

City of Taunton Municipal Council Meeting Minutes

In the Chester R. Martin Municipal Council Chambers Minutes, December 7, 2009 at 7:00 O'clock P.M.

Regular Meeting Mayor Charles Crowley presiding Prayer was offered by the Mayor

Present at roll call were:

Councilor's Barbour, Buffington, Carr, Croteau, Marshall,

Fiore, Pottier, Costa-Hanlon, Hoye

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

Communications from Mayor:

At this time, the Mayor honored the Greater Taunton Charitable Association. The Mayor presented a citation to Larry Newman, one of the founders of this organization. He also presented Citations to Dan Marioriti, Paula Bunker, Michael Bonenfant, and John McCaul. Absent were Edward Correira, Linda Ricardo, Janet Malloch, and Laura Mullen.

At this time, the Mayor presented the FY 2010 Supplemental Budget. He stated that the increase of the supplemental budget is \$1,037,508.00 and with a decrease of revenue from Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical High School and Bristol Agricultural High School of \$75,639.00, making the total City budget for FY2010 to \$169,742,412.61. A communication from the City Auditor was read stating that as part of the Fiscal 2010 process, the following votes must be taken:

From TMLP in lieu of taxes to reduce tax rate	\$2,900,000.00
From Title V to offset Debt & Interest Budget	\$ 17,905.00
From Cable TV Education to offset Library Budget	\$ 13,690.00
From Wetlands Protection to offset Planning Budget	\$ 20,000.00
From Stabilization for various City Departments	\$3,000,000.00
From City Health Trust to offset Health Insurance Budget	\$1,492,266.58
From Airport Revolving to offset Airport Budget	\$ 10,000.00

Motion was made to move approval. So Voted. The Mayor asked that the Council approve his request to ask Michael Horrigan, Manager, TMLP to have his Commissioners vote to approve the Employee Benefits and Overhead Costs in the total amount of \$6,197,905.83. Motion was made to move approval. So Voted. Councilor Hoye motioned that the Mayor give an update on receipts in March. So Voted. Councilor Marshall motioned that the Budget Director present the Council with a report of revenue vs. projections for the first five (5) months of this year. So Voted. Motion was made to pass from a first reading to a second reading. So Voted.

Communications:

Com. from Assistant Director of Retirement advising of a retirement for Gordon A. Medeiros, an employee of the Taunton Police Department on December 31, 2009. Motion was made to move approval and have the City Clerk call for a list. So Voted.

Com. from Administrator, Taunton Nursing Home requesting to pay prior year bills in the total amount of \$2,578.21. Motion was made to refer to the Committee on Finance and Salaries and the Mayor's Office. So Voted.

Com. from Supervisor, Water Department providing an update of the current status for the Industrial Park Water Storage Tank. Motion was made to refer to Committee Reports. So Voted.

Com. from the Acting Police Chief requesting commendations for officers for their actions work investigating and apprehending the individual responsible for the robber-homicide at Planet Petroleum on Winthrop St. on October 25, 2009. Motion was made to move approval to commend these officers. So Voted.

Com. from the Acting Police Chief requesting commendations for officers for their actions in apprehending suspects in the homicide at 284 Bay Street on November 3, 009. Motion was made to move approval to commend these officers. So Voted.

Com. from the Acting Police Chief requesting commendations for officers for their actions in seizing the largest amount of cash and illegal drugs in Taunton Police Department History on Somerset Ave. on November 20, 2009. Motion was made to move approval to commend these officers. So Voted.

Com. from City Planner recommending extension of a permit for a 12 Dog commercial kennel at 15 Bassett Street for two (2) years. **Motion was made to move approval. So Voted.**

Com. from Building Commissioner submitting the Building Permit Record for November 2009. Motion was made to refer to the Mayor's Office. So Voted.

Com. from Joseph Connarton, Executive Director, PERAC providing the FY2011 appropriation in the amount of \$13,188,674.00. Motion was made to refer to the Budget Director. So Voted.

Councilor Pottier read an extra communication submitted by Ken Brunelle, Consumer Advisory Board of Bristol County stating that they are having a walk for HIV/AIDS in May 2010 and requested assistance with finding a location for their event. Motion was made to refer to the Mayor's Office. So Voted.

