has been sent out by the Planning Board. **Motion was made to refer to the Committee of the Council as a Whole for discussion before a public hearing is scheduled. So voted.**

Com. from the Superintendent of Schools regarding safety concerns. A separate packet was provided. He wants to make to City Council aware of the recommendation brought to the attention of the Taunton School Committee by Safety Officer, Arsenio Chaves. Officer Chaves, with supporting data, found that drivers are traveling at excessively high speeds along the portion of Williams Street, where several schools are located. He found that 73% of the vehicles were traveling at speeds greater than 30mph. He recorded 37,647 vehicles from March 4, 2022 to March 11, 2022. During the School Committee meeting held on May 4, 2022, the Taunton School Committee unanimously supported the recommendations made by Office Chaves to extend the school zone. They also made a motion to refer Officer Chaves recommendations to the City Council. **Motion was made to refer to the Committee of Ordinances and Enrolled Bills. So voted.**

Com. from the DPW Commissioner responding to the residential request regarding resurfacing Crapo Street. He explained that Crapo Street is included in the DPW's infrastructure plan as the condition of the roadway merits reconstruction. As part of the DPW's infrastructure plan, the underground utilities had to be assessed first. Eversource has relayed there is a high-pressure cast-iron gas main on Crapo Street that requires replacement before road construction can be done. He gave further details. **Motion was made to receive and place on file and confirm the petitioners of this request be notified of this response by the Deputy Chief of Staff. So voted.**

Communications from Citizens:

Com. from Attorney Joseph DeMello, 71 Main St., Taunton regarding downtown parking concerns. He asked for the City Council to not sell out their limited downtown parking spaces. Councilor Coute explained that this was approved by the City Council last year and the developer agreed to pay full price for parking. There was no discount at all, so they are just paying normal parking rates. They were going to be dedicated the 2nd floor of the parking garage which is 99% of the time, vacant. That is what the Council approved last year. **Motion was made to receive and place on file. So voted.**

Com. from Eileen Kelleher, Program Manager, Downtown Taunton Foundation regarding an update for the Downtown Art Jam. The Downtown Art Jam, in its second year, will be held at various locations throughout the downtown on Saturday, May 21, 2022 from 1-6p.m. The purpose of this event is to support and promote local arts and cultures and to stimulate the local economy. They will have live mural installment work, live music, free art activities projects (for all ages), scavenger hunt, art exhibits, demonstrations, a beer tent, vendor booths, merchandise & giveaways and free caricature artist. Admission to this event is free and open to the public. All activities are free except vendor sales, food and beverage. **Motion was made to receive and place on file and put on the Cities webpage and Facebook page. So voted.**

Petitions:**Antique Dealer & Second Hand Article License - RENEWAL**

1. The Estate Marketplace located at 318 Bay St., Taunton

Motion was made to refer to Committee on Police and License and the Police Chief. So voted.

Second Hand Article License - RENEWAL

1. Bowers Basement located at 239 Broadway, Taunton

Motion was made to refer to Committee on Police and License and the Police Chief. So voted.

Billiard Table License - RENEWAL

1. Italian Social Club of Taunton, Inc. located at 2 Columbus Boulevard, Taunton (1 Table)

Motion was made to refer to Committee on Police and License and the Police Chief. So voted.

2. Italian Naturalization Club of Taunton, Inc. –dba- Italian Naturalization Club located at 46 Wales St., Taunton (2 Tables)

Motion was made to refer to Committee on Police and License and the Police Chief. So voted.

Livery License – RENEWAL

1. Pegasus Airport Service, Inc. located at 48 Worcester St., Taunton (1 Van)

Motion was made to refer to Committee on Police and License and the Police Chief. So voted.

Temporary Fixed Vendor License - RENEWAL

1. Streamliner located at 447 Broadway, Taunton selling food and beverages

Motion was made to refer to Committee on Police and License and the Police Chief. So voted.

