



*City of Taunton
Municipal Council Meeting Minutes*

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*Temporary City Hall, 141 Oak Street, Taunton, MA
Minutes, November 12, 2019 at 7:08 O'clock P.M.*

Regular Meeting

Council President Postell presiding

Prayer was offered by the Council President

*Present at roll call were: Councilors Croteau, Sanders, Cleary, Pottier, Borges,
Quinn, Postell and McCaul
Councilor Carr was absent.*

Record of preceding meeting was read by Title and Approved. So Voted.

Hearings:

Continued Hearing came up by assignment on the petition submitted by Attorney Philip Nessralla, Jr., 1063 North Main Street, Brockton, MA on behalf of his client, Herbal Logic, LLC for the issuance of a special permit to allow: A 2,520 Sq. Ft. Retail Marijuana Establishment to be located at 310 Winthrop Street, Taunton, MA in the Highway Business District. Com. from Chairman, Taunton Planning Board – Submitting Recommendations; Com. from City Engineer – Submitting Comments; Com. from Conservation Agent– Submitting Comments; Com. from Fire Inspector – Submitting Comments; Com. from Water Supervisor – Submitting Comments; Decision of the City of Taunton Planning Board on the Special Permit/Site Plan Review; Com. from eight (8) Citizens Expressing Opposition; Com. from thirty-four (34) Citizens Expressing Opposition; Com. from Jenna Lach, 263 Winthrop Street, Taunton – Expressing Opposition. The City Clerk stated that Attorney Nessralla is asking for a continuance for two (2) months. He said that they can set the date in January. Due to circumstances he must request to be taken off of the agenda next week. The City Clerk stated that he said that he will notify the office regarding the reposting but she told him that the date has to be picked tonight. She then asked if someone would like to pick the date in January for him. **Councilor Pottier made a motion for the hearing to be postponed until January 14, 2020. So Voted.**

Continued Hearing came up by assignment on the petition submitted by Attorney William Rounds, 115 Broadway, Taunton on behalf of his client, Flavia Hungaro, Mgr. LMCC, LLC, 30 Sherwood Dr., Taunton for the issuance of a Special Permit to allow: A 4,140 sq. ft. Marijuana Retailer at 354 Winthrop Street, Taunton located in the Highway Business District Com. from Chairman, Taunton Planning Board – Submitting Recommendations; Com. from City Engineer – Submitting Comments; Com. from Assistant Executive Director – Submitting Comments; Com. from Fire Inspector – Submitting Comments; Com. from Conservation Agent – Submitting Comments; Com. from Sanitary Sewer Collections System Supervisor – Submitting Comments; Com. from Water Supervisor – Submitting Comments. The City Clerk read an Extra Com. from Attorney William D. Rounds which stated that he represents LMCC, LLC regarding the

above-referenced matter. On behalf of his client, he respectfully requests that they be allowed to withdraw this application without prejudice. You will recall that they have agreed to terminate the Host Community Agreement for this location and allow HTC Trinity, LLC to pursue a Special Permit for this site. **Motion was made to accept the letter and make part of the record. So Voted.**

Communications from the Mayor:

Council President Postell read an Extra Com. from the Boys and Girls Club of Metro South. It is an invitation to join the Boys and Girls Club of Metro South and the Taunton Area Chamber of Commerce for their upcoming business after hours event on November 14, 2019 from 5PM to 7PM at the Taunton Club House, 31 Court Street. Stop by for an evening of networking while learning more about the Core Program's mission and vision, the recent merger of the Taunton and Brockton Club Houses to form the Boys and Girls Club of Metro South.

