

CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE

DOCKET-CITY COUNCIL MEETING & BUDGET WORKSHOP
AMENDED

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.

145 TAUNTON AVENUE-CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

EAST PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

EXECUTIVE SESSION: CONFERENCE ROOM A

OPEN SESSION WILL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW EXECUTIVE SESSION

Notice: The meeting will also be viewable live at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0YEW6s1RpjckR47VMil1LA>

City Council:

Council President, Bob Rodericks – At Large

Council Vice-President: Frank Rego – Ward 1

Councilwoman Anna Sousa - Ward 2

Councilman Frank Fogarty - Ward 3

Councilman Rick Lawson - Ward 4

City Solicitor, Michael Marcello

City Clerk, Jill Seppa

I. CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call

Councilman Fogarty _____ Councilman Lawson _____ Council Vice President Rego _____

Councilwoman Sousa _____ Council President Rodericks _____

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION-none

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR - For discussion and possible vote-none

A. COUNCIL JOURNALS:

B. TAX ABATEMENTS:

VII. LICENSES - For discussion and possible vote - none

A. Motion to bundle licenses

B. NON-PUBLIC HEARING

C. PUBLIC HEARING

VIII. PROCLAMATIONS & PRESENTATIONS - none

IX. COMMUNICATIONS - none

Any person who submits a communication to the Council and wishes to speak on it must indicate this in writing no later than 4:00 p.m. the Thursday prior to the next regularly scheduled Council meeting. A person who lists more than one topic on their communication will be allowed to speak on the first one listed.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

All persons wishing to make public comment shall sign a public comment sheet stating their name, address and the subject of their comments. Each speaker will be limited to three (3) minutes. The order of speakers will be on a first come, first serve basis and the maximum time for public comment shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes per meeting.

XI. APPOINTMENTS

1. Appointment to the City Council Crescent Park Committee –Marcia Tellini– Councilman Lawson

Member	Aye	Nay
Councilman Fogarty		
Councilman Lawson		
Council Vice President Rego		
Councilwoman Sousa		
Council President Rodericks		

XII. COUNCIL MEMBERS

1. Discussion on City Council boards/commissions- *discussion only- Sponsored by Council President Rodericks*
2. Learn365 program explanation and report of the City of East Providences' fiscal obligation in relation to Learn265 – *discussion only – Councilman Lawson*
3. Detailed ARPA allocation, spending, and existing purchase orders from inception to date broken down by program and line item – *discussion only- Council Vice President Rego*
4. Discussion on ARPA projects proposed by the city council-*discussion- Sponsor Councilman Lawson*
5. Council discussion and subsequent vote on supporting a Community/Recreation Center for the City of East Providence. Total cost, location, programs – ie: gymnasium, pool,

classrooms, fitness room (s), office space etc. Other options. – *discuss and vote- Council President Rodericks*

Member	Aye	Nay
Councilman Fogarty		
Councilman Lawson		
Council Vice President Rego		
Councilwoman Sousa		
Council President Rodericks		

XIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS – Ordinance for first and final passage and second passage - For discussion and possible vote

XIV. CONTINUED BUSINESS-none

XV. NEW BUSINESS

A. MAYOR COMMUNICATIONS

1. Mayor's message of disapproval and veto of appropriation of ARPA funds for renovation of the East Providence police station, as passed by the City Council on September 12, 2023 entitled " **An ordinance of the Council of the City of East Providence appropriating up to \$2,500,000 toward the renovation of the East Providence police station located at 750 Waterman Avenue “**

Link to the Mayors presented FY24 budget, printed copies are available in the Clerks office:

<https://stories.opengov.com/eastprovidenceri/published/veWMfZIm14u>

1. School Department
2. Capital

3. City Government
 - **City Council***
 - **Mayor’s Office***
 - **City Clerk ***
 - **Law ***
 - **Canvassing**

4. City Operations

- Finance Controls & Accounts
- Tax Collection
- Tax Assessment
- Human Resources
- EEOC/Affirmative Action
- Information Technology
- Miscellaneous
- Debt Service
- Capital