Claim

Claim submitted by Greg Siembab, 9 Maxwell St., Taunton seeking reimbursement for damages to his automobile from hitting pothole near 236 Field St., Taunton. *(Already referred to the Law Department and the DPW)*

Kennel License

Petition submitted by Matthew and Denise Schmitz, 1125 Somerset Ave., Taunton for a new Personal Grade 2 (7-12 Dogs) Kennel License to be located at 1125 Somerset Ave., Taunton. **Motion was made to refer to the City Clerk to schedule a public hearing. So voted.**

Committee Reports:

Motion was made for Committee reports to be read by title and approved. So Voted. On discussion, Councilor Borges said during the meeting in the Committee of the Whole earlier in the evening, they discussed advertising for two positions (City Clerk and Clerk of Committees). They also talked about their partners, the Taunton Diversity Network. She wanted to also add they are partners with T.R.U.E. Diversity. **Councilor Borges made a motion to add the communication to Tanya to advertise those positions with her as well. So voted. Recommendations adopted to reflect the votes as recorded in committee reports. So Voted.**

Unfinished Business:

Councilor Sanders requested for a date certain within 30 days (pursuant to A501-27(b)) for hearings on items referred to various committees by Councilor Sanders including:

- 5/18/21 referral to Council of the Whole and DPW Committee for a presentation on unaccepted roads
- 8/24/21 referral to Military and Veterans Affairs for the recognition of Purple Heart Day at the request of State Representative Carol Doherty
- 1/10/22 referral to DPW Committee to discuss the status of private cisterns in lieu of public fire hydrants
- 1/10/22 referral to Public Property a review of permitting process for use of public property for 1st amendment protected activity.
- 1/25/22 referral to Council of the Whole and law department to establish a procedure for releasing executive session minutes.
- Request for an update from the Mayor on the Youth and Recreation Committee 1/31/22 request for an update on plans to re-establish a Youth Commission.

Motion was made to move approval the list of items as read. So voted. On discussion, Councilor McCaul said item #3 (1/10/22 referral to DPW Committee to discuss the status of private cisterns in lieu of public fire hydrants), he spoke to Assistant Commissioner of Public Works, Tony Abreau regarding this situation and he mentioned that it is in discussion on the Planning Board due to having any kind of cisterns should not be allowed with new subdivisions and to have the cisterns in the lieu of public hydrants. The Planning Board is looking further into this. Councilor Sanders said his interests in this, is an existing cistern that is declining repair and is the sole source of water for fire suppression in a particular neighborhood. He would be grateful if the Chair of the

Department of Public Works Committee would schedule a hearing of the Committee to explore how this community can be assured that they will have adequate fire suppression. The difficulty in this, is that nobody seems to be responsible for it. This is the same situation that exists for unaccepted roads. His explanation continued.

Orders, Ordinances and Resolutions:

NONE

New Business:

Councilor Coute requested to refer to the Council as a Whole to meet with representatives from the Taunton Police Department regarding continued problems filling police details. On discussion, Councilor Borges said she feels it would be more appropriate in Police and License. Councilor Postell said if there is any interest in having the DPW in the budget, then he would have them added to the motion. **Councilor Coute made a motion to refer to the Committee of the Council as a Whole a discussion with the Taunton Police Department, DPW and the CFO regarding continued problems filling police details. So voted.**

Councilor Coute requested to refer to the Council as a Whole to meet with representatives from the Taunton Police Department for detailed plan regarding implementation of civilian traffic control officer. So voted. On discussion, Councilor Borges said she feels it would be more appropriate in Police and License. Councilor Postell asked that this does not be circumvented.

Councilor Pottier said there has been a lot of chatter about the implementation of an aspect of the Master Plan from the previous administration on some parking and seating changes in the downtown. **Councilor Pottier made a motion was made to refer to the Committee of the Council as a Whole for Economic & Community Developer, Executive Director, Bill Roth to come in and discuss the goal, his ideas and what will be going on. So voted.**

Information only, Councilor Pottier said we certainly recognize our Veterans and those who have passed in the line of duty. Taunton as we usually do, will be marking the graves at the Mayflower Cemetery on May 21st. They are looking for volunteers. This will be posted on the City's website and Facebook page.

Councilor Pottier made a motion to refer the issue of speeding at Hodges and 140 to the Safety Officer to look into. So voted.

Councilor Borges made a motion to refer the third party review of the Aries by Tetra Tech to the Committee of Solid Waste. So voted.

Councilor Borges made a motion to refer to the Committee on Police and License the discussion of the Police tow process. So voted.