Council President Postell extended his appreciation and he would imagine the appreciation of the members of the Council and other elected positions and boards to the City Clerk's Office as well as the Registrar of Voter's Office and all of the other stakeholders that make Election Day go seamlessly. He stated that the Clerk's work as well as the Registrar of Voters and all of the ward inspectors, counters and every other job description that is involved in that does not go unnoticed. He stated that it is a long day and they appreciate it very much. Councilor Cleary stated that there was an issue and he talked to the City Clerk about how he bumped into some voters who were somewhat concerned that they were asked for an ID and it was a different process. He asked the City Clerk and it was an experimental program with a new system. He asked her to explain it because there are some voters out there wondering why they got asked and others didn't. The City Clerk stated that we purchased sixteen (16) Poll Pads and as of this past election we used five (5) of them. She stated that every election we are introducing another one just because we have to get IT out there to deliver them so it is a little bit of a process. When they come to the polling locations the Inspector is trained to say to them that they can show their ID but it is not required. She stated that it is much easier to show your license if you would like to do that because all you do is put it on the Poll Pad and it brings you right up and we know it is you. She stated that it is much easier but you don't have to if you don't want to. The Poll Pads are cool because just say you went in to vote at a different location it would tell you where you belong. They also tell you if you need an Affirmation Form which is for people who don't fill out their census or haven't voted in four (4) consecutive elections. She stated that we are trying to introduce them in every location. Next year we will put up a sign that says you may show your license but it is not required, just so that people understand. Councilor Cleary asked if anyone in Taunton is denied the option to vote. The City Clerk stated that nobody is, they would at least get a Provisional Ballot. Council President Postell stated that he was at North Baptist that morning and the Inspector there did exactly what they were supposed to do, they asked for the driver's license or the name. They also added if they have their license it is a lot quicker. He stated that he did it and it was very seamless and he is glad to see the technology being implemented to help with the process. He stated that it was definitely very professional. Councilor McCaul thanked the City Clerk and her team for doing a great job. He asked if it is a State Law that we have to have that option or can we as a City say that we would like to have the Poll Pads used all of the

time. It would be a fast process and at the same time we could check the ID's of the people coming in. The City Clerk stated that the State doesn't tell us that we have to have them. Councilor McCaul asked if we can do it ourselves and recommend that. The City Clerk stated that we do it ourselves and we can use them. She stated that the thing about using Poll Pads right now as a test is that we have to use our voting books with the Poll Pads at the same time because the State hasn't fully accepted them yet. The City Clerk stated that when we do Poll Pads almost every location comes out perfect. She stated that when we didn't have them, or the locations that don't, their books don't usually match. With a Poll Pad you are given a piece of paper and you have to check out with it and it is a much better system. She can't wait for the State to say that they are accepted and then we can go full force with them. Councilor McCaul asked if the State would have to accept them. The City Clerk stated that they would have to accept them but we can use them now. Councilor Borges stated that the City Clerk said that we purchased sixteen (16) of them and asked how many went out. The City Clerk stated that five (5) did. Councilor Borges asked if she said that we will only introduce one (1) per year. The City Clerk confirmed. Councilor Borges asked why we would purchase sixteen (16) of them now when we are only going to use one (1) new one a year. The City Clerk stated that it is because we will eventually get to sixteen (16). Councilor Borges stated that by the time we get to sixteen (16) those will be obsolete. The City Clerk stated that we have five (5) elections coming up next year so there will be ten (10) right there. She stated that we might introduce two (2), it depends. We are very busy and we have IT working with us right now but we might need to get more people out to help us deliver them. She stated that the guys go out at 3AM. We have the Building Department that works for us and she is pretty sure that we have about seven (7) guys come out at 3AM to work for us. Councilor Borges stated that she understands, the City Clerk said every year so she was thinking that by the time she gets to number 16 they would have to purchase new ones because they will be obsolete. Council President Postell stated that the gift baskets for the Christmas Parade and the Lights On Festival are all out at City Hall. He stated that there are some real good baskets out there that you can throw some tickets in and potentially take one home with you and it goes to a great cause. Councilor Pottier asked when the drawing is for that. Councilor Cleary stated that it will be held next week.

Appointments:

Reappointment of Mary Ann Riva, 39 Olney Street, Unit 108, Taunton to the Board of Directors for Citizens for Citizens. **Motion was made to move approval. So Voted.**

Communications from City Officers:

Com. from City Clerk submitting the firefighters list for two (2) Permanent Full-time Firefighters. Councilor Pottier asked if this was the list that they are going to hire two (2) off of. The City Clerk stated that it is. Councilor Pottier stated that he will work with the Committee on Fires and Wires and the Chief on setting up interviews. He is thinking maybe next Monday, he will talk to the Committee on Fires and Wires and set that up with the Chief. Councilor Cleary asked if they would be interviewing four (4) people. Councilor Pottier stated that it would be four (4) or five (5). He prefers to interview double plus one.

