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Out of respect for public health and in response to the Governor's declared state of emergency, this meeting will be closed to the public and interested parties can instead access the deliberations via a livestream

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheBrocktonChannels/live>

This meeting is being held in accordance with Governor Charlie Baker's signed open meeting law order dated March 12, 2020 which relieves a public body from the requirement of section 20 of chapter 30A that it conduct its meetings in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, provided that the public body makes provision to ensure public access to the deliberations of the public body for interested members of the public through adequate, alternative means.

A Special meeting of the City Council was held on Thursday June 25, 2020 via zoom with councilors accessing this remotely, President Asack presiding. The meeting was called to order at 7:01PM with eleven members present.

**AGENDA OF THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020 AT 7P.M., VIA ZOOM**

295 Call of the meeting

Accepted and placed on file

296 Officer's Return of Notice

Accepted and placed on file

297 Finalization of Brockton FY'21 Budget.

Council President Asack asked if anyone had submitted any reduction to be made.

She stated that they can make reductions, but can't move or add to budget

Councillor Farwell motioned to reduce the Human Resources Department Budget Personal Services Other than Overtime, \$14,020 and was properly seconded. He points to page 122 in the Budget Book and stated that there is an error regarding the Human Resources salary it says increase in salary from \$112,000. The salary of Human Resources Director is \$104,430 not \$112,000. He very rarely uses prepared remarks, because it seems too scripted, but in this case, he has a detailed presentation, because he believes it is important, over and above the \$14,020. The incumbent was hired in November of 2018. They were put at the top step of the ordinance salary schedule. It is covered by our ordinances and not by collective bargaining. He is explaining this mainly for the public. So they were at the top step of \$104,430. When you do that, this means that instead of starting at the bottom step and moving up each year on the anniversary date in order for your salary to increase, you jump ahead seven years and you go to that top step in the salary schedule. Many other department heads came in step 1 or step 2 and they have to wait a year to move up on their anniversary date to get an increase. There is pending before the Ordinance Committee a salary adjustment for this position only. It has not been acted on. The department head has already included funding in her FY2021 Budget request. He thinks it is a bit presumptuous to put in your budget book a new salary for yourself, when the City Council has not acted upon it. They are not a rubber stamp. They have to constantly evaluate the financial health of the City and make appropriate decisions. The Ordinance Committee will act on this one position. There's no other department head covered by the ordinances that has a pending salary increase, either before the Ordinance Committee or in the Ordinance Book. Not one other. If this salary increase were to be approved solely for this person, what message would we be sending to the other department heads? Many of whom have been here longer than the 20 months of the incumbent and they have no pending increase. It gives the impression that we are having favored treatment for a position and he thinks that's wrong. He thinks that erodes working relationships, it causes friction between individuals and is counter productive to a cohesive efficient organization. Salary levels governed by the ordinances should be reviewed and adjusted as needed collectively and not in singling out one position and in fact we have recently received from the Collins Institute and it was fairly

comprehensive review of what our current salary schedule is for department heads and at some point if financial health of the city is stable and we know the level of state aid and we take care of schools, then he thinks it would be perfectly appropriate to evaluate where we are. The last time they adjusted salaries was, July 1 2018. He knows the councilors very well and he anticipates push back. He states they are all sincere and he is trying to answer questions that they may have, once he yields the floor, he can't answer them. They changed the name to Human Resources and the title of the department head to Director of Human Resources but the title is irrelevant to the core mission and responsibilities still the same. They still have recruitment and still have retention issues, they are expanding hiring by hiring 2 more positions, but the core mission remains the same. You can call it anything you want, but the fact of the matter is, that office has Federal and State requirements, as well as commonly accepted human resource practices. Some may say the position is taking on more work, because of 2 more individuals being hired. Managers often take on more work and have additional employees added. We are not adding ten or twenty people. He adds, that having an Assistant Director may allow the Director to delegate work to the assistant and be able to better time manage and do some things that she can't do now, because she is burdened with work that hasn't been available for an Assistant HR Director to handle. If you want to argue that the added responsibilities and duties merit a rise, let's take a look at Steve Hooke, Brockton Emergency Management. That man has put in hundreds of hours in the last 3 or 4 months, because of Covid 19, meeting with the Mayor, doing everything possible as a part time person who receives a stipend. There is nothing in this budget for him. There is nothing pending for this particular stipend. Next look at Commissioner Rowley; he is taking on stormwater management. We are going to add 3 engineers and a clerical person to his overall scope of responsibility. He is responsible with complying to Federal regulations in that program. There is no pending salary increase to that position. The Building Commissioner on call 24/7 is now tasked with maintaining city buildings and ensuring that the guidelines of sanitizing and preventing the spread of Covid 19. That's all on his plate. He does not have any pending salary increase. He adds that position took on responsibility of the stadium and the Shaw Center when B21 corporation transferred that responsibility to the city. The City Auditor's salary is \$114,485. If they were to grant the salary to the H.R. Director proposed in the budget, that person would make more than the Auditor who is responsible for Auditing almost half a billion dollars in local appropriations and grants received. He asked that they put themselves in a department head's place. What if they found out that one department head got a raise, when they did not receive a raise or foresee one in their future? He is surprised that the H.R. person would even consider this, as it may breed resentment. He is asking the councilors to consider all this.