5. Community Development

- Planning & Economic Development

6. Community Services

- Recreation
- Pierce Stadium
- Carousel
- Library
- Senior Center

7. Public Works

- Public Works Director
- Building Inspection
- Engineering
- Highway/Parks
- Streetlights
- Refuse Disposal
- Public Buildings
- Central Garage

8. Public Safety

- Police Department
- Animal Shelter
- Harbormaster
- Fire Department
- Public Safety Communications

9. Enterprise Fund

- Wastewater Pollution Control
- Water Utilities

*intended to be discussed

B. REPORTS OF OTHER CITY OFFICIALS

C. REPORT OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE LIAISON

D. RESOLUTIONS - For discussion and possible vote

1. Resolution authorizing the closing of Sabin Point boat ramp to reconfigure it into a kayak launch -*Sponsor: Council President Rodericks and Councilman Lawson*

Member	Aye	Nay
Councilman Fogarty		
Councilman Lawson		
Council Vice President Rego		
Councilwoman Sousa		
Council President Rodericks		

E. COUNCIL ITEMS

1. Council consideration of mayor's message of disapproval and veto of appropriation of ARPA funds for renovation of the East Providence police station, as passed by the City Council on September 12, 2023 entitled " An ordinance of the Council of the City of East Providence appropriating up to \$2,500,000 toward the renovation of the East Providence police station located at 750 Waterman Avenue." – *possible vote to override- City Council*

Member	Aye	Nay
Councilman Fogarty		
Councilman Lawson		
Council Vice President Rego		
Councilwoman Sousa		
Council President Rodericks		

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Member	Aye	Nay
Councilman Fogarty		
Councilman Lawson		
Council Vice President Rego		
Councilwoman Sousa		
Council President Rodericks		

If communication assistance is needed or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 401.435.7590 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date.

CHAPTER 905

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE APPROPRIATING UP TO \$2,500,000 TOWARD THE RENOVATION OF THE EAST PROVIDENCE POLICE STATION LOCATED AT 750 WATERMAN AVENUE

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION I. An appropriation not to exceed \$2,500,000 to be funded from Federal ARPA funds to be used toward the renovation of the East Providence Police Station located at 750 Waterman Avenue.

SECTION II. This ordinance shall take effect upon its second passage and all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Given first passage 8/29/23 and referred to 9/12/23 at 6:30 p.m. for a hearing and consideration of final passage and adopted 9/12/23.

Attest:

Signature of City Clerk, City of East Providence, Rhode Island

Introduced by: Council Vice President Rego, Councilman Lawson, Councilman Fogarty, Councilwoman Sousa

VETO I HEREBY DISAPPROVE AND VETO MAYOR DATE: 9/21/2023

IN CITY COUNCIL

FINAL READING READ AND PASSED

Signature of President

PRESIDENT

Signature of Clerk

CLERK



City of East Providence
Office of the Mayor
Roberto L. DaSilva

Sept. 20, 2023

Bob Rodericks
Council President
East Providence City Council
145 Taunton Ave.
East Providence, RI 02914

RE: Message of Disapproval

Dear Council President Rodericks and Members of the Council,

In accordance with Article III, section 3-6(b) I am returning to the City Council Chapter 905, "An Ordinance of the Council of the City of East Providence Appropriating Up to \$2.5 million toward the renovation of the East Providence Police Station located at 750 Waterman Avenue" for the following reasons.

As the Council is well aware, the Administration recently retained JCJ Architecture on June 20, 2023 (Resolution No. 44 in the amount of \$110,000) to assess and review the current conditions and future needs of the East Providence Police Station. Per the contract with JCJ Architecture, they are required "to develop up to three conceptual design options for proposed renovations/additions to the existing facility based on the findings of the Existing Conditions Survey (ECS) and Space Summary."

The Administration is fully committed to ensuring that our command staff, police officers and civilian employees have a facility that is secure, safe and functional that will meet the needs of our members of the East Providence Police Department as well as our residents.

In fact, over the last several years, with the City Council's support and approval, we appropriated for improvements to the station, the following funds:

- Roof Replacement - \$305,800
- HVAC replacement - \$264,046
- Parking lot expansion and upgrades to ensure the safety of personnel and security of property - \$180,438
- Men & Women's Locker rooms - \$146,688
- Access Controls - \$45,294
- Mobile Shelving System - \$24,888

The Administration believes that the allocation and sequestering of \$2.5 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds as proposed by this ordinance, is premature.