Com. from Chairman, Taunton Planning Board stating that the Planning Board has received a Site Plan Review for property at 245 Cape Highway for the construction of a 996 square foot addition to the existing structure and the elimination of 2 parking spaces, submitted by Pierre Ibrahim. The DIRB will meet to review this on Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at 9:00AM in the Planning Board Office, 1298 Cohannet Street and the Planning Board will meet to review this on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 5:30PM at Maxham School in the Chester R. Martin Municipal Council Chambers, 141 Oak St., Taunton, MA. **Motion was made to receive and place on file. So Voted.**

Com. from City Solicitor regarding the extension of Parker Golf Course Maintenance and Management Contract. In March 2019, after conducting a formal RFP process, the City entered into a contract with LEA Golf, Inc. to manage the John F. Parker Municipal Golf Course. Article 14 of the contract grants the City the absolute right to extend that contract for one additional year upon the same terms and conditions. The existing contract shall expire on December 31, 2019. The Golf Course Commission has expressed its desire to extend the existing contract until December 31, 2020. It seems advantageous for the City to do so. I therefore respectfully request that the Municipal Council take a formal vote to approve the one-year extension of the contract and authorize the Mayor to sign the same. **Motion was made to move approval. So Voted.** Councilor Quinn stated that it was referred to the Committee of the Whole to address the possibility of the golf course going to eighteen (18) holes. The plans for that have been worked on by Mr. Alegi for the better part of ten (10) years. She stated that the plans are in the Law Department if anyone wants to take a look at it. She stated that she knows that the Council President will be having Mr. Alegi in soon to talk about it. Council President Postell stated that it is in queue to be brought up on the calendar.

Com. from First Assistant City Solicitor submitting the Second Amendment to Commonwealth Alternative Care Inc.'s Host Community Agreement for the Siting of a Cultivation, Processing, and Dispensing Facility in the City of Taunton, Recreational. The Amendment extends the time within which Commonwealth Alternative Care must commence operations to December 19, 2020. They request that, if the Council chooses to approve this Amendment, then please authorize the Mayor to sign it on behalf of the City. **Motion was made to move approval. So Voted.**

Communications from Citizens:

Com. from Donna Sprague Callahan and Timothy Sprague, 255 Hart St., Taunton which stated that she and her son bought at 255 Hart Street here in Taunton five (5) months or so ago and they love it here. The traffic comes over the hill here from Hart's 4 Corners at 35 to 40 MPH, and therefore, it is very difficult to see the vehicles coming before they begin their descent as they try to drive out of their driveway. They would like to know the best for all solution to this situation, and wonder if a sign was posted "Blind Drive" or some such up the hill which would alert the drivers coming down the hill. **Motion was made to refer to the Committee on Police and License, Safety Officer and the DPW. So Voted.**

Petitions:**Hours of Operation (Black Friday)**

1. Target located at 81 Taunton Depot Drive, Taunton

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

Claim submitted by Diana Colon Candelaria, 66 Paul Bunker Dr., Taunton seeking reimbursement for damages to her automobile due to hitting a deep hole on High Street.

Motion was made to refer to the Law Department and the DPW. So Voted.

Claim submitted by Kristie Bergeron, 441 Winthrop St., Taunton seeking reimbursement for damages to her automobile from hitting a defect in the road on Tremont Street near Trucchi's. **Motion was made to refer to the Law Department and the DPW. So Voted.**

Petition submitted by Field Engineering Co., Inc. P.O. Box 1178, 11D Industrial Dr., Mattapoisett for the easement acceptance for Lot 4 CFC Road, LLC, 190 Constitution Drive, Taunton. **Motion was made to the Committee on the DPW and the Law Department. 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:

NONE

New Business:

Councilor Cleary stated that it is his understanding that Mayor Hoyer has been sworn into the position of Supervisor of Probate Court but the Mayor has not formally submitted his letter of resignation as Mayor. His understanding is that he will be in here tomorrow as he can't have two (2) jobs. **Councilor Cleary made a motion to have the City Clerk place the issue of the Interim Mayor appointment on the next agenda. So Voted.** Council President Postell stated that he is out next Tuesday. Councilor Pottier stated that upon the elevation of a Councilor to the Interim Mayor position is an open seat on the Council. He stated that it goes back not to the election that we just had but the one before it two (2) years ago. He would confirm with the 10th, 11th and 12th members if they are willing to serve and if they are not, the Council will need a letter thereof that they are not willing so that they can add to their group as soon as they can based on the opening. Councilor Cleary asked that the City Clerk to send a letter to the two (2) or three (3) people to see if they are interested. Council President Postell asked if that was a motion. Council Pottier stated that it is just a request.

