

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Standing Committee on Finance met on *Tuesday, February 18th, 2020 at 7:00 PM* in the *Council Chambers, Brockton City Hall, 45 School Street*, with Council President Asack presiding and eight members present; Councilor Cardoso and Councilor Monahan absent, to consider the following:

*Councilor Farwell stated he would like to have a moment of silence to remember two Brocktonians, Mablene Bennett and Officer Jack Hill.

*Council President Asack would like to recognize Mayor Sullivan is in the Council Chambers this evening and is ready to answer any questions on the Agenda.

1. Ordered: Acceptance and expenditure of the grant award in the amount of \$623,808.04
From: Executive Office of Public Safety & Security's Office of Grants and Research-2020 Senator Charles E. Shannon, Jr. Community Safety Initiative Grant
To: Brockton Police Department-2020 Senator Charles E. Shannon, Jr. Community Safety Initiative Grant Fund.
Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
Emanuel Gomes, Chief of Police

*Mayor Sullivan states funds from this State Grant Program designed to reduce gang violence; non-matching grant.

*Councilor Nicastro states that in FY18 city received Two Hundred Ninety Thousand for the grant, in FY19 city received Five Hundred and Forty Four Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Seven Dollars. This year receiving Seventy Nine Thousand more.

*Councilor Thompson asks questions regarding the funds. Chief Gomes states that the programs are all coordinated through the BPD. Shannon Grant provides vital services and outreach and has been around for many years and it continues to evolve and get bigger as more demands come in. There are a number of outreach programs that go with this; youth oriented, domestic violence etc. BPD maintains the control of it and partners with many people to do all the outreach. Total coordination of the grant is done in house at the BPD and we have an individual who maintains the stats to substantiate the revitalization and re-approach to the grant year after year.

*Mayor Sullivan states that it is a large amount of money and is public funds so there is a steering committee attached to it, a valuator attached to it to make sure that is followed through and it is evaluated and the stats will be given back to the City of Brockton.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Cruise to report FAVORABLE, seconded by Councilor Thompson. Motion carried by a hand vote.

2. Ordered: Acceptance and expenditure of the grant award in the amount of \$30,823
From: Executive Office of Public Safety and Security/Office of Grants and Research/Highway Safety Division-FFY2020 Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grant
To: City of Brockton Police Department-FFY2020 Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grant fund.

Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
Emanuel Gomes, Chief of Police
John Hallisey, Captain Police/ Traffic Commissioner

*Mayor Sullivan states these funds are for the traffic enforcement at BPD.

*Councilor Thompson asks when the enforcement will start. Captain Hallisey states as soon as the money is appropriated. States hoping to receive another Thirty Thousand to make a total of Sixty Thousand. Councilor Thompson asks how many citations or fines are derived from this specific grant? Captain Hallisey states yes, there are four an hour. Councilor Thompson asks can we tell residents which streets are going to be focused on? Captain Hallisey stated that he had no problem with that.

*Councilor Farwell states that the state has requirements that per officer they must have three contacts with motorists per hour with this grant. As well as an activity report to be generated and if we fail to do that they can actually withhold the funding.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Cruise to report FAVORABLE, seconded by Councilor Lally. Motion carried by a hand vote.

3. Ordered: Acceptance and expenditure of the grant award in the amount of \$300,000
From: Department of Public Health's Bureau of Addiction Services-Substance Abuse Prevention Program (SAPC) Grant
To: Brockton Mayor's Office-Substance Abuse Prevention Program (SAPC) Grant Fund.
Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
Koren Cappiello, Director of Social Services

*Mayor Sullivan states this is an aggressive and ongoing effort by the Mayor's Office to address addiction. Money that is used wisely and effectively.

*Koren Cappiello states this grant is through June 2022. This is for overdose prevention only. In the next few months we will be working with an evaluator. This is not just for Brockton; working with the evaluator to pull data and working with restaurants, places like Dunkin Donuts, places that have high overdose rates. Working with those places putting policies and training into place. Working them to get Narcan and things like that.

*Councilor Cruise asks is this amount of money only for Brockton or can it be used in any of those towns that are part of the grant? Koren states that the money through June, partnering with the Brockton Area Prevention Collaborative they receive funding through multiple sources, and it goes to them, who I work closely with. Majority of the money is for salaries, supplies, creating brochures and policy work and such. This money is not for all of those communities. It will be what the data says, it could Avon this time; all depending on the data. Councilor Cruise asks if we handle the grant through Brockton? Koren states the grant comes through the city and is given to High Point, who manages the collaborative prevention services.

*Councilor Nicastro asks if High Point has closed? Koren stated that the castle/adult program in Brockton and their psych program in Middleboro has closed. Their prevention program and all of their detox programs in Brockton are still open.

*Councilor Thompson asks if there is a date of when the strategic plan would be complete and when will it be implemented? Koren stated it will be implemented by July 1st. The planning process is for the next few months until June.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Eaniri to report FAVORABLE, seconded by Councilor Cruise. Motion carried by a hand vote.