Petitions and Claims:

Decision of the Development Impact Review Board on the petition for the Departmental Site Plan Review for a hair salon with tanning at 560 Somerset Ave., Taunton located in

an Industrial District submitted by Cheryl Costa. Motion was made to receive and place on file. 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:

Councilor Hoye motioned that next week an executive session be scheduled on the agenda under old business to discuss with the City Solicitor pending litigation. So Voted. (The City Clerk spoke with Mary McGann on this issue.)

Councilor Barbour motioned that the Superintendent of Public Buildings update the Council for next week on the status of the lettering of the Taunton High School doors and the parking lot as Mrs. Waterson's organization has offered to help support the costs. So Voted.

Councilor Buffington stated that a few weeks ago in executive session on the Warner Boulevard Project the attorney stated he could provide documents from 2002 and would provide them to the Mayor's office the following day. Councilor Buffington stated that as of this date, the Council has not received the information. The Mayor stated he would look into this matter.

Councilor Croteau stated that he motioned last week that he would like the expenses on the Landfill Project. The Mayor stated the City Auditor is preparing them at this time.

Councilor Croteau stated he received a telephone call on the high school project concerning the 50/50 law. The concerned citizen stated that two Taunton residents were laid off and kept employment of people residing outside of Taunton. Councilor Costa Hanlon stated she would bring this issue up at the next 50/50 Ordinance Committee meeting which is scheduled this Thursday and will report back to Councilor Croteau on this matter.

Orders, Ordinances, and Enrolled Bills

Order for a second reading to be ordained on a roll call vote

Ordered That,

\$2,000,000 is appropriated in addition to the \$6,000,000 previously appropriated for the purpose of financing (1) various capital improvements to the City's water system, including the development of and improvements to the Dever Wells and the laying and relaying of water mains on various City streets and the construction of a new Water Storage Tank (2) engineering services for plans and specifications for upgrades and improvements to the water treatment plant and the evaluation of the Harris Street Bridge, and including without limitation with respect to each project all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws; that to meet this

appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow \$2,000,000 and issue bonds or notes therefor under Chapter 44 of the General Laws and/or Chapter 29C of the General Laws or any other enabling authority; that such bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the City unless the Treasurer with the approval of the Mayor determines that they should be issued as limited obligations and may be secured by local system revenues as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C; that the Treasurer with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust established pursuant to Chapter 29C and in connection therewith to enter into a loan agreement and/or a security agreement with the Trust and otherwise to contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to such loan and for any federal or state aid available for the project or for the financing thereof; and that the Mayor is authorized to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, to expend all funds available for the project and to take any other action necessary to carry out the projects. On a roll call vote, nine (9) Councilors present, nine (9) Councilors voting to move approval. So Voted.

New Business:

Councilor Costa-Hanlon motioned to discuss with the Committee to the Council as a Whole on December 22, 2009 an exit interview with both the City Solicitors (outgoing and incoming) on current litigation. So Voted.

Councilor Barbour motioned that the City Solicitor and Risk Manager submit a complete report of all settlements of legal action and Risk Management settlements that have been paid out in the past two (2) years. So Voted.

Councilor Costa-Hanlon stated that Perry Arabian sent a letter of resignation to either the Mayor's Office or the City Clerk's Office from the 50/50 Liaison Commission. Both the Mayor's Office and the City Clerk's Office stated they did not receive this letter. Councilor Costa-Hanlon stated she will ask Mr. Arabian to send another letter.

Councilor Pottier motioned that the Acting Police Chief have the Safety Officer investigate the possibility of preventing truck traffic on Shores Street as trucks are using this street as a cut through and report back to the Committee on Police and License. Also, the same situation is happening on Porter Street. So Voted.

Councilor Pottier motioned that the Municipal Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 29, 2009 be held at 7:30 in the morning instead of 7:00 PM in the evening. So Voted. (Councilor Croteau voting in opposition.)

Councilor Croteau motioned that the DPW Commissioner have the section of sidewalk fixed between Church Green and Taunton Federal Credit Union, as a pedestrian fell last week due to the disrepair of this sidewalk. So Voted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

A true copy:

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Attest:

Row Marce Black Well
City Clerk

CITY OF TAUNTON MUNICIPAL COUNCIL DECEMBER 7, 2009

THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES

PRESENT WERE:

COUNCILOR JORDAN FIORE, CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILORS

CROTEAU AND POTTIER.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:05 P.M.