Councillor Monahan questioned the CFO, how did it get to be \$112,000 when it was supposed to be \$104,000? He agrees with Councillor Farwell and wished he had noticed it last night, now they are looking at a different salary. They are straightening this out in ordinance, but they are in a dilemma.

The CFO believes that the \$118,000 that is in the budget anticipated the step that was being considered by the Ordinance Committee and the \$112,000 was when they were putting the budget together, that was the amount they wanted to have sufficient funds for in the current budget. The Ordinance Committee hadn't acted upon the Ordinance by June 30, so Councillor Farwell is correct, they wanted to insure that they had the funds in the budget, to ensure that if the Ordinance went through, they would have the funds. The salary is what it is and the money spent would be up to and including the authorized salary. Their objective was to have adequate money in the budget to fund the salaries.

Councillor Monahan asked if the HR Director gets \$104,000 now?

The Auditor stated that it is \$104,430.00

Councillor Monahan reiterates that she will get the \$104,430.00 and if the ordinance passes then she will get what the ordinance states?

The CFO states that an employee will only get what the ordinance allows. If there is extra money in the budget it just goes to Free Cash at the end of the year.

Councillor Monahan states that it will be taken up in ordinance and he understands now.

Adopted by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”; eleven members present with seven voting in the affirmative. Councillors Asack, Cruise, Monahan and Rodrigues voting in the negative.

Councillor Cruise reiterated that the appropriation of \$434,335 will be reduced by \$14,020 to 420,315.

Councillor Rodrigues motioned to reduce the Police Department Account by \$200,000 from Personal Services Overtime. The appropriation will reduce the Police Budget \$1,040, 414 to \$840,414 and was properly seconded.

Rodrigues stated that they are aware of the temperature from the folks that are demanding some action from the Police Department. The Police Department has gone in the last four years from \$600,000 to over a million dollars. The Police Department can come back anytime if they need additional funds. This sends a message that things need to change and that we are listening to the people and they are able to make some tough choices.

The Council President hears what Councillor Rodrigues is saying, but she also has constituents calling saying please do not defund the Police Department, because they are older and they are concerned about Public Safety as the council is. They have to take into consideration the residents that aren't out asking them to defund the Police. They are listening to everyone.

Councillor Farwell stated that he has spoken out about not giving the Police Department a blank check. He has consistently from when Mayor Carpenter was Mayor and he will do the same with Mayor Sullivan. If they need more funding for investigations or incidences, that require overtime, he has no problem with it. They can come back and present the justification for it before the council for additional funding to show why the money is needed he doesn't want to give a one million dollar blank check. We would never leave the Police Department hanging. Safety is of utmost importance.

Councillor Cruise states that the past few years they have kept up on use of overtime. The Police Department can come back in for additional funding. He thinks it will keep a thumb on runaway costs and for that reason, he will be supporting this.

Councillor Cardoso stated that the issue she has with the amendment, is that even if they take the money, they can not say where they would like it to be allocated. They can not put it towards mental health or schools. She has a problem with taking money away, but not being able to say where it goes. She feels as if she didn't have ample time to go through the budget book. They got the books last week. For a new councilor who is going through a new pandemic trying to help people of the city with resources and address some of the inequities that exist. She didn't have time to be a better voice for the people And make well informed decisions for the people, so for her to take money for the police fund and she doesn't know where it's going, to her is irresponsible. She is inclined to vote no on the entire budget. She doesn't know if her voting on this issue makes sense. If they took the money and put it towards services that are needed in the city she would feel better. To take it away and give it back to the police at another time does not make sense to her. They needed more time to go through the budget and more time for their constituents to call in their concerns and address their concerns. They didn't have time to make their public comments. She has received a thousand messages asking her to vote no on the entire budget or asking to defund the police. She thinks it would be a disservice to everyone for her to vote on the budget tonight. The fact that there was an error on the

budget shows that there wasn't time to go through it all.