Councilor McCaul stated that with the recent problem that took place on Middleboro Avenue where a person's life was lost, he contacted the Safety Officer regarding the speeding issue on that street. It is his intention that there will be LED lights on Middleboro Avenue to take care of the lighting problem there. **Councilor McCaul made a motion for the Safety Officer to place one of the speeding signs that tells you how fast you are going instead of a radar truck because when he spoke to the Safety Officer he felt that it was the best way to try to slow down the problem. He believes that it should be placed on the corner where Amaro's Market is going to the airport and have the sign go further down towards Home Plate on Middleboro Avenue as quick as possible. So Voted. Councilor McCaul made a motion to restripe the crosswalks along Middleboro Avenue as quick as possible. Councilor Pottier stated that he was going to talk to the Chair of the Committee on Police and License but Father Rich of Holy Family mentioned that they would like to have a neighborhood meeting and he is willing to host it at a time that would be convenient for the Chair. They were suggesting December 5th because that is the earliest they can get together. There are a lot of members of the Parish that are deeply concerned the crosswalk and the speeding issues. He stated that he will give the Chair of the Committee the name of the administrator over there and they can set something up. He stated that obviously the Mayor Elect is invited. He stated that not just the speeding issue but the crosswalk situation there also, they have the senior complex right there with people in wheelchairs, motorized wheelchairs and it is a challenging situation. We have already had one (1) tragedy and one (1) is one (1) too many. Councilor Pottier asked if that could be added to the motion. So Voted.**

Councilor McCaul stated that the Mayor did say that he would step down on the 15th of this month so he thinks that for the Council to jump so quickly and also we will have the Council President to assume that position until something is done, we have fifteen (15) days to make a decision. If he does step down on Friday we do have a Council President that can assume that position until the Council makes a decision. With that in mind he thinks that they are jumping too quickly and that they should really wait until the Council President is back before they make any kind of decision and try to have a full Council when they make that decision. It is a very important decision for our community. Councilor Pottier stated that he couldn't agree more that it would be helpful if all nine (9) Councilors are here. He stated that we have had situations where the Mayor has been out of town. He asked if the Council President can sign warrants when the Mayor is not here. Councilor Cleary confirmed. Councilor Pottier stated that other than running the Council meeting he doesn't know of any language in the ordinance that calls for an automatic cover until we vote. He would refer it to the City Solicitor's office and by the time he would get back to the Council it would be a week anyway. He stated that it would behoove us to vote sooner rather than later. He totally agrees that all nine (9) should be here for that. Councilor McCaul stated that it is what he was saying, because the Council President did say that he was not going to be here. He stated that he would appreciate if the maker of the motion would reconsider and be so kind to wait until our Council President is here and we have a full Council and he feels that it is the direction that we should go. He asked Councilor Cleary if he would rescind his motion. Councilor Cleary said no. Council President Postell stated that it wouldn't be to rescind, it would have to be a motion to reconsider. Councilor McCaul made a motion to reconsider. Councilor Quinn said next week. Councilor McCaul asked if we can do it this week. He thought

