

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BROCKTON CITY COUNCIL

A Special Meeting of the City Council was held in the Council Chambers with Councillor Sullivan presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm with ten members present. Councillor Asack absent.

274 Call of the meeting

Accepted and placed on file

275 Officers Return of Notice**276** From the Mayor in accordance with M.G.L., recommending that the City Council adopt the FY2018 budget for the City. The total recommended appropriations total 406,142,202. He will provide his comments on the recommended budget at the budget hearings, however, he will briefly highlight a few points. As he indicated last year, the city must finance a \$4.7 million increase in its pension assessment. Second, the city will incur cost because it is obligated to bargain in good faith with its police and fire unions, as their collective bargaining agreements expired on June 30, 2016. This budget provides an extra \$3.2 million for FY17 & FY18 to fund a potential fire union settlement. It also adds \$1.0 million to the stabilization fund as discussions with the police union are ongoing. Third, the city will exceed its minimum obligation to the schools from local revenue for net school spending. However, the failure of the state to provide any meaningful increase in Ch. 70 funds for three years, mainly because of its change in accounting for low income students, plus an increasing diversion of Ch. 70 funds to Charter Schools, has resulted in lower base revenues to fund the schools, causing layoffs. In order to avoid even steeper reductions while also funding the pension increase and expected union contract costs, was obligated to appropriate the full levy under Prop 2 ½.

Accepted and placed on file

277 From the CFO in accordance with Section 5 of Ch. 324 of the Acts of 1990, certifying the adoption of the Mayor's proposed budget for FY18, but this certification applies to FY18 only. He cannot certify that the city's financial resources will be adequate to support the continuous provision of the existing level of municipal services beyond FY2018. In fact, the FY18 budget will result in a significant reduction in support of the Brockton Public Schools. This is so even though the city's contribution from its own revenues will exceed the legal obligation, by an estimated \$500,000. The problem is that the city's chapter 70 aid to education has barely increased in three years, while more and more funding is being diverted to charter schools. In general, the city's ongoing revenues have not kept pace with ongoing costs. For this reason, he is unable to provide an unconditional certification for future years.

Accepted and placed on file

278 Brockton FY 18 Budget

Referred to Finance

Councillor Studenski motioned to move on item # **212** and was properly seconded. The motion carried by a hand vote.

212 Transfer: of: \$8,000

From: Board of Health-Personal Services other than Overtime
To: Board of Health-Purchase of Services.

Adopted by a roll call vote taken by "yeas" and "nays"; ten members present and all voting in the affirmative. Councillor Asack absent.

Adjourned 6:42PM