Councilor Coute made a motion to refer the intersection of Cedar and Fruit to the Safety Officer for a possible four-way stop sign. So voted.

Information only, Councilor Duarte said the budget hearing will take place for the FY23 budget on Monday, May 23rd at 6:00p.m.

Information only, Councilor McCaul said as the Chair of the Committee of Military & Veterans Affairs, he would like to bring to everyone's attention that on the week of May 23rd – 30th, its Memorial week and the Taunton VFW and American Legion will be coordinating a Poppy Drive. They will be raising relief funds for the Veterans. Such as gift certificates for their groceries and financial assistance for their needs. If you encounter one of the Poppy Drive's, please take a minute to talk to a Veteran and leave a donation. The annual drive begin back in 1922. The Poppies are handmade by the Veterans.

Councilor Borges made a motion to have the CFO send out a letter and/or email to all of the department heads in regards to the budget hearing on Monday. So voted. If they choose to be here to answer or have questions regarding their budget, that's fine, this not being a mandatory request.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

A true copy:

Attest:



City Clerk

RMB/KLD

CITY OF TAUNTON
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
MAY 17, 2022

CITY CLERK

TAUNTON, MA

2022 MAY 20 A 9:38

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES

PRESENT WERE: COUNCILOR PHILLIP DUARTE, CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILORS PORTER AND MCCAUL. ALSO PRESENT WERE BUDGET DIRECTOR GILL ENOS AND PARKS, CEMETERIES AND PUBLIC GROUNDS DIRECTOR ANDREW MARSHALL

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:33 P.M.

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

MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL OF THE PAYROLL WARRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,685,982.22. SO VOTED.

MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL OF THE INVOICE WARRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,019,734.78. SO VOTED.

- 2. MEET TO REVIEW REQUESTS FOR FUNDING/TRANSFERS

A. PARKS, CEMETERIES & PUBLIC GROUNDS - \$55,053.49.

MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL OF REQUEST OF PARKS, CEMETERIES AND PUBLIC GROUNDS DEPARTMENT TO TRANSFER \$55,053.49 FROM ACCOUNT NO. 24-3300-6416 – CEMETERY LOT SALES TO ACCOUNT NO. 34-3590-3590-630-04 FOR COMPLETION OF THE MAYFLOWER HILL CEMETERY EXPANSION. SO VOTED.

MEETING ADJURNED AT 5:51 P.M.

CITY OF TAUNTON
MAY 17 2022
IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen M. Ellis
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

Rm Beckwith
CITY CLERK

CITY OF TAUNTON
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
MAY 17, 2022

CITY CLERK

TAUNTON, MA

2022 MAY 20 A 9:38

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THE COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCES AND ENROLLED BILLS

PRESENT WERE: COUNCILOR BARRY SANDERS, CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILORS DOONER AND MCCAUL

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:54 P.M.

1. MEET TO DISCUSS ELIMINATING OR REDUCING FEES FOR DOG LICENSES FOR SENIORS AND SPAYED/NEUTERED ANIMALS

The Chairman said that section 191-1 of the ordinances, Licensing of dogs, has multiple sections but the relevant ones are Section G which states that the fee for every license shall, except as otherwise provided be \$10 for a neutered male or spayed female dog and \$12 for a non-spayed female or non-neutered male dog. Proof of the procedure must be provided. Section H says that all individuals over the age of 55 that present a photo identification as proof of age shall be given a discount of \$2 on the cost of licensing each dog under their ownership. There had been some discussion about either further reducing or eliminating fees for seniors. Councilor Sanders said that in his opinion if they can provide some additional relief to seniors it would be good and it is also a community benefit to have dogs spayed or neutered as it reduces the number of unwanted or unexpected dogs that could become strays. As an incentive to spaying or neutering it could make sense to reduce or eliminate these fees.

Councilor Dooner said she did some research of surrounding towns and found that Taunton is already significantly lower on both the dogs that are spayed or neutered and those that are still intact. She also noted that it is Mass. General Law that there is no fee to be charged for a person over 70 and she is pretty sure that is what the Clerk follows. Councilor McCaul said that the dog license fees coming in amount to about \$65,000. He also said that Taunton has the best rates in the area and they are already giving a discount. He sees no need to lower these fees. He then made the following motion:

MOTION: TO KEEP THE FEES AS IS, MAKE NO CHANGES AND REMOVE THIS MATTER FROM THE FILE.