that we had to do it right away if he understands right on how this process works. Councilor Quinn stated that he would make the motion right away. Councilor McCaul made a motion to reconsider. There was no second to the motion. Councilor Quinn stated that she would prefer to have the Council President present as well but leaving it on the agenda doesn't hurt anything, they can have a discussion and by that time they will know if the Mayor has resigned or not and the Council can make an intelligent decision. Council President Postell wanted to add to the point that the City Charter says that within fifteen (15) days of his resignation being submitted the Council will select from one (1) of its own to be the Interim Mayor. He stated that he will also add to that he has also indulged in providing many opportunities for other members of this board that wasn't able to be here for decisions specifically in terms of important decisions to defer or to postpone that decision until all of the members are present. He stated that it is their choice and he will respect it. He has also allowed for that to be the case where he has provided an opportunity for all of the members of the Board to be here because of personal conflicts and scheduling conflicts within each individual. Councilor Pottier stated that another option is to call a Special Meeting with a 48 hour notice so they could have a vote Friday if they wanted to. If the Mayor submits his resignation tomorrow they can meet Friday for five (5) minutes just to take the vote then. He stated that they could meet on a Monday or a Thursday or the following Monday or Thursday. There is some flexibility that they can do to call a Special Meeting which they have done in the past with a two (2) business day notice. He stated that it is a pretty important decision and he completely concurs that all nine (9) should be there for something this important. He just doesn't know when all nine (9) will be there. He stated that perhaps something would be to contact the Council President and submit some dates that he could consider working with the City Clerk to have the Council all together even if it is just to have them meet to take the vote to move on with it. He stated that it doesn't have to be on a Tuesday. He stated that he is just throwing out some options for the Council President to consider. The Council President stated that he is willing to respect and consider that but the motion has been made. Councilor Borges stated that she thinks that the Special Meeting would probably be a good idea because Thanksgiving week is coming and she knows that there are other members of the Council that will not be here that week. It will affect it the same way that week so she thinks that a Special Meeting being called would be the most appropriate. Councilor Pottier stated that his recommendation would be to let the Council President and the City Clerk know the dates that they are not available over the next month and maybe they can cobble together a Special Meeting. He stated that it doesn't even have to be during the week it could be on a Saturday and hopefully have it televised to just take the vote. He stated that it is a very important issue that he thinks all nine (9) of the Councilors should be there. He was planning on missing the meeting at the end for Thanksgiving. He would move plans around to make that meeting because it is so important. He stated that the whole circumstance around this is outside of the Council's control. He stated that it is a challenge to do the best that they can with the challenges that they have in their personal lives. Councilor Cleary stated that his concern is about waiting for a perfect night for a meeting with nine (9) people. He stated that the longer they delay this, it lessens the importance of appointing somebody. He stated that if you get into Thanksgiving or after Thanksgiving then what is the sense. If they are going to do it they should act quickly. Council President Postell stated that he appreciates it and he hangs his hat on the fifteen (15) days from the time that the Mayor submits his resignation that we would either have a general meeting or a Special Meeting

where all the members are here. Councilor Cleary stated that it would be within fifteen (15) days. Council President Postell stated that he is out next Monday and Tuesday and otherwise he would certainly be here. If we have to have a meeting prior to that or immediately following that it is perfectly fine with him. Councilor Pottier stated that he is leaving it to the Council President and he is cognizant of the fifteen (15) days because it is actually written in the ordinance or the Charter. He stated that maybe if they just get together with the Council President and the City Clerk and this has happened once in his fourteen (14) years. He stated that if they can pull something together sooner rather than later and they all be here would be a good thing.

Meeting adjourned 7:55 P.M.

A true copy:

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "RM Beacorell".

City Clerk

RMB/SJS

CITY OF TAUNTON
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 12, 2019

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2019 NOV 19 P 1:28
TAUNTON, MA

THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES

PRESENT WERE: COUNCILOR DONALD CLEARY, ACTING CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILOR ERK CROTEAU

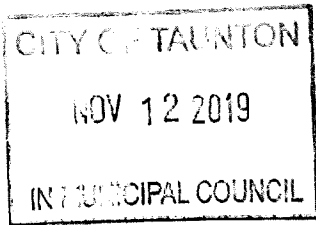
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:49 P.M.

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

MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL OF THE PAYROLL WARRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,361,545.85. SO VOTED.

MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL OF THE INVOICE WARRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,577,982.48. SO VOTED.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:51 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 that reads "Dm Beane".

CITY CLERK

THE COMMITTEE ON FIRES AND WIRES

TAUNTON, MA

PRESENT WERE: COUNCILOR DAVID POTTIER, CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILORS POSTELL AND CROTEAU. ALSO PRESENT WERE BUILDING SUPERINTENDENT RICHARD AMES, FIRE CHIEF TIMOTHY BRADSHAW, CAPTAIN JASON BOIROS, CAPTAIN TODD MYERS, CAPTAIN STEVEN LEVIGNE AND CAPTAIN MICHAEL DUNHAM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:18 P.M.