4. Ordered: Acceptance and expenditure of the grant award in the amount of \$13,780
From: Commonwealth of Massachusetts- Executive Office of Public Safety- FY20 Student and Senior Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Grant
To: City of Brockton Fire Department FY20 Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Grant Fund \$10,655 and
To: City of Brockton Fire Department- FY20 Senior SAFE Grant Fund \$3,125.
No Match Required.
Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
Michael Williams, Chief of Fire

*Mayor Sullivan stated this is a grant through the Commonwealth Safe Program.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Lally to report FAVORABLE, seconded by Councilor Eaniri. Motion carried by a hand vote.

5. Order: Regulations governing the operation of hawkers and peddlers within the City of Brockton.

*Councilor Farwell states that the legislative council has made calls to the division of standards to evaluate whether we are compatible with state regulations for hawkers and peddlers. There is only 1 license in the city. Due to the lack in response to our legislative council, I contacted Representative Jerry Cassidy and he is reaching out to the division of standards.

Having considered the same, motion TO POSTPONE until next Finance Committee Meeting on March, 2nd by Councilor Farwell, seconded by Councilor Eaniri. Motion carried by a hand vote.

*Councilor Lally makes a motion to move Item # 7 out of order, seconded by Councilor Cruise. Motion carried by a hand vote.

7. Resolve: That the Superintendent of Schools appear before the City Council to explain the impact of The Student Opportunity Act in the Brockton Public Schools.
Invited: Michael Thomas, Superintendent Brockton Public Schools

*Superintendent Michael Thomas speaks about the New Student Opportunity Act that was signed into Law by Governor Baker on November 26th. This is supposed to make right the funding formula for Chapter 70 over the next seven years. For the foreseeable future, the layoffs in the Brockton Public Schools are over. Thanks to the City Council,

School Committee, Kathy Smith, Aldo Petronio, Mike Brady, Claire Cronin, Jerry Cassidy, Michelle Dubois. Eighty percent of the new money is going to 35 districts across the Commonwealth and we are one of those. Comes with a three-year plan that has to be submitted to the Department of Education by April 1st. Will be holding forums with all the stakeholders.

*Aldo Petronio speaks about Governor's budget FY21 Preliminary Budget Summation, which we build off of.

*Councilor Farwell speaks of Accounts Committee Meeting held and was struck by the amount that we're spending for transportation. Erodes the amount of resources that are available for so many things.

*Michael Thomas states he appreciates Councilor Farwell bringing this up.

Transportation costs are out of control. Working with the School Committee and the Mayor's Department we would like to bring the transportation in house.

*Mayor Sullivan stated we have one year remaining under the current contractual agreement. Would like do this in phases, over ten years and control our own costs.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Cruise to report FAVORABLE, seconded by Councilor Lally. Motion carried by a hand vote.

6. Ordered: That the City Council authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 3, 2020, for the Brockton High School, located at 470 Forest Avenue, Brockton, MA , which describes the deficiencies and the priority category(s), as delineated on the addendum, for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: Brockton High School-full renovation; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting the Statement of Interest Form, The Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or approval of the application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City of Brockton to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.
Invited: Michael Thomas, Superintendent Brockton Public Schools
Aldo Petronio, Chief Financial Officer

*Michael Thomas stated this is an application for the renovation of Brockton High School, the first of a long process with the MSBA. This is asking permission to be able to submit an application to the MSBA. Projected timeline would be 2028-2029.

*Mayor Sullivan stated this is done in phases.

*Councilor Lally asks if there is any money going into the Central Administration Building?

*Michael Thomas stated we got a grant last year through Jerry Cassidy's Office, to buy an 80 foot boom lift to be able to get up and paint. It is a historical building.

*Mayor Sullivan stated the 80- foot boom is not high enough to get to the gold dome but rest assured that he will clean up-; perception is reality.

*Councilor Thompson asks what the ball park figure would be. Michael Thompson stated if he had to guess it would probably be Two Hundred Million Dollars, with a STEM wing could go to Three Hundred Million. The cities % would be 20%.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Cruise to report FAVORABLE, seconded by Councilor Lally. Motion carried by a hand vote.

8. Resolve: 1) That the City of Brockton recognizes the importance of the 2020 Census and supports participation in helping to ensure a complete, fair, and accurate count.

Invited: Iva Andrade, 2020 Census Outreach Coordinator

Pedro De Jesus, 2020 Census Partnership Specialist

*Mayor Sullivan thanks Councilor Rodrigues for having the foresight to hire Iva. We need all the elected officials all the clergy, business agencies to really spread the word because if we don't get this we are going to short change Brockton for another ten years.

*Iva Andrade speaks of the importance of the Census. Event on February 26th at the War Memorial Building to increase the number of members of our complete count committee that will help spread the word. Inviting every leader in the city; everyone is a leader.

