

19-016 –
19-025 –

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, @ 6:00 P.M.
IN ROOM 207, COUNCIL OFFICE
MEDFORD CITY HALL**

Attendees: John C. Falco Jr., Council President; Richard Caraviello, Councillor; Frederick Dello Russo Jr., Councillor; Adam Knight, Councillor; George Scarpelli, Councillor; Adam Hurtubise, City Clerk; Jennifer Dever Wood, Chief of Staff to the Mayor and Personnel Director; Kimberly Scanlon, Assistant City Solicitor; Kirsteen Patterson, Assistant Superintendent, Medford Public Schools; Carlos Alcantara; Mark McKie; Thomas Richardson.

President Falco convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

The first agenda item was **19-016**, a petition by Carlos Alcantara for a Used Auto Sales Use Special Permit. The petition was referred to the Committee of the Whole at the January 15, 2019 City Council meeting.

President Falco recessed the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and reconvened at 7:11 p.m. to take up paper 19-025, in which the Mayor asked the Council to vote to accept provisions of G.L. c 71§ 37M.

Councillor Dello Russo asked for clarification on the purposes of the request. Ms. Dever Wood said that the Mayor was asking the Council to vote to accept the provisions of state law so that the Security Director position could be funded via the City and the School Department. She said that if passed, the vote can be rescinded at Council discretion.

Councillor Dello Russo asked if the position is helping both departments. Ms. Dever Wood said that fiscal responsibility and shared responsibility are a big part of the request.

Councillor Dello Russo asked who the position reports to and whether the Chief of Police is involved in the hierarchy.

Ms. Dever Wood said that the job reports directly to the Mayor with influence from the School Superintendent, but that there are no specifics for the Chief of Police, but that she expected that he would have input.

Councillor Dello Russo asked whether there are other things the Council could do without adopting or accepting this law. He asked if this acceptance can be done individually or if acceptance is permanent.

Councillor Knight said that he was reluctant to vote in favor because the schools could be short-changed.

Assistant City Solicitor Scanlon said that there could be concerns with public safety if the Council did not vote to accept the provisions. She said that the Council could vote to rescind its vote later.

Councillor Knight said that the Council would need a 2/3rds majority to adopt and a majority to withdraw.

Ms. Dever Wood said that there is a critical need for this job.

Councillor Scarpelli said that in the past, jobs had been consolidated because of budgets, but then not split when the budget situation improved. He said that the Council needs to look at other avenues because this opens up some concerns.

Councillor Marks suggested looking at need. He said that the School Department has security personnel but no Director of Security. He said that the schools can have it tomorrow. The School Department and School Committee can decide they want a Director. He said that the School Department has a Facilities Maintenance Department but that the City does not. He also said that it raises a red flag for him that this position does not report to the Chief of Police. He said that the Mayor should be here at this meeting and that he does not feel comfortable moving forward.

President Falco asked if the City could do a home rule petition.

Assistant City Solicitor Scanlon said that she could not speculate.

Councillor Knight asked if the Council could draft an ordinance restricting the Mayor's authority.

Councillor Marks said that the City Charter supersedes, and that the powers of the Mayor are part of the Charter.

Councillor Knight asked if there were alternatives to this vote.

Councillor Dello Russo requested an opinion on this matter from the City Solicitor. He also asked why this is not being done solely through the School Department.

Ms. Dever Wood said that in today's climate, municipal buildings are not safe. She said that the City needs a centralized person and location to oversee security planning.

Ms. Patterson said that this should be a shared resource. She noted that there is a School Resource Officer in the building.

Councillor Caraviello said that this is about the power structure. He asked whether the Council was acting to limit the power of the Mayor and asked if this is a charter issue. He said that before the Council makes this decision, we need a solid opinion on where we go.

President Falco said that the Council would like to see if other options are available. He said that the Council needs an opinion from the City Solicitor.

Councillor Caraviello said that he wants the City Solicitor to meet with the Council and explain the options and ramifications.

Councillor Marks said that the City should combine the Facilities Maintenance Department since we are talking about combined efforts. He said that there has been

no response from the Mayor on that request and that there needs to be give and take and discussion of Council priorities as well.

Ms. Dever Wood said that there would be a very hard look with respect to funding in 2020.

Councillor Marks said that maybe we could do both positions in Fiscal Year 2020.

Councillor Dello Russo said that he was ready to move forward with a vote.

Councillor Caraviello said he was concerned that the Chief of Police would have no input.

Ms. Dever Wood said that the Chief of Police would have input, but that this is not a police position.

Councillor Dello Russo said that other cities have these directors.

Councillor Knight suggested having a uniformed officer in City buildings, and that the Police Department might create a Captain position within the department, with the School Resource Officer directly under the Captain.

President Falco asked, in other cities, if this position is a direct report to the Police Chief?

Ms. Dever Wood said that this position is a direct report to the Mayor with a dotted-line report to the School Superintendent and the Chief of Police.

Councillor Marks asked that, as part of the options from the Administration, can the Council get an option in which the School Department picks up the entire cost of the position.

Councillor Knight moved to report out the questions, and to reconvene when answers are provided to the Council (Councillor Marks second)—passed.

Councillor Scarpelli moved to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. (Councillor Dello Russo second)—passed.

President Falco adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

[End of Committee of the Whole Report]

Councillor Dello Russo moved to accept the report on item **19-016** (Councillor Caraviello second)—passed.

Councillor Dello Russo moved to accept the report on item **19-025** (Councillor Caraviello second)—passed.

At 8:03 p.m., Councillor Caraviello moved to take papers in the hands of the Clerk (Councillor Knight second)—passed.