1. MEET WITH THE FIRE CHIEF TO DISCUSS THE CONDITION OF THE FIRE STATIONS

The Chief said he knows that everyone is concerned about the condition of our Fire Stations. He also said that he feels the biggest problem is the water coming into the stations, that is probably the biggest concern. He further said that Mr. Ames has been great addressing a lot of their concerns. Some of the work has been done, some things have improved, and he knows that he has put a lot of work into the Bay Street station. Captain Boiros said that he is in the East Taunton station. His biggest problem now is water coming down through the floor. If there is a leak from the engine, or it is a rainy or snowy day, the floor drains are not tied into anything. All the water just ends up on the basement floor, so this is a significant issue. He further said that his building is pretty maxed out for electricity, so as far as the bigger machinery, they had to put a small extractor in. Window AC's trip breakers all the time. Some upgrades have been done, but if they are running too much at once there is an issue, even just opening up the garage door. His assessment is that the electric would be, cost wise, one of the bigger issues for East Taunton.

Captain Myers is in the Weir Station. He said that he would like to start with what the Building Department has done. The Building Department has upgraded their electrical system, they moved the circuit panel from the basement to the first floor which alleviated some hazards there where water was leaking on the panel. They did a full remodel of their upstairs bathroom, they replaced some flooring in the upstairs hallway and community room. There is a long way to go, inside is good, but outside there is a problem with the roof. There is basically a leak in every corner of the building, and it looks like either the plywood or some boards under the shingles need to be replaced. The exterior trim is rotted, curled, not painted, with birds living inside it. Those are the two major issues. Regarding the floor, their station has a full basement and they keep a dive boat, a dive truck and an engine on the garage floor. During good weather they keep the engine outside during daylight hours. They did get a leak on their engine fixed so it is no longer leaking water on the floor, but the floor itself has timber strings that are failing and it is causing the floor to crack. Their engine used to run out of the middle bay, but they brought it to the outside bay because there was more support there.

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THE COMMITTEE ON FIRES AND WIRES – CONTINUED

Since then both the middle bay and the outside bay on the East side of the station have developed cracking. The Building Department has brought in some steel plates as advised by an engineer. They put the steel plates the entire length of the engine. Those are the major items, the roof, the exterior trim and the floor. Captain Myers said the driveway is cracked and bricks on the exterior need to be pointed. He did say the windows are not in bad shape.

Captain Dunham from Central Fire Station said that the Building Department has been very receptive to any requests that he has put in. That being said, they do have some problems that the Chief mentioned, the roof is leaking in various spots. This is their biggest issue. There are some windows that are missing panes, there is some rot in certain areas, some windows do not open. Other than that, they have been pretty good. He did say that they do get some water on one side of the basement, actually both sides of the basement but one is more significant than the other, but they have the ability to raise everything up down there so it is not really affecting too much. There is some exterior maintenance as far as trim and some carpentry work needed.

Captain Lavigne of the Bay Street Station also said that the Building Department has been very responsive. They just finished a roof project at the station, a partial area, which should alleviate the problems with water coming in through the roof. He did say that on the left side of the building the gutters are rotted out. The gutters on the building are inside the brick work so you cannot see them but water comes in behind the brick and through the windows on the left side into the community room and the bathroom. Exterior wise, the wood is rotted, however the windows are good, and the only issue he has with the windows is that some of the sills are rotted out and need to be replaced. The floor was replaced in the 80's so that is not an issue, but he did say when Engine 4 uses the middle bay there is a granite threshold and water does seep in between the concrete floor and the granite threshold and the 2 I beams directly below it are rotted out, so he feels that this should be looked at. There is an issue with the heating system, as it is not efficient. There is only one radiator on the main floor so in the winter it is extremely cold.

The Chief said that Oakland is in good shape. Regarding the Fire Prevention Building, they are not running a truck out of there so the floor is not an issue. There are some leaks there as well, but there is a plan to move them out of that building so at this point it is not an issue.

Councilor Postell said he is happy that progress is being made to mitigate the issues with these buildings.

Councilor Croteau said there is a window problem at Oakland, they leak. Other than that there may be some smaller issues, and he has asked for a list from that station. There is a need to take a look at the building and make sure there is a preventative

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THE COMMITTEE ON FIRES AND WIRES – CONTINUED

maintenance plan for that building to avoid issues that the City has in the other buildings. What he is looking for is a plan to take care of all of the issues in these 5 buildings, then talk about a new building. It is going to be a multiyear plan based on priority of the issues. The biggest problem would be the Weir Station, but that may not even be cost effective.