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

DEPARTMENTS

MOTION:

MOVE APPROVAL OF THE VOUCHERS & PAYROLLS FOR

THE WEEK

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:06 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

CITY OF TAUNTON

DEC 0 7 2009

COLLEEN M. ELLIS CLERK OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REPORTS ACCEPTED, RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

CITY OF TAUNTON MUNICIPAL COUNCIL DECEMBER 7, 2009

THE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

PRESENT WERE:

COUNCILOR DAVID POTTIER, PRESIDENT AND COUNCILORS HOYE, COSTA-HANLON, FIORE, MARSHALL, CROTEAU, CARR, BUFFINGTON AND BARBOUR. ALSO PRESENT WERE D.P.W. COMMISSIONER FRED CORNAGLIA, WATER DIVISION SUPERVISOR CATHAL O'BRIEN AND BEN LEVESQUE OF C.D.M.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:15 P.M.

1. MEET TO DISCUSS ORDER CONCERNING THE FINANCING OF VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEM THE WATER DIVISION SUPERVISOR PROVIDED AN UPDATE FOR THE INDUSTRIAL PARK WATER STORAGE TANK. HE INFORMED THE COMMITTEE THAT THE EXISTING STANDPIPE IS IN NEED OF REPAIRS AND IS NOT ADEQUATE FOR WATER SYSTEM NEEDS. THE NEW WATER STORAGE TANK IS NECESSARY FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL PARK PHASES 4 AND 5 FOR FIRE PROTECTION AND TO MEET THE WATER SYSTEM DEMANDS. SINCE JANUARY 2009 SEVERAL FUNDING OPTIONS HAVE BEEN SOUGHT TO PAY FOR THE WATER STORAGE TANK. THE ESTIMATED PROJECT COST IS \$4 MILLION. THE CITY SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION FOR DIRECT ARRA THROUGH MAYOR'S OFFICE IN JANUARY, 2009 AND HAS BEEN PURSUING OTHER FUNDING OPTIONS SINCE AUGUST. THE CITY HAS \$2 MILLION AVAILABLE THROUGH THE CURRENT MULTI-YEAR SRF LOAN WHICH WAS SUBMITTED AUGUST, 2009. THE OPTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING ARE (1) \$2 MILLION FROM EDA GRANT. THIS WAS SUBMITTED IN SEPTEMBER, 2009 AND THE CITY IS AWAITING CONFIRMATION FROM EDA. (2) \$2 MILLION FROM DEVER CAMPUS UTILITY FUNDING IN STATE BUDGET. THE MONEY IS IN THE STATE BUDGET BUT IS NOT FUNDED. (3) USE AN ADDITIONAL \$2 MILLION FROM SRF, WHICH WOULD NEED INCREASED AUTHORIZATION FROM THE COUNCIL AND CONFIRMATION ON PAYBACK. IT WAS FURTHER NOTED THAT THE SRF LOAN IS ELIGIBLE FOR STIMULUS FUNDS AND THAT THE CURRENT \$2 MILLION FOR THE TANK PROJECT HAS A 14% GUARANTEED PRINCIPAL FORGIVENESS. THE ADDITIONAL \$2 MILLION FROM SRF WOULD ALSO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE 14% PRINCIPAL FORGIVENESS. THE ADDITIONAL FUNDS ARE NECESSARY TO ENSURE EDA REIMBURSEMENT AND WOULD ALSO ALLOW THE PROJECT TO OCCUR IF THE EDA GRANT APPLICATION IS REJECTED.

THEREFORE, THE REQUEST IS TO ALLOW THE BORROWING OF \$2 MILLION ON TOP OF THE \$6 MILLION IN ORDER TO PAY FOR THE WATER TANK. IF THE MONEY COMES IN FROM THE STATE, IT WILL BE USED TO PAY THE LOAN BACK. THIS WILL ENSURE THAT IF ONE OF THE OPTIONS FOR FUNDING DOES NOT COME TO FRUITION, THE CITY WILL HAVE THE FUNDS TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT. IF THE FUNDS DO COME IN, THEN THE CITY WILL NOT HAVE TO USE THE \$2 MILLION. LOAN.

IT WAS FURTHER NOTED THAT THE DEBT AND INTEREST OF THE LOAN WOULD BE PAID BY THE WATER ENTERPRISE SYSTEM.

THIS MATTER IS ON THE DOCKET IN FULL COUNCIL THIS EVENING FOR A SECOND READING.

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DECEMBER 7, 2009

THE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE - CONTINUED

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:40 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

CITY OF TAUNTON

DEC 07 2009

IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

COLLEEN M. ELLIS

CLERK OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

REPORTS ACCEPTED, RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

RM Black WELL CITY CLERK