Councillor Mendes states that she also agrees with Councillor Cardoso and she states that there is an emergency law that the governor signed was enacted on June 5 that by June 30 the Mayor can submit to the council a month to month budget for up to 3 months. The reason that she is uncomfortable with this budget is because we don't have all the numbers. We don't have the state aid numbers of what the city will be getting from the governor. As a city, we depend 50% on state aide and the School Department budget relies about 80% on the state aide. All that she has received is the needs. The City Hall Department Heads came before the council to state their needs. They don't know exactly what they are working with, because they don't have the revenue, they don't have the numbers. Right now they are working on a budget that is speculative, not concrete. She is uncomfortable voting on the budget without all the facts. She thinks it is wiser to do a month to month budget, since the governor signed that, in case this happened. She also received an email with over 1,000 constituent and residents' signatures asking to not approve the budget, so she is going to be voting no on the entire budget.

The Council President asked the CFO if he could speak a little on the state and federal aide and his and the mayor's decision to not do the month to month budget and why they chose this.

Councillor Cruise as a point of order, states there is a motion on the floor.

Councillor Farwell asks to speak on the motion. He states admittedly, this is a very difficult budget year. It's difficult because state funding has been significantly reduced this year. Councillors Cardoso and Mendes are correct. All of the 40 cities of the state are in the same boat. Whether you are a gateway city, a large city or a small city, you put together a budget which is basically level services. There is a 2.8% increase in the school budget, there are reductions in the police budget, but this motion to take away \$200,000 from the Police Department, that money would go back to the General Fund and it would be subject to further appropriations by the Mayor. If we didn't need it, councilors could lobby the Mayor to spend it in some other fashion. We can't appropriate it, but the Mayor can. For him, this is not a defund the Police issue. This is financial management. We don't have the revenues to put as many police out on the road as we want to, and let people fatten their wallets. We cannot afford to do that. We have to spend every dollar we can appropriately and prudently and try to get maximum amount of services. He has also gotten an email starting at 7:01pm from 1,000 people that have signed a petition. He is sorry, but he doesn't have time to read it now, and read the petition. He wished it had come in a couple of days ago, because it was pretty well set what the schedule would be. This is sending a message that as the council, will take the money that is available and monitor how it is being spent, manage it carefully, leave ourselves options to do something with the money if it isn't needed. If it is needed, then absolutely as Councillor Cardoso has stated, public safety is crucial to young people, to old people to kids walking home from school. We have no idea how many kids are going to have to walk to school because of Covid, as you can't do social distancing on a bus. He is very cognizant of public safety and he is also very cognizant of where the city was in the late 80s early 90s, when we almost went bankrupt. Financial accountability is everything.

Councillor Lally on the motion wanted to echo what Councillors Cruise and Farwell said. This isn't a reprimand. He understands this is something that they are going to have discussions moving forward. This is a bookkeeping matter.

Councillor Rodrigues stated that as a factual statement, them as councilors need to know what their functions are as councilors, their roles and limitations. He understands what Councillors Cardoso and Mendes are saying, but the roles of the council are not going to change from this year to next year. Their role as legislators in this city continue to be to cut the budget and either return the funds to the General Fund for other use or basically giving it back to the Mayor for the Mayor to use on whatever else he needs to do with these funds. It's never going to change. If that's the case, then we can never touch the budget, because they are never going to be able to move those funds around. So it doesn't

matter how much we cut from it or how much we don't cut from it. He believes it would be irresponsible. To him, it's an important message to send out they are doing their due diligence. He feels it makes no sense to hold off on the budget as the State and Federal government are always changing. Vote against the budget because you're against it, not because you are holding out to see what happens in the future. What happens if the local aid doesn't come down the pipeline until October or November? Are they going to keep doing this until the cows come home? This is the job they signed up for. The job is to hold these people accountable for and the only way they can do that is by cutting and show them that the council are serious about it.

Councillor Cardoso thanked Councillor Rodrigues for his explanation. To her, she feels that she is doing the responsible thing. If she does not know enough about something. The budget book is thick and she feels that the irresponsibility lies if she acts without having enough information. To her, she doesn't feel that her constituents had enough time or were their concerns addressed. Yes, cutting the overtime, yes, it may land in the appropriate spots, but there is not guarantee. The difference between this year and next year is that he will be more informed. She won't have an entire book to go through in 2 days. They would have more ample time to research. She feels that she is doing the best job she can, given the pandemic and the racial tensions and protests that they've had to go through. She is doing the best she can, but she feels that it is irresponsible to say that she doesn't know. She believes it is the right thing to do.

Councillor Mendes stated that she believes they should proceed with caution and the council has only been given hypothetical. She operates on facts and she doesn't feel comfortable voting on the budget that she doesn't have all the facts. Next year by June, hopefully they will know what the state funding is and exactly what they are working with. No multi million dollar corporation operates on just speculation on the budget. That is a recipe for disaster.