Captain Meyers said that regarding the Weir, it is a solid building and it is strategically located as far as response time. It is really an asset to the community and he thinks it would cost a lot more to start from scratch on a new building.

Councilor Croteau noted that they put in \$2 Million into Central Station and it was supposed to be a million, and it still is not handicapped accessible and does not have a permanent Occupancy Permit. They need to take a look at these buildings.

Councilor Postell noted that he would recommend that if there is an issue with the roof at Central Fire station over where the 911 area is located, that area should be fixed first.

Councilor Croteau said that there will be a need for more space for 911 if the City is going to implement the items that were contained in the 911 study.

Councilor Pottier said it would be helpful if the Chief, in conjunction with Mr. Ames could provide to the council a list of each station's needs, what has to be done first and the cost to do it.

Councilor Sanders asked which items concern the health and safety of the firefighters. It was answered that there really is not anything, but the floor issue could become a safety issue at some point.

Councilor Quinn agreed that it would be helpful to have a prioritized list from each Captain as well as what has been done already.

Councilor McCaul asked if there were any air quality tests or swab tests done on the buildings to which it was answered no. He suggested that swab tests and air quality tests should be done in each Station, and asked that the Building Superintendent look into this.

Captain Meyers said that Mr. Ames has been very good but an issue is that he does not have the money in his budget to do all of the work.

Councilor Postell said that a while ago he made a motion for a structural engineer to look at the Weir station floor, then made the following motion:

MOTION: TO REFER TO MR. AMES OFFICE THE COMMENTS THAT COUNCILOR MCCAUL MENTIONED IN TERMS OF THE AIR QUALITY, TO GET A COST OF WHAT THAT WOULD BE, ALSO TO HAVE AN ESTIMATE DONE FROM A STRUCTURAL ENGINEER TO GET THE CONDITION AND THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WEIR STATION FLOOR. SO VOTED.

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THE COMMITTEE ON FIRES AND WIRES – CONTINUED

Councilor Croteau said money should be put in the Fire Department and Building Department budgets for these repairs, and again said a multiyear plan needs to be put together.

Councilor McCaul noted that there is money in the Reserve Account and asked if that can be tapped into for some of this work to get done.

Councilor Pottier said that a higher reserve affects the City's bond rating, so you have to be careful, but that it will be up to the next Administration to do this if they want to.

2. MEET WITH THE FIRE CHIEF FOR AN UPDATE ON THE AFTER FIRE PACKET.

It was noted that this had been provided to all Councilors months ago.

MOTION: TO APPROVE AND ADOPT THE AFTER FIRE PACKET. SO VOTED.

3. MEET WITH THE FIRE CHIEF ON THE STATUS OF HIRING

The Chief said he has called for a list for 2, he has received applications back, and believes he has 8 of them. He will be putting together his team that usually does the hiring and will be sitting down with them. The Chief also said he does have more retirements coming, and that there will probably be a pretty good turn over in the Department by the end of the fiscal year. He has a number of people working at their max and could go at any time or are going to reach their max before July. He has an individual that will be 65 in December and will be forced to go, and another individual that told him he would be retiring shortly also. He will have four vacancies by the holidays, so he thinks they need to call for more names.

The Chairman said to let him know when they need to call and they will talk to the City Clerk about it.

The Chief also said he would like to streamline the interview process because it is very time consuming. He knows that the last time they were hiring 2, they interviewed 15 and the Chair said he did not want to have all 15. He knows that is a pain but what happens is they come back, then the Council interviews them again. He would really like to just sit down and get them all done and get a consensus on who they like and who they do not want. The Chairman said that would be fine.

The Chief said hopefully his staff will be meeting with the candidates before the holidays and then setting up interviews with the Council after the holidays. If he can change that and call for an additional 2 now, change that to 4, he would just as soon do that now.

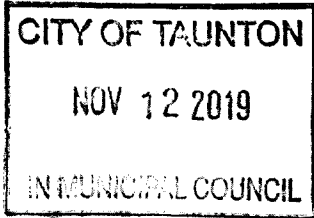
The Chairman said whatever the Chief wants to do works for him. And anything the Council needs to do just let him know.

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NOVEMBER 12, 2019

THE COMMITTEE ON FIRES AND WIRES – CONTINUED

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:16 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 that reads "Rm Blackwell".

CITY CLERK