Councilor Dooner seconded the motion.

THE MOTION WAS VOTED ON WITH COUNCILORS DOONER AND MCCAUL VOTING IN FAVOR, COUNCILOR SANDERS VOTING IN OPPOSITION. MOTION CARRIES WITH A 2 TO 1 VOTE.

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MAY 17, 2022

THE COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCES AND ENROLLED BILLS – CONTINUED

MEETING ADJURNED AT 6:03 P.M.

CITY OF TAUNTON
MAY 17 2022
IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen M. Ellis
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.



CITY CLERK

CITY OF TAUNTON
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
MAY 17, 2022

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2022 MAY 20 A 9:28
TAUNTON, MA
CITY CLERK

THE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

PRESENT WERE: COUNCIL PRESIDENT PHILLIP DUARTE AND COUNCILORS DOONER, BORGES, MCCAUL, POTTIER, COUTE, SANDERS, QUINTAE AND POBELL. ALSO PRESENT WERE BUILDING COMMISSIONER ROBERT PIROZZI AND HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR AMY KAZLAUSKAS

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

1. MEET WITH THE BUILDING COMMISSIONER TO DISCUSS PERMIT FEES

A letter dated February 17, 2022 to the Mayor and Council from Robert Pirozzi, Building Commissioner was read regarding the permit fees. (See Attached).

MOTION: LETTER TO BE PART OF THE RECORD. SO VOTED.

The Council President said that there has also been previous discussion about taking the fee schedule out of Ordinance so that it can be updated more easily by the Building Department in the future. That is also a topic of discussion as well as the actual changes to the fees.

Mr. Pirozzi said the last time he was here they discussed the fact that he had two means of assessing a Building Permit fee, cost of job or square foot area. One of the things he did with the latest changes in the fee schedule was to separate those two. He felt that what was probably going to work best would be to go with the square foot area method for new construction and all other permits they would stick with the cost of job. The square foot area method was originally designed to pick up people that were under valuing work, to have a flat fee so that the fees would not be less than. They found it more applicable in some of the larger projects, even now the big warehouse buildings that are coming in the cost of construction is hard to justify the fees when they figure it by the cost of job. The proposal is to change it to a square foot area method which seems to work better with the larger projects. He thinks that with residential construction as well it would be a more fair way to assess the fees for the work going on.

Councilor Pottier said that his understanding is that the fees that they charge are not supposed to be profit for the City, it is just supposed to cover fees. He asked Mr. Pirozzi if he is convinced that these are really just to cover the fees and the work that is involved. Mr. Pirozzi said that he is. Councilor Pottier asked if these fees are in line with what other communities are charging. Mr. Pirozzi said they have done a comparison and he feels they are in line with other cities and towns, but what he finds is that the methods that cities and towns use to assess the fees is variable and difficult sometimes to compare, but with that said they did do some figuring on a standard commercial building, a new residential structure and he feels that they are in the area where other cities and towns are coming in.

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MAY 17, 2022

THE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE – CONTINUED

Councilor Pottier said regarding pulling this out of Ordinance, the only benefits of leaving it in ordinance is that it would allow the building and development community a little time to look at the fee changes and come back with some input. He appreciates the position of getting it done quickly and easily, however he weighs that with the ability of the development community to actually weigh in.

Councilor Borges said she agrees with Councilor Pottier and maybe rolling that out in 6 months out of Ordinance might be a better thing to do as people are used to going to Ordinance. It would be giving them time to know that they would no longer be in Ordinance.

Councilor Coute said the fees are reasonable in Taunton and the slight increase seems fine to him. In his opinion Taunton is not a City that has excessive fees. He also said that he is fine with either leaving it in ordinances or taking it out.

Councilor Borges then made the following motion:

MOTION: TO REFER THE DISCUSSION OF THE FEE SCHEDULE TO ORDINANCE AND ENROLLED BILLS COMMITTEE FOR SIX MONTHS FROM NOW

The motion was seconded and on discussion Councilor Pottier asked what the intent was for putting this off for six months.

