

City of Taunton
Municipal Council
November 1, 2022
REVISED

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. Also present was CFO Patrick Dello Russo.

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM.

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

MOTION: Approve the payroll warrant in the amount of \$4,279,982.70. **So voted.**

MOTION: Approve the accounts payable warrant in the amount of \$6,544,875.28. **So voted.**

2. Meet to review requests for funding/transfers.

a. Request from the Superintendent of Buildings to pay a prior year reimbursement in the amount of \$129.00 to James Kennedy for professional development.

MOTION: Approve the request and transfer \$129.00 from Department of Public Buildings (Miscellaneous) account number 01-493-5200-5599 to account number 01-493-5520-5999 (Prior Year Bill). **So voted.**

b. Request from the Director of Human Resources to pay prior year bills in the amount of \$406.94 to Stericycle (Shred-It).

MOTION: Approve the request and transfer \$406.94 from Human Resources (Office Supplies) account number 01-549-5200-5420 to account number 01-549-5520-5999 (Prior Year Bill). **So voted.**

c. Request from the Chief Financial Officer for a transfer of \$282,000 from bond premiums received to a road and sidewalk repair and replacement capital account.

Mr. Dello Russo indicated this would be put back into streets and sidewalks.

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2022 NOV 1 9 A 8:50
TAUNTON, MA
CITY CLERK

Page Two


November 1, 2022

The Committee on Finance and Salaries – Continued

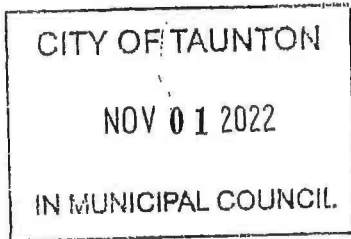
MOTION: Approve the request and transfer \$282,000 from FB-Bond Premiums (account number 24-3300-6426) to UFB-Roads & Sidewalks (account number 34-3590-3590-421-01).
So Voted.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees



REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.



Jennifer R. Regan
CITY CLERK

City of Taunton
Municipal Council
November 1, 2022

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2022 NOV -3 PM 1:52
TAUNTON, MA 02780
CITY CLERK

The Committee on Police and License

The meeting was held at Taunton City Hall, 15 Summer Street, Taunton, MA in the Chester R. Martin Municipal Council Chambers.

Present were Councilor Jeffrey Postell, Chairman, and Councilors Sanders and Borges. Also present was Detective William Rutherford.

The Meeting was called to order at 5:44 P.M.

1. Meet with Detective Rutherford on a petition for renewal of a Billiard Table License for Taunton Sports Club, Inc. at 33 Baker Road.

Detective Rutherford indicated that the applicant meets the criteria and their incorporation is up to date.

MOTION: Approve. So Voted.

2. Meet with Detective Rutherford on a petition for renewal of a Billiard Table License for Taunton Eagles Soccer Club, Inc. at 29 Oak Street.

Detective Rutherford indicated that the applicant meets the criteria and their incorporation is up to date.

MOTION: Approve. So Voted.

Councilor Postell recalled that some time ago there had been discussions about not requiring Billiard License renewals to come before the committee. Detective Rutherford indicated he had spoken to the Chief and they would like these not to come before the Council.

MOTION: Refer this to the Law Department for their input and review. So Voted.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 P.M.

CITY OF TAUNTON
NOV 01 2022
IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie E. Clarke
Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

Jeanette K. Regan

City of Taunton
Municipal Council
November 1, 2022

The Committee on Ordinances and Enrolled Bills

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 Barry Sanders, Chairman, and Councilors Dooner and McCaul. Also present was Attorney Thomas Gay.

The Meeting was called to order at 5:49 P.M.

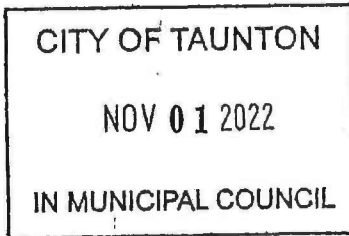
1. **Meet to discuss a proposed amendment to City Ordinances to create a student computer revolving fund for use of the School Department.**

Attorney Gay explained that this was put together last year but had not been acted upon. However, the School Department wants to move forward with this.

Councilor Sanders indicated that he would be comfortable moving this forward for a first reading and Councilors Dooner and McCaul agreed.

MOTION: Approve and add to next week's agenda for a first reading. **So voted.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 P.M.



Respectfully submitted,

Maggie E. Clarke

Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees

REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

Jennifer L. Rega
CITY CLERK

RECEIVED
 BY CLERK'S OFFICE
 2022 NOV 03 P 11:52
 TAUNTON, MA
 CITY CLERK

City of Taunton
Municipal Council
November 1, 2022

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 Councilor Phillip Duarte, Chairman and Councilors Dooner, Borges, McCaul, Pottier, Coute, Sanders, Quintal, and Postell. Also present was Patrick Dello Russo, CEO, energy consultant Matthew Parent, Attorney Thomas Gay, and Human Resources Director Amy Kazlauskas.