Additionally, the FY 2024 appropriations act was signed into law by Governor McKee on June 16, 2023 and includes an \$11 million appropriation for Municipal Public Safety Infrastructure projects. The funds would be used for public safety facilities infrastructure improvements. The city has the opportunity to be awarded \$1 million, which could be used for the improvements at the police station.

A more prudent and fiscally responsible course of action is to wait until the JCJ study is completed. Once completed, the Administration fully intends to engage and inform the City Council of the findings and reach a consensus to move forward.

By passing an ordinance prior to the necessary preliminary information or basic due diligence, the City has lost the necessary flexibility to use these funds, if necessary, for projects that have previously been properly vetted, undergone internal review, as well as final approval by the City Council.

Additionally, as the Council is aware, these ARPA funds have a strict timeline and by sequestering these funds through an ordinance, the City is at risk of having to return the funds and also unable to use these funds to leverage future opportunities.

Sincerely,



Roberto L. DaSilva
Mayor



Pandemic Recovery Office

One Capitol Hill | Providence, RI 02908 | 401-222-2280

Paul L. Dion, Ph.D.

Director

Municipal Public Safety Infrastructure Grant Program

Survey Questions for the League of Cities and Towns

July 27th, 2023

The FY 2024 appropriations act, 2024 H-5200 Substitute A as amended, was signed into law by Governor McKee on June 16th, 2023. The act included an appropriation of \$11 million for a Municipal Public Safety Infrastructure project within the Department of Administration (DOA). The project is financed from the State's allocation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Fund (SFRF) and will be overseen by DOA's Pandemic Recovery Office (PRO). The legislative language for the project is below:

DOA - Municipal Public Safety Infrastructure. These funds shall be used to provide matching support to cities and towns to make significant public safety facilities infrastructure improvements including new construction. Funding priority shall be based on project readiness and limited to those for which the total costs exceed \$1.0 million. Matching funds to any municipality will be limited to \$5.0 million for projects that serve a regional purpose and \$1.0 million for others.

Additionally, the U.S. Department of the Treasury requires each project financed by ARPA SFRF to obligate all funds by December 31st, 2024 and fully expended by December 31st, 2026. According to U.S. Treasury, an obligation is defined as "an order placed for property or services and entering into contracts, subawards, and similar transactions that require payment."

Given these stringent obligation and expenditure timelines, as well as the legislative requirements surrounding municipal match and project readiness, PRO is engaging with the League of Cities and Towns to gain better insight into the scope of eligible projects across Rhode Island municipalities. To assist the State with the development of the grant program, **please complete the below survey and return to the League of Cities & Towns by August 18th, 2023.**

ELIGIBILITY

1. Can all facets of your municipal public safety infrastructure project be obligated (as defined above) by December 31st, 2024 and fully expended by December 31st, 2026? Please describe.
2. Have all other funding sources for your municipal public safety infrastructure project been identified and are they available? Please describe. (For example, does your project require your community to place a general obligation bond question on the ballot in 2024?)

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE

RESOLUTION NO.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CLOSING OF THE SABIN POINT
BOAT RAMP TO RECONFIGURE IT INTO A KAYAK LAUNCH**

WHEREAS, Sabin Point is a waterfront park located at the end of Shore Road in Riverside within a residential neighborhood and includes a playground, basketball courts, pavilion, fishing pier, picnic tables, and new concrete walking paths; and

WHEREAS, the boat ramp at Sabin Point is in need of repairs for safety and parking does not make the area viable for trailers; and

WHEREAS, two miles away in Riverside is Haines Memorial Park which offers a Department of Environmental Management maintained boat ramp with plenty of parking; and

WHEREAS, the City of East Providence would like to convert the Sabin Point boat ramp into a kayak launch.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of East Providence hereby authorizes the closing of the Sabin Point boat ramp to reconfigure it into a kayak launch.

Adopted by the City Council: _____

Attest:

City Clerk of East Providence, Rhode Island

Introduced by: Council President Rodericks and Councilman Lawson