Councillor Thompson states that this is his first budget and he is in the same boat as Councillors Cardoso and Mendes. It is his first budget. He understands their position that they don't want to take a vote on a speculative budget. His fear is a no vote will cause potential chaos, because we don't know what the ramifications are for not passing a budget and so he understands their position.

Council President Asack states that they should vote on Councillor Rodrigues' amendment to move onto the budget.

Councillor Cardoso questioned legal counsel if they can vote on this item?

Attorney Resnick stated that yes, they can vote on the amendment and still vote no on the passage of the budget. She questioned Councillor Rodrigues if the amendment was for the Police Overtime to be cut by \$200,000.

Councillor Rodrigues stated that was correct.

A brief recess was called, as Councillor Farwell was calling Attorney Resnick, possibly due to losing access from zoom.

Back in session.

Councillor Farwell had a power surge and he is trying to get back into zoom.

Councillor Cruise stated that they are missing Councillor Monahan.

Council President stated that this hopefully will be the last zoom meeting.

On the motion, Councillor Eaniri is speaking on the motion. He is saying no this time to the reduction. Once you take the \$200,000 out of the Police budget, he agrees with Cardoso, the people that are watching will want to know where that money is going to go.

Is the Mayor ready for this, because that is what you are going to have. He has been doing budgets for over 40 years and it is two fold. He stated the other night, he is not voting to take money from the Police, because of other things going on. If they take the \$200,000 from the Police Department, it will go into the General Fund and stay there. He will field all the calls to the other councilors from the constituents regarding the funds.

The amendment was adopted by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”; ten members present with six voting in the affirmative. Councillors Asack, Eaniri, Lally and Thompson voting in the negative. Councillor Monahan absent.

Councillor Cruise motioned for reconsideration with the wish that it does prevail in order to let Councillor Monahan vote on the amendment and was properly seconded. The motion carried by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nay”; eleven members present with ten voting in the affirmative. Councillor Eaniri voting in the negative.

The amendment was adopted by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”; eleven members present with six voting in the affirmative. Councillors Asack, Eaniri, Lally, Monahan and Thompson voting in the negative.

Councillor Asack questioned the CFO, if the budget doesn't pass, or what was the thinking by the Mayor and himself of not going the route of a month to month budget and give the council a little overview?

The CFO stated that first and foremost, this has been an extraordinary year, because of the pandemic, but he will say, voting on the final budget before state aide is finally known, is actually fairly common. The legislature on a fairly regular basis does not have their final budget by July 1st, so on a fairly routine basis, cities and towns throughout the commonwealth will vote their budget anticipating state aide numbers. What's different about this year, is normally, you would just go along with last year's numbers, because you always anticipate an increase. What was the challenge this year is, we may anticipate a decrease and understanding what the decrease may be. When he and the Mayor were able to work with the School Department, the Superintendent and Aldo Petronio and come to a consensus number on the education funding and have a reasonable understanding that those numbers would be solid, they were able to balance the budget with the councillors' assistance with both the snow and ice money and the school bus money. It' is much more responsible to vote on the entire budget and preserve jobs for the most part. Certainly, on the city side with minimal impact on the school side. If the Mayor did not submit the budget, then the council would have been able to submit their own budget month to month. The submission of the budget in 12 month form, is in the purview of the Mayor and he ultimately made that decision. He believes it is a good decision. It was a collaboration with the CFO, the Mayor and the School Department, bringing their years of expertise to the table, believing that this was the most financially responsible decision for the City Council and the people of Brockton.

Councillor Farwell motioned to adopt the FY2021 budget, as amended and he would like to make some brief remarks and was properly seconded.

Attorney Resnick stated that there will be six votes for six different orders on the budget. Councillor Farwell's motion would be on order number one so that everyone is clear.

Councillor Farwell on the motion stated that there have been a lot of good comments made tonight and he can understand the frustration of Councillor Cardoso and Councillor Mendes and Councillor Thompson. Operationally, it is important to pass the budget. Take the School Department. It is important fiscally to put a budget in place to give the School Department a starting point so they can start implementing whatever they need to do in the school year whenever that is going to happen. If they did not adopt the budget this evening, albeit with some trepidation, because we don't know the level of state funding, we don't know state aide, or Ch. 70 aide, if they were not to do that they would hamstring the Superintendent and staff, because he can't assume we are going to come back and give him money. There are 351 cities and towns that are in the same circumstance as