The meeting was called to order at 5:55 PM.

1. Meet for a presentation on a proposed solar array to be located at the former landfill.

Mr. Dello Russo and solar consultant Matthew Parent gave a presentation which outlined potential solar opportunities within the City, particularly the location of the former landfill, 330 East Brittainia Street. Mr. Parent explained that the landfill is seen as the best opportunity to generate revenue while also becoming more green. Mr. Parent suggested the best option is a PPA lease where a solar developer builds the site, maintains the site for 20-25 years, and generates revenue for the City. The proposal would see 5 megawatts (approximately 10,000 panels) on the south side of the landfill. They are currently developing an RFP that will be reviewed by TMLP and go out to solar developers. He explained how the developer would sell energy back to Taunton at a reduced rate, there would be lease payments for 20-25 years in addition to renewable energy certificates which could be sold as well. Potential revenue is estimated at \$300,000 - \$600,000 per year.

The presentation also identified other locations that might be looked at in the future: Scadding Street, Winthrop Street, and Tremont Street.

Councilor Pottier asked about the air rights over the dump and Mr. Dello Russo indicated that they are confident. Mr. Pottier further questioned if this is a 25 year deal and that a 3% increase is assumed and Mr. Parent indicated that they left this open in the RFP. Councilor Pottier indicated it would be helpful to know how much electricity would be generated in terms of number of households. He asked about the electricity that would be sold back to the City and Mr. Parent indicated that the energy produced will stay in Taunton.

Councilor Borges asked how involved TMLP was and Mr. Dello Russo indicated that no vote of the TMLP commissioners would be required as this is a land lease deal but he emphasized that TMLP has been great a great partner. Councilor Borges questioned if this would in any way impact the proposed gasification for the site and Mr. Dello Russo indicated that these are two separate projects and has no impact.

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2022 NOV 3 PM 5:55
TAUNTON, MA
CITY CLERK

Page Two

November 1, 2022

The Committee of the Council as a Whole -- Continued

Councilor Coute questioned if there would be a benefit for the City to build this itself since a 20-25 year lease is long term. Mr. Dello Russo indicated that this is a proven concept and that the City stands to gain at least \$600,000 a year with this project so the rewards outweigh the risks. Mr. Parent added that all assurances are on the solar developer so there is no risk. Councilor Coute, looking at the other proposed sites after the landfill, asked if there is any analysis on the benefits of removing trees to install solar.

Mr. Dello Russo explained that the plan is to expand this since it is non-tax, non-fee driven revenue.

Councilor McCaul asked how much savings would be realized by the rate payers since energy costs keep going higher and higher. Mr. Dello Russo suggested that this might be better answered once the bids have been returned. Councilor McCaul asked what challenges have been seen in other communities and Mr. Parent indicated that in other towns sometimes the utilities like Eversource or National Grid needs a study and that can be time consuming but, here, TMLP has been quick to respond. Councilor McCaul asked when this might be completed and Mr. Parent indicated that he hoped by the end of 2023. Further, he said that it would be recommended to be fenced and video monitored.

Councilor Postell asked about the life expectancy of the panels and Mr. Parent indicated that there is a 30-40 year life expectancy and that even after 25 years there still would be approximately 92% production.

Councilor Sanders indicated that he likes the idea of bringing renewable energy to the power grid and that the landfill seems to be a great spot since there aren't many options for that site. However, he suggested that he will have more concerns with the other mentioned sites where clear cutting of trees would be required. Mr. Sanders asked what the resident concerns might be and Mr. Parent suggested that, since this is earmarked for a landfill, neighbors will prefer to see solar panels. Mr. Sanders encouraged further outreach to TMLP as the major stakeholders for this project. Even if a vote is not required, their support is important. Mr. Dello Russo said that the TMLP general manager has indicated that it can handle the projected load. Councilor Sanders questioned why using a private developer is preferable to TMLP or the City building a solar array. Mr. Dello Russo explained that the municipalities cannot issue debt to generate money and that there will be significant capital required to complete this project. Mr. Sanders asked what criteria would be used to score the RFP and Mr. Parent indicated that experience, capital, the system itself, and the plan to maintain it would all be considered.

Councilor Duarte questioned the value of the tax credits through the Inflation Reduction Act. Mr. Parent indicated that it will be \$10-15 Million to produce and \$6 Million in tax revenue which is a one-time thing. Mr. Duarte further indicated that he has been involved in discussions

Page Three

November 1, 2022

The Committee of the Council as a Whole -- Continued

on Fraga Farm in attempts to preserve it and that they are trying to develop a mixed use proposal for that property.

