



# City Council

CITY OF BROCKTON

CITY HALL

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## MINUTES – ORDINANCE COMMITTEE February 19, 2020

The Standing Committee on Ordinances and Rules was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Councilor Cruise with Councilors Cruise, Monahan, Eaniri, Rodrigues and Thompson present.

Councilor Mendes in attendance as well.

Agenda read into the record.

The Committee first considered the following:

1. Ordinance: An Ordinance Amending Ch. 23, Division II, Rates and Charges, Schedule B of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Brockton  
Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Brockton as follows: that Schedule B, so called “Sewer Charges and Fees” of Article III, “Sewer and Sewage Disposal”, Chapter 23, Division II, “Rates and Charges”; of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Brockton be amended

Comments by DPW Commissioner Larry Rowley

(rate increase needed to improve infrastructure and roads, curb appeal, has raised concern during budget hearing, have to do something about infrastructure in city, runs 24/7, money would be helpful)

Comments by Troy Clarkson, CFO

(brief handout explaining ordinance proposal, initiative began with former CFO Mr. Condon and under Mayor Carpenter, interest by Mayor Rodrigues in getting this presented, went back and analyzed revenue with percentage of usage in each block, some blocks not carrier their weight, revenue as much as usage, eliminate blocks, considers hardship, 24 million dollars for new infrastructures,

Comments by Councilor Thompson

(re phasing in the money)

Comments by Troy Clarkson, CFO

(enterprise fund, supports itself through the fees that it collects, only the users of that enterprise pay for that enterprise, challenge is that the enterprise fund has not always been able to pay its way because the rates have not increased as needed, general fund has to cover that's balance, no increase in rate to lowest water user)

Comments by Councilor Monahan

(\$20 on water and \$20 for sewer, what about the rates?, what would the average rate payer pay per year)

Comments by DPW Commissioner Larry Rowley

(earmarked for infrastructure, some water rates go up, block 6 is largest user, VA)

Comments by Councilor Thompson

(re block that average rate payer would fall under, numbers on the form, comparing old rate to new rate, checking if its quarterly or annual, question re block 6, who is at that level of use)

Comments by Councilor Monahan

(concern about hardships, elderly, veterans)

Comments by Councilor Thompson

(burden shift to largest user, proposed ordinance regarding estimate revenue annually for sewer and water, question re what does the next year look like if this goes through)

Comments by DPW Commissioner Larry Rowley

(business concern, believes it a quarterly figure, not much this year as it goes through July 1, 2020, streets need to be surveyed, need plans and bid, long process, but in a year from now you'll see streets getting worked on, bid in late fall early winter)

Comments by Troy Clarkson, CFO

(revenue match with use)

Comments by Councilor Eaniri

(street priority, its needed)

Comments by DPW Commissioner Larry Rowley

(needs to sit down with Ward Councilors, also chapter 90 money, 7-8 year project)

Comments by Councilor Rodrigues

(interest in breaking up gap so it's not a major increase, smaller ratio, thinks there is a need for user fee, wants to look at less of an impact from the rates, question re users in Whitman)

Comments by Councilor Cruise

(repairing infrastructure, benefit is that there is correlating street repairs, re new projects at the plant are bonded, user fee is by meter, Stonehill contract, Whitman and Abington users, rate scholarships, looking at rate)

Comments by DPW Commissioner Larry Rowley

(not sure but will find out, they're charged a wholesale rate, Whitman is charging their users more)

Comments by Councilor Cruise

(time to consider the rates and user fee, question about Enterprise fund paying back the City, how much does the Enterprise owe, rate payers and tax payers are not always the same people, when does the Enterprise fund need to pay it back, need to be back in 2 years to look at this, need to pay for the services the DPW are providing)

Comments by Troy Clarkson, CFO

(can look to a system moving forward, one year to pay back general fund, retained earnings can be used for what they're supposed to be used for, draft capital plan wish list, other capital needs other than pipes)

Comments by Councilor Rodrigues

(joining accounts, water and sewer)

Comments by Tory Clarkson, CFO

(collective bargaining issue, but could)

Motion to report POSTPONED until the next Ordinance Committee Meeting by Motion of Councilor Eaniri, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Thompson. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Rodrigues, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Monahan at 7:08 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.