

***City Council meetings are held in accordance with Covid-19 State guidelines**

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Standing Committee on Finance met on *Monday, September 21st, 2020 at 7:00 PM* in the *Council Chambers, Brockton City Hall, 45 School Street*, with Councilor Asack presiding, 10 members; Councilor Monahan absent, to consider the following:

*Council President Asack calls for a moment of silence for Ruth Bader Ginsberg as she passed away this past week.

1. Appointment of Paul Studenski of 48 Carlisle St. Brockton, MA 02302 from an alternate to a full member of the Licensing Commission for a three-year term, ending February 2023.

Invited: Honorable Mayor Robert Sullivan or designee
Paul F. Studenski

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Cruise to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Lally. Motion carried by a hand vote.

2. Appointment of Retired Police Officer Charles Cassiani Jr as a Special Police Officer.

Invited: Honorable Mayor Robert Sullivan or designee
Charles Cassiani Jr.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Cruise to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Lally. Motion carried by a hand vote.

3. Appointment of Hank Tartaglia of 33 Brook St. Brockton, MA 02301 to the Licensing Commission for a three-year term, ending September 2023.

Invited: Honorable Mayor Robert Sullivan or designee
Hank Tartaglia, License Commission

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Lally to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Thompson. Motion carried by a hand vote.

4. Reappointment of David Santos as a Weights and Measures agent in the City of Brockton for a one-year term, ending September 2021.

Invited: Honorable Mayor Robert Sullivan or designee
David Santos

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Cruise to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Lally. Motion carried by a hand vote.

5. Order: Appropriation of \$2,625
From: Last Call Foundation COVID-19 Decontamination Grant
To: Fire Department – Last Call Foundation COVID-19 Decontamination grant.
Invited: Honorable Mayor Robert Sullivan or designee
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
Michael Williams, Chief of Fire

*Council President Asack states Chief Williams is unable to be present tonight;
Deputy Chief Solomon is present as he secured this grant.
*Troy Clarkson states this is a non-profit organization.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Farwell to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Lally. Motion carried by a hand vote.

6. Order: Appropriation of \$74,624
From Plymouth County US Department of Justice – FY19 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Award
To Police Department – FY19 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Award.
Invited: Honorable Mayor Robert Sullivan or designee
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
Emanuel Gomes, Chief of Police

*Troy Clarkson states this is a grant the city receives on a regular basis.
*Councilor Cardoso states this grant is used more for tasers and non-lethal weapons than there is allocated to trauma certified social workers. Would like to see more toward trauma certified social workers.
*Councilor Nicastro states this is a wonderful grant.
*Councilor Thompson asks Chief Gomes what is the current amount of tasers we have and how many more do we need to achieve this goal? Chief Gomes states we have less than 20 tasers, these tasers are coming to the end of their shelf life; they have a 5-year shelf life. We will need to take them offline. Through this grant we are able to have more. Councilor Thompson asks if each officer has their own taser? Chief Gomes states there are a bank of them and they are not assigned. We are trying to raise the number of tasers without cost to the city; utilizing these grants. Councilor Thompson asks how often the officers receive training on the tasers? Chief Gomes states the officers have to be certified yearly.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Cruise to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Thompson. Motion carried by a hand vote.

7. Order: Appropriation of \$535,153
From: Executive Office of Public Safety and Security/ State 911 Department-FY2021 Public Safety Answering Point and Regional Emergency Communication Center Support and Incentive Grants
To: Police Department- FY2021 Public Safety Answering Point and Regional Emergency Communications Center Support and Incentive grant fund.
Invited: Honorable Mayor Robert Sullivan or designee
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
Emanuel Gomes, Chief of Police

*Troy Clarkson states this is an annual grant to help defray costs; both personnel costs and at times capital costs for the operation of our 911 system.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Farwell to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Lally. Motion carried by a hand vote.

*Councilor Nicastro makes a motion to take Item # 14 out of order, 2nd by Councilor Eaniri. Motion carried by a hand vote.

14. Resolve: The Mayor, the Chief of Police, and the appropriate member of the Law Department be invited to a committee of the City Council to discuss the lawful options and strategies to address the continuing problem and the complaints from residents.

Invited: Honorable Mayor Robert Sullivan or designee
Emanuel Gomes, Chief of Police
Megan Bridges, City Solicitor

*Mayor Sullivan states the curfew is still in effect; the 3 playgrounds that have been problems close daily at 4 PM.