Councilor Borges indicated that she would like to see this brought before the TMLP Commission since they are an elected board and come back with a letter of support from them.

Councilor Duarte pointed out that with new legislation, TMLP will need to be net zero by 2050. He also suggested that schools, municipal buildings, roofs, and parking lots be considered for the future.

2. Meet to discuss the standard operating procedure for Municipal Council professional appointments.

Councilor Duarte explained that the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that was used for the hiring of the Clerk of Committees and the City Clerk saw some issues so he is proposing some changes to be discussed this evening. Mr. Duarte then read the draft policy into the record.

MOTION: Make this draft policy part of the record. **So voted.**

Councilor Pottier suggested that the biggest change to the policy would be to the makeup of the screening committee. He indicated his belief that for Council appointments, the Council should actually make the appointments with the administration serving in an advisory role. This change helps to take politics out of the process by making the screening committee members the first three committee members.

Councilor Borges stressed the importance that the Council take control of their appointments. She believes the procedure to be well written and agrees that it helps to take politics out of the process. She stressed her belief that the interviews should be held in public.

Councilor Sanders stated that he believes this corrects some of the problems they experienced with the hiring of the City Clerk. This puts the responsibility in the hands of the Council and fixes some of the problems.

Councilor McCaul suggested that the HR Director and the City Solicitor should review the draft procedure and made the following motion:

MOTION: Human Resources Director and City Solicitor to review the proposed Standard Operating Procedure and report any changes and how they feel about the draft.

Page Four

November 1, 2022

The Committee of the Council as a Whole – Continued

Councilor Postell indicated that he had no problem having HR and Law review. But, he sees this as a good modification. He would advocate, however, for holding all interviews in the public.

Councilor Coute relayed that during the charter meetings, DOR said that it is a bad idea for a part-time board to make appointments. He indicated his belief that hiring should be done in partnership with the Mayor's office and disagrees with item 11a where internal candidates are automatically brought forward.

Councilor Duarte expressed his support for the charter provision that would move hiring to the Mayor's purview. However, currently, the Council is responsible for certain appointments.

Councilor Pottier expressed his support for bringing forth internal candidates as, he believes, this is good for morale. He indicated his belief that the City should offer career options and career paths. He supports giving this to the Law Department and HR to review.

Councilor Sanders indicated that he believes that the SOP is fine as it is but would not object to having Law and HR to review as long as there is a quick turnaround. He agreed that Council appointments should be done by the Council as the current charter requires. He further suggested that promoting from within could contribute to a more diverse workforce.

Councilor Dooner pointed out that this wouldn't be a conversation if the Charter had moved forward. She expressed her agreement with having the subcommittees make up the screening committees. She does not agree with automatically moving internal candidates to finalists. Ms. Dooner expressed her belief that the Mayor or designee should have a say since the appointee reports to the Mayor.

MOTION: Recess. **So voted.** (Councilors Postell and McCaul were opposed.)

The Committee began its recess at 7:10 PM and reconvened at 7:48 PM.

Councilor McCaul asked Ms. Kazlauskas and Mr. Gay if the November 15 would be enough time for them to review and they indicated that would be fine.

AMENDED MOTION: Refer to the City Solicitor and Human Resources Director to review and bring it back for discussion in 2 weeks.

Councilor Borges indicated that she will not be here on the 15th but would be alright discussing this at the Monday morning meeting, November 7th. Ms. Kazlauskas and Mr. Gay indicated that would be fine.

Page Five

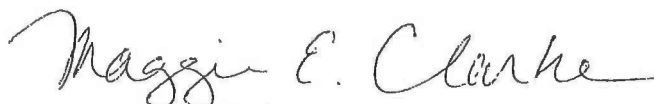
November 1, 2022

The Committee of the Council as a Whole – Continued

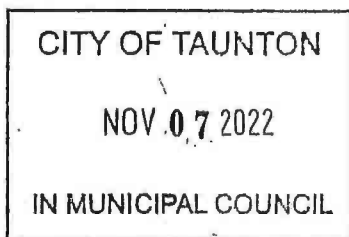
AMENDED MOTION: Refer to the draft policy to the City Solicitor and Human Resources Director to review and bring it back for discussion on Monday, November 7. **So Voted.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM.

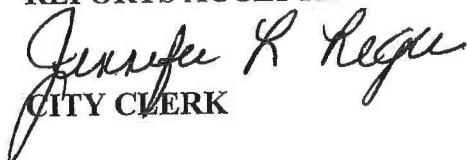
Respectfully submitted,



Maggie E. Clarke
Clerk of Council Committees



REPORTS ACCEPTED. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.



Jennifer R. Regan
CITY CLERK