*Councilor Thompson stated Brockton's participation in the 2020 Census is vitally important. By responding to the 2020 Census you ensure Brockton gets its fair share of these funds and that they go to support our schools, hospitals, roads our public works and other vital programs. What efforts are under way to ensure a complete fair and accurate count of Brockton residents?

*Raymond Bennett, Senior Partnership Specialist, US Census Bureau, stated the goal is count everyone once and only once and in the right place.

*Pedro DeJesus stated you can go on-line, mail or telephone. Some people fear the government and do not send a response in. We don't want that to happen, we want to get an accurate count. Teaching in schools how important Census is.

*Mayor Sullivan stated to make sure there is a distinction between the local Census; we are talking about the Federal Census.

*Council President Asack asks Iva to give the people at home info on how to respond.

*Iva Andrade stated; on-line www.2020census.gov, March 6th Federal invitations will go out in the mail, April 1st and April 4th; school events at North Junior High School with computers and teachers and paraprofessionals speaking different languages to help families fill out the forms on-line, also at the Library on February 25th, computers are available at the Libraries as well as at City Hall. If done on-line and by phone can be done in 13 different languages.

*Councilor Farwell asks if there is some degree of privacy, as in lists being sold.

Raymond Bennett states that Census is safe. Responses to the Census are protected Title 13 of US Code.

*Councilor Rodrigues states how important the Federal Census is. One issue is under-reporting. Households not reporting everyone living in the household. In which we lose funds due to low numbers. The life of this city depends on this.

*Mayor Sullivan stated we have been underreported. Census is looking for Brockton Residents to help this effort; making \$20-\$24 an hour. Ed Miller, a Brockton resident, who is a recruiter for the city of Brockton for Census stated Brockton is coming together. We are on track to hit our numbers. To apply for a job go to www.2020census.gov/jobs. Call Ed Miller @ 617.347.7294 to inquire about helping with the 2020 Census.

Raymond Bennett added these jobs are flexible, paid training, paid mileage, 18 years old to apply, full or part-time, eight weeks long.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Cruise to report FAVORABLE, seconded by Councilor Lally. Motion carried by a hand vote.

9. Resolved: The Brockton City Council adopts an official position that such a reduction in services contemplated is not in the best interests of our veterans and urges the Veterans Administration to reconsider its decision to consolidate and eliminate resources on the Brockton VA Campus. Further, the Council by this Resolve communicates to our federal legislative delegation the urgent need to reverse this potentially harmful decision.

Invited: Koren Cappiello, Director of Social Services

Richard Hand, Legislative Officer of The American Legion

*Council President Asack states that Former Ward 5 Councilor Anne Beauregard is here with us tonight.

*Mayor Sullivan stated we owe all to our Veterans and this is a great sharing of information for a very important topic.

*Koren Cappiello thanks all the Veterans for their service. Brief stats on the Champion Plan- over the last 4 years we have had 837 individuals come through the Champion Plan and only 2% have reported that they are Veterans.

*Robert Hand greets the Council. Passed out a communication that was given to VA staff members. Speaks of reduction of beds at the VA. Concerned that the VA detox center had been shut down and combined them into the psych ward. Also concerned about the safety. Have to come up with some answers; shutting down beds is not the answer.

*Council President Asack stated that a follow up will be made with the VA Hospital. Thanks him and all the Veterans for the services to our Country.

*Mayor Sullivan states this is a very important resolve and wanted to thank Councilor Rodrigues, Councilor Thompson and Richard Bath for their service. Will work to have a sit down with Council President Asack and the Executive Director of the VA along with Claire Cronin, Jerry Cassidy, Mike Brady and Michelle DuBois. We will have a round table and can invite Shayna Barnes on behalf of Stephen Lynch to have a meeting of the minds. Richard Hand will be invited too.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Lally to report FAVORABLE, seconded by Councilor Rodrigues. Motion carried by a hand vote.

*Mayor Sullivan stated that today the City Clerk swore in three Brockton Police Officers and signed an order recently to have 14 more civil service to go into the Academy. There will be two Police Officers dedicated to the Council; Scott Besarick and Kenneth Loftstrom.

*Councilor President Asack stated that Operation Safe Streets will be held on Wednesday February 26th 6:30-7:30PM at the Arnone School. Thanks State Senator Mike Brady, State Reps Claire Cronin and Jerry Cassidy and Michelle DuBois for everything that they do. March 3rd 2020 is the Presidential Primary; early voting in Brockton starts February 24th – 28th @ the Westgate Mall in the old Payless Shoe store. Monday – Thursday 8:30

AM- 6 PM on Friday 8:30- 4:30 PM. Any questions call the Elections office at 508.580.7117. Also Old Colony Planning Council had their meeting on Main Street Corridor tonight, www.OCPCRPAR.ORG you can do the survey for the Main Street Corridor study.

Meeting Adjourned 9:03 P.M.