Brockton. We're not quite sure what we are going to get, we're not quite sure when we're going to get it. He doesn't believe that the Superintendent of Schools Mike Thomas, the Mayor and the CFO would have them act on something that wasn't fiscally and operationally sound. He knows Superintendent Thomas well, and he would have come before them and said you know, I wish you would wait, because I'm not quite sure what is going to happen. I really don't want you to charge ahead and pass this budget, because I'd really like some hard data. He didn't do that. He's got to have a starting point, a baseline for the next fiscal year to know where he's going this next school year. We have learned through Covid 19 and zoom meetings. This is for the public to understand. He has had a number of informal conversations discussing how they can do things better and best practices for City Council with respect to a budget. He gives full credit to Councillor Nicasastro for coming up with this. Next year they should go through the budget hearings, go through all the materials and then you allow the public to give comment. He's not going to have someone give me a book review if he hasn't given them time to read the book. He's not going to have someone give him a movie review, if they haven't seen the movie. So number one, between now and next year, and he knows it would take a collective vote to change procedure, he thinks having the budget prepared, presented to them, they go to budget hearings and then at the very end after the public has had a chance to digest all of the materials presented, let them make a comment. He thinks that is common sense and it would be a major step forward.

Council President Asack commented that they have done that in past years. When Councillor Eaniri was president, they had the hearings on the second or third night.

Councillor Farwell stated that that is excellent. The second thing in addressing the concerns of Councillors Cardoso and Mendes and Thompson, next year in May, even if they don't have the full budget document, let's have the Mayor and the Council have a public meeting and explain to the citizens what they do to put together a budget.

President Asack stated that she isn't trying to interrupt Councillor Farwell, but these were all planned and the CFO along with the new councilors at the beginning of the year had a meeting and they had a lot of hopes and plans, but then they got hit with Covid 19 and that was one of the plans, to discuss the budget beforehand, and she asked the CFO to correct her if she is wrong they discussed this at the beginning of the year. Unfortunately, Covid 19 sidetracked them from plans that they had and getting the budget book so late in the month they found themselves where they are today.

Councillor Farwell said if he could quickly finish, this is not a criticism, this is a learning experience, a teachable moment. He did not know that there had been those meetings and those discussions, otherwise he would have given full credit to Mr. Clarkson and anyone else who has been discussing this, but he thinks it is so important for the public to know that there is a whole body of information, statistical data that supports it and where the money goes. Most people don't have any idea of the budget process. They don't know what the councilors go through, they don't know the multiple layer of review, but if they stood up in public and stated this is what we do with the money, because it is all their money. It doesn't exist without the revenue coming in from the residents. If that was done in an open session and people were allowed to ask questions. They are I an age where they have to give people more information, in some cases more than they want, but that's better than not enough information. He hopes this budget is passed, but the process was not perfect, especially with Covid 19. They do need to get our department heads and the School Department a baseline with which they can work, then we lobby, we pray and if we have to, we file suit for more money. If that's what the kids need and that's what the city needs.

Council President stated that yes, those are good ideas and they were discussed, but once again, they were sidetracked. She agrees with Councillor Farwell and hopes that moving forward things can be done differently.

Councillor Cruise stated that it is imperative that we pass a budget. He has been here in the past when it came very close to not passing a budget. He asked the CFO to correct

him if he's wrong, but if there is no budget passed by Tuesday at midnight, the employees and departments will be closed by July 1. It is the law. There are no paychecks, there is no city government as off July 1st. It can be very frustrating to do the budget and every year is frustrating. Much of what he is hearing from the newer councilors is what takes years to learn, what these departments are doing. The other thing is in his opinion, in his 15 year here, they hire department heads to be department heads. We don't run for City Council to run the departments. We need to know what they're doing to approve their budgets, but when a department head is not doing their job, they need to leave, but they are not here to run the departments. They are there to work with the Mayor to make sure the right people are put in those positions, approve the money for them, tell them what the city wants them to get done and let them do their jobs. He implores the council to not vote to not have a budget at all, because the state may have to come in and take over. The city is in a shambles if that happens.

Councillor Cardoso thanked Councillor Farwell for his comments. She thinks it is very important to educate the public. That is why she feels very strongly that she cannot vote on this budget tonight. This isn't against the Mayor. She has worked very well with the Mayor on helping folks during this pandemic. He has been very responsive on all of their asks on the Health Equity Task Force that she started. They have addressed many of the inequities that exist in the city pre Covid and post Covid. We have a commitment from him to continue to help address some of the issues, so her voting against the budget is not against the Mayor. She would love for Troy to respond to Councillor Cruise, because that is not her understanding that people won't get paid on July 1st, so she has a different understanding of what happens if we don't pass this tonight, with the law that the Governor passed. If Troy could respond to that.

The Council President stated that Troy may have lost internet. Her screen is frozen.