Councilor Borges said just so that the developers who are used to seeing the schedule for permit fees in Ordinances, would know it would no longer be in Ordinance.

It was clarified that Councilor Borges is fine with the fees, so Councilor Pottier asked to take a split vote, one on the fees and second what they do with Ordinance.

COUNCILOR BORGES WITHDREW HER MOTION AND THE SECOND WAS WITHDRAWN ALSO.

Councilor Pottier then made the following motion:

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE FEE SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED BY MR. PIROZZI.

Councilor Duarte said for clarification this will go through the normal Ordinance process at this point.

THE MOTION WAS VOTED ON AND SO VOTED.

Councilor Borges said this will eventually come back to Ordinance to get removed, so she will leave this as is. No further motions were made.

2. MEET WITH THE HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR TO DISCUSS THE APPROPRIATE MEDIA TO ADVERTISE THE CITY CLERK AND CLERK OF COMMITTEES POSITIONS.

The H.R. Director said that her understanding is that they will be discussing the media in which the two positions will be advertised. On April 29th she sent out a communication advising that she was going to advertise it in the MMA, Facebook and the City website, and also on the internal boards which they do with every posting. In addition to that she is going to send an email to the Taunton Diversity Network so that they make sure it

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MAY 17, 2022

THE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE – CONTINUED

gets out to the local diversity businesses. That would probably be the only addition to the advertisements unless the Council has another suggestion which she would be happy to entertain.

Councilor Pottier asked if the Administration or her office gave any consideration to InDeed or things like that which are job sites that people use or is it cost prohibitive. Ms. Kazlauskas said it is not always cost prohibitive but what happens is that you will get 200 applicants, and people that are looking for Municipal work are usually looking at the MMA, and where they are looking for some Municipal experience or the education, she feels they should wait to see what they get from the MMA. That is where people are going to look for Municipal jobs.

Councilor Sanders said he is pleased that they are sending a notice to Taunton Diversity Network as part of their efforts to increase diversity and representation in the workforce, but if they are going to be deliberate about their efforts to look for diverse and representative candidates, he asked, in Ms. Kazlauskas opinion, if that was the best way to go about it. Is there not some other website or something that specifically reaches out to populations that do not necessarily check a City website or the MMA. Are there other avenues to use.

Ms. Kazlauskas said she has recommended a lot of things to make the candidate pool more diverse. She is very passionate about diversity in the workplace so if there is any specific website or area that the Council would like her to look into she is happy to do so.

The H.R. Director also said that she posts more of the managerial type positions in MMA and usually does not advertise clerical positions there. She has not posted the City Clerk or Clerk of Committees positions because she felt it was better to wait for this discussion to be had before posting the positions. These positions will now be posted tomorrow.

Councilor Borges said that it might be worth putting them in InDeed and some professional journals.

Councilor Postell said that now that there is a process or policy in place, as they move forward he would want to abide by that policy.

Councilor Borges read an email dated May 17, 2022 from the City Solicitor regarding the votes taken on May 10th regarding this issue. (See Attached)

MOTION: LETTER TO BE PART OF THE RECORD. SO VOTED.

MOTION: MOVE FORWARD WITH THE JOB POSTINGS FOR CITY CLERK AND CLERK OF COMMITTEES. SO VOTED.

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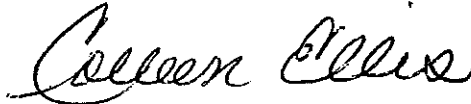
MAY 17, 2022

THE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE – CONTINUED

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:40 P.M.

CITY OF TAUNTON
MAY 17 2022
IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen M. Ellis
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.


CITY CLERK



CITY OF TAUNTON

In Municipal Council 20.....

ORDER #19
FY 2022
MAY 17, 2022

Ordered, That THE SUM OF FIFTY FIVE THOUSAND FIFTY THREE
DOLLARS AND FORTY NINE CENTS (\$55,053.49) BE AND HEREBY IS TRANSFERRED
FROM PARKS, CEMETERIES AND PUBLIC GROUNDS DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT NO.
24-3300-6416 – CEMETERY LOT SALES

TO: PARKS, CEMETERIES AND PUBLIC GROUNDS ACCOUNT NO. 34-3590-3590-630-04

..... *Clerk.*