The CFO stated that he believes that Councillor Cruise is correct. What the law tells us to do is if we don't pass a 12 month budget, we pass a month by month budget, but he thinks the point that Councillor Cruise was making is and he think he is correct is that if there is no action taken, then on July 1st, if there are no funding sources and no budget to operate then the city cannot operate. The question as to whether to submit a 12 month budget or a month to month budget is within the purview of the Mayor and he made the decision and he believes it was the correct one to submit a budget that was balanced and responsible and provides for the business of the city for the coming year.

Councillor Cardoso stated that was her understanding in the beginning, what Councillor Cruise was saying was not factual to her.

Councillor Cruise, as a point of information, stated it is factual.

Councillor Cardoso stated that it is not that business will stop, but that it will create more work for us to have a budget in place by that deadline.

The CFO stated that he would differ with what Councillor Cardoso stated, because, again, the council does not have the ability to then come back and pass an alternate budget.

Councillor Cardoso stated not us the Mayor.

The CFO stated right.

The CFO stated she is making a distinction without a difference. He would submit that what Councillor Cruise said is correct, but he will leave it at that.

Councillor Lally stated that Councillor Cruise has seen many budgets more than himself, but he knows that we are in for a world of hurt including potential loss of the control that the council does have looking to the new year without a budget. Education and communication are essential. They are vital. They are absolutely important, especially when things are going on with the budget, telling people what is happening with their

money. Every single year, he has hosted a ward meeting. Jay Condon and Aldo Petronio came and talked about the budget, the shortfalls the strong points, what we need to work on, how the budget operates. Troy Clarkson has stepped up and he has done a phenomenal job as well at the meetings. He has explained very well and brought helpful hand outs and information. These meetings should be on tv, youtube, Brockton Community Access. They are filmed. That is a start point there. It is something he intends to continue. Once everything is allowed to open, he will do so this year and have a ward meeting to discuss the budget. At some point they have to keep moving and they need to keep informing and communication, but at some point, they are going to have to pull the trigger and act. His fellow councilors can vote however they want, he respects their right to vote however they want but he wanted to add his information and remind folk at home that do have those meetings, ward 6 meetings are on cable access and are available.

Councillor Nicastro stated that she can only speak from her own understanding and from her own heart and her own experience. In her law practice, every year she makes a budget. She was never quite sure what was going to come in and how well she was going to do, but she still made a budget and she stuck to it. That's how you run a business. These are uncertain times and the financial impact of Covid 19 are made that much worse by the discontent and the unrest we are seeing nationally within our state and within our community, but she swore an oath and her oath is to the City, it is her concern and it is her client and she has to trust someone when she does these budgets. She does her due diligence She spends a lot of time on the telephone researching. Everyone does what he or she can. He has to trust someone, so she trusts the CFO, she has to trust the Mayor, who has an MBA in addition to a law degree, she has to trust Aldo Petronio and Mike Thomas, she has to trust the School Committee, whom are dedicated and do the work. She has been overwhelmed by constituent concerns that last couple weeks. The wheels come off the bus if she doesn't have city departments to fall back on and without her constituents. That won't happen if the budget is not passed by July 1st, so those are the reasons why despite all these uncertainties, she has to vote tonight for this budget. She had to take her advocacy hat off. She advocates for her constituents and she has to be loyal to them and by extension, the city and that's why she does what she does. She can only give her personal opinion and she hopes that helps everyone in their decision. Whatever the council decides they decide. She likes them all very much and she likes working with them. She hopes that helps them.

Councillor Monahan calls for a vote on order 1 and was properly seconded.

Councillor Farwell asks to speak as to information.

Councillor Rodrigues stated that a vote was called for and he and other councilors had their hands up, but once a vote is called, they cannot have any more discussion on it.

Attorney Resnick clarified with Councillor Monahan that he wanted to call for a vote on order number one. He said yes, he did.

Ordered: 1. Move that \$392,595,734 be appropriated for the general fund departmental expenditure for fiscal year ending June 30, 2021

Adopted by a roll call vote taken by "yeas" and "nays"; eleven members present with nine voting in the affirmative. Councillors Cardoso and Mendes voting in the negative.

Councillor Farwell motioned to file for reconsideration with the wish that it not prevail and was properly seconded. Reconsideration failed by a roll call vote taken by "yeas" and "nays"; eleven members present with two voting in the affirmative. Councilors Asack, Cruise, Eaniri, Farwell, Lally, Monahan, Nicastro, Rodrigues and Thompson voting in the negative.

Councillor Cruise motioned to call for a vote on order 2 and was properly seconded.

104.

Ordered: 2. Move that \$116,000 be appropriated for the Renewable Energy Enterprise Fund that \$1,823 be included in appropriations from the general fund for indirect cost and be allocated to the Renewable Energy enterprise fund for indirect costs and be allocated to the Renewable Energy Enterprise fund for funding and that \$117,823 be raised for a total of \$117,823.

Councillor Cruise stated that he thinks Councillor Cardoso and himself re not as disagreeing as he made it sound. If we don't have a budget, whether it is a complete budget or a 1/12 budget, come that night, then the next day the city closes down. His belief is that the Mayor and his financial team would not be able to prepare a 1/12 budget. It would have to be posted, because we would have to follow all the rules that we have to follow, so the fact that the Mayor came to us with this budget is what we have to work with. If he had come with a 1/12 budget or this was a week ago or so, possible Mr. Clarkson would have time, but a 1/12 budget is not just a matter of dividing up everything by 12. It still has to be printed for the public and posted 48 hrs. His belief is if they didn't vote on this tonight, there is no way we would have a 1/12 budget to act on in time for enactment for this evening. He asks the CFO if he agrees and he states that he does. Councillor cruise stated that he thinks they are talking about a little of the same thing, but at this point his belief is that we wouldn't have time for a 1/12 budget even if they were to kill this tonight.

Adopted by a roll call vote taken by "yeas" and "nays"; eleven members present with nine voting in the affirmative. Councillors Cardoso and Mendes voting in the negative.

Councillor Cruise motioned to file for reconsideration with the wish that it not prevail and was properly seconded. Reconsideration failed by a roll call vote taken by "yeas" and "nays"; eleven members present with two voting in the affirmative. Councilors Asack, Cruise, Eaniri, Farwell, Lally, Monahan, Nicastro, Rodrigues and Thompson voting in the negative.

Councillor Cruise motioned to call for a vote on order 3 and was properly seconded.

Ordered: 3. Move that \$22,047,227 b appropriated for the Water enterprise fund that \$1,842,442 be included in appropriations from the general fund for indirect costs and be allocated to the Water enterprise fund for funding and that \$23,889,669 be raised for a total of \$23,889,669.

Adopted by a roll call vote taken by "yeas" and "nays"; eleven members present with nine voting in the affirmative. Councillors Cardoso and Mendes voting in the negative.

Councillor Cruise motioned to file for reconsideration with the wish that it not prevail and was properly seconded. Reconsideration failed by a roll call vote taken by "yeas" and "nays"; eleven members present with two voting in the affirmative. Councilors Asack, Cruise, Eaniri, Farwell, Lally, Monahan, Nicastro, Rodrigues and Thompson voting in the negative.

Councillor Nicastro motioned to call for a vote on order 4 and was properly seconded.

Ordered: 4. Move that \$20,450,544 be appropriated for the Sewer enterprise fund that \$1,349,223 be included in appropriations from the general fund for indirect costs and be allocated to the Sewer Enterprise for funding and that \$21,799,767 be raised for a total of \$21,799,767.

Councillor Farwell questioned if we explained to the public that these are the Enterprise funds and this is where their fees that they pay to us so we can meet all requirements and guidelines and pay the vendors that operate the water treatment plant or the wastewater treatment plant. He just wants them to know what is going on. What is an enterprise fund and why it is so important to approve this, because these are essential to our quality of life starting July 1st. If that's been done fine, if not maybe Mr. Clarkson should at least read into the record what it is all about.

105.

The Council President and Councillor Cruise stated that Councillor Farwell just explained the public about the Enterprise fund.

Adopted by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”; eleven members present with nine voting in the affirmative. Councillors Cardoso and Mendes voting in the negative.

Councillor Cruise motioned to file for reconsideration with the wish that it not prevail and was properly seconded. Reconsideration failed by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”; eleven members present with two voting in the affirmative. Councilors Asack, Cruise, Eaniri, Farwell, Lally, Monahan, Nicastro, Rodrigues and Thompson voting in the negative.

Councillor Cruise motioned to call for a vote on order 5 and was properly seconded.

Ordered: 5. Moved that \$8,385,872 be appropriated for the Refuse enterprise fund that \$957,368 be included in appropriations from the general fund for indirect costs and be allocated to the Refuse enterprise fund for funding and that \$9,343, 240 be raised for a total of \$9,343, 240.

Adopted by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”; eleven members present with nine voting in the affirmative. Councillors Cardoso and Mendes voting in the negative.

Councillor Cruise motioned to file for reconsideration with the wish that it not prevail and was properly seconded. Reconsideration failed by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”; eleven members present with two voting in the affirmative. Councilors Asack, Cruise, Eaniri, Farwell, Lally, Monahan, Nicastro, Rodrigues and Thompson voting in the negative.

Councillor Nicastro motioned to call for a vote on order 6 and was properly seconded.

Ordered: 6. Moved that \$1,940,016 be appropriated for Parks and Recreation enterprise fund that \$438,699 be included in appropriations from the general fund for indirect costs and be allocated to the Parks and Recreation enterprise fund for funding and that \$2,378,715 be raised for a total of \$2,378,715.

Adopted by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”; eleven members present with nine voting in the affirmative. Councillors Cardoso and Mendes voting in the negative.

Councillor Cruise motioned to file for reconsideration with the wish that it not prevail and was properly seconded. Reconsideration failed by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”; eleven members present with two voting in the affirmative. Councilors Asack, Cruise, Eaniri, Farwell, Lally, Monahan, Nicastro, Rodrigues and Thompson voting in the negative.

Councillor Rodrigues motioned to adopt the FY2021 Budget, as amended and was properly seconded.

Councillor Farrwell clarified that this is for the FY2021 entire budget as amended.

Councillor Rodrigues stated that it is for the entire budget for FY2021, as amended

Adopted, as amended, by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”; eleven members present with nine voting in the affirmative. Councillors Cardoso and Mendes voting in the negative.

Councillor Cruise motioned to file for reconsideration with the wish that it not prevail and was properly seconded. Reconsideration failed by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”; eleven members present with two voting in the affirmative. Councilors Asack, Cruise, Eaniri, Farwell, Lally, Monahan, Nicastro, Rodrigues and Thompson voting in the negative.

Councillor Cruise motioned to file for reconsideration with the wish that it not prevail and was properly seconded. Reconsideration on the entire budget a amended, failed by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”; eleven members present with two voting in the affirmative. Councilors Asack, Cruise, Eaniri, Farwell, Lally, Monahan, Nicastro, Rodrigues and Thompson voting in the negative.

Councillor Cruise stated that this has been the toughest conditions in his 15 years to operate under to get information, to work together. He can't say how proud he is of the president and the entire council on how well they have done. It was really really tough. The public will never understand how tough this was and hopefully we will be back in the chambers soon and the only thing he said jokingly that will miss is having a mute button for Councillor Monahan. He thanked all the councilors and thinks they did a phenomenal job.

Councillor Cardoso thanked everyone and stated that 2020 has definitely been a learning year. We've learned a lot about what we have done right, done wrong and what we can do better. She is hoping to continue to learn and grow. She appreciates all of the members of this council and she is hoping to be able to gather o be able to make good decisions, but it is not her budget, it is not thee council's budget. It is the peoples' budget, and she echoes her sister Julia Mejia in Boston's sentiment. She wants to be able to do a good job for the people, because that is why she was elected. She thanked everyone.

Councillor Lally said that the people at home will never know what it took to do the job. He thanked everyone that helped with the process, Troy, Shannon, the Mayor, the council. He gave the President of the Council a special shout out for everything that he had to deal with. He thinks everyone is relieved it is over. He can't wait until they meet in person again and jokes, so that no one can get away with wearing sweat pants.

Councillor Farwell thanks the chair and the council. He stated that you learn a lot from listening to everyone. However large an organization may be, there is only 11 of them., butt you get to understand different things you might not have thought about, you get to look at issues differently that you might have. H wants to leave tonight with reminding people whether they agree whether they like the spending plan, again we don't get to move it around they can just approve it or not approve it. They are very blessed in the city. They do not have the issues that have arisen in other cities around the country and we will make sure that we don't, we have an award winning school system, which has done so much year to year and let's not lose sight of that. We have some top notch people that run the library, that run the parks and the cemetery, run the police department, run the fire department. This budget, at least for him, reflects his support for what they do every day, men and women in public safety, teachers who take kids in September and bring them through June and prepare them for the next grade. He is speaking as a resident and he has no problem with people keeping an eye on us, getting a petition with 1,000 names, people watching the budget process. We will do better and we will educate the public as we take our responsibilities seriously. He thanks the public for getting involved. It will make them better councilors. He thinks they have done the best for the residents and the entire city. He thanked the Mayor and his staff and Mr. Clarkson and his staff, the Auditor, all of the people that contributed to the work done for the city. You are appreciated by the Farwell family and by him as a councilor.

The Council President thanked the councilors for all their hard work. It's not easy being an elected official. She respects all of the councilors and all of their hard work. She thanked Attorney Resnick and the CFO and the Mayor for putting this together, and of course, Mel for putting the meetings together. She asked Attorney Resnick to forward the cut documents to the Auditor, so he can put them through.

Attorney Resnick stated that she has one on her cellphone, but she will try to send it.

The Council President stated that the fireworks are already going off and the dogs are barking.

107.

Councillor Cruise made a motion to adjourn and was properly seconded. The motion carried by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”; ten members present with all voting in the affirmative. Councillor Monahan absent.

Adjourned 9:07pm

All other Council related matters