*Chief Gomes states that the house parties have dissipated a little bit. A couple of weeks ago we have had as many as 20 house parties on the board to deal with. If they are at a commercial location, we tend to act swifter than at a house party. Officers are checking on the bars making sure they are in line with regulations. There are 8 residents that are due in court for complaints of house parties.

*Councilor Farwell speaks about a training bulletin or document for officers about the law and some support in regards to what they can do. Chief Gomes states he is proud of his officers. He will never say no to training; case law training, 911, medical, CPR, etc. Councilor Farwell commends the officers during a high-speed chase recently in the city as he heard it on the radio; very professional.

*Councilor Lally asks Chief Gomes if we currently have enough police officers. Chief Gomes stated they have recently selected 15 new officers that will be up and running by spring early summer. Councilor Lally asked for information on what the residents constitutional rights are when dealing with neighbors and the loud parties. Chief Gomes stated police can not enter a loud dwelling just for a loud music or noise. Officers can enter with consent, a search warrant, or under exigent circumstances. If a business it is not the same as a private dwelling.

*Chief Gomes stated that if the city occurs any damage or cleanup as part of these disturbances they are going to try to recoup these costs.

*Councilor Cruise asks if police tow cars at these parties. Stating that if we do it, it may deter them from going to these parties.

*Councilor Cardoso asks how the curfew is being enforced with the licensed establishments and how long will it last?

Mayor Sullivan states that it will last as long as it needs to be. Those that are not abiding, shame on them; have the police looking into the establishments. Councilor Cardoso asks how are these establishments being looked into? Chief Gomes states that some officers are license agents as well; can't go into a lot of detail. We have some establishments who we are already watching with investigations on going.

*Councilor Nicastro asks if mini bikes or ATVs have to be licensed. Chief Gomes states no, they do meet the criteria of a legal street vehicle. They are not to be on the street. Councilor Nicastro asks if higher fines would deter these parties? Chief Gomes states people are already being charged criminally. They will have a criminal record as well as a court fine.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Cruise to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Eaniri. Motion carried by a hand vote.

8. Ordered: That the City of Brockton appropriate the amount of two million, nine hundred thirty-four thousand, three hundred seventy-six dollars (\$2,934,376) for the purpose of paying costs of the roof replacement project at the Huntington Alternative School, 1121 Warren Ave, Brockton, Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Brockton may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of Brockton Public Schools. To meet this appropriation the City Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The City of Brockton acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the City of Brockton incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Brockton; provided further that any grant that the City of Brockton may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of seventy nine and fifty-eight hundredths percent (79.58%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Brockton and the MSBA. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay

such costs by a like amount. Further Ordered: That the City Treasurer is authorized to file an application with The Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Municipal Finance Oversight Board to qualify under M.G.L. c. 44A any and all bonds or notes of the City authorized by this vote, and to provide such information and execute such documents as the Municipal Finance Oversight Board of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts may require. **The CFO, in accordance with Section 5 of Chapter 324 of the Acts of 1990, certifies the proposed appropriation of and borrowing authorization for \$2,934,376, for the purpose of roof repairs at the Huntington Alternative School without a detrimental impact on the continuous provision of the existing level of municipal services. This is a conditional certification based upon developing a clear plan for long-term debt management.**

Invited: Honorable Mayor Robert Sullivan or designee

Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

Michael Thomas, Superintendent, Brockton Public Schools

Aldo Petronio, Chief Financial Officer, Brockton Public Schools

*Councilor Eaniri motions to amend the order to state: MSBA Repair of the roof- for the Huntington Alternative School in the amount of \$2,934,376 to be \$2,942,058 because of a scrivener's error, 2nd by Councilor Thompson. Motion carried by a hand vote.

*Troy Clarkson states after this order was filed the MSBA provided an updated number to the School's CFO that he then conveyed to the Mayor and myself.

*Megan Bridges states that the action being taken is appropriate in this circumstance. This was an incorrect filing that we are trying to amend.

*Dr. Cobbs speaks before the council about the conditions at the Huntington School. He states in the attic there are little kids swimming pools collecting the water coming in through the roof. Damage to the ceilings. The water coming in will come down into the classrooms. Eventually the building will need to be shut down.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Lally to report FAVORABLE as AMENDED, 2nd by Councilor Farwell. Motion carried by a hand vote.

9. Order: That the City of Brockton hereby accepts a Recoverable Grant in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$150,000) Dollars through Mass Development's Site Readiness Grant Funds to be used to improve site readiness on property located in the vicinity of the Good Samaritan Medical Center, 824 Oak Street, Brockton MA (the "Site"), for the potential development of a new Life Science Center.

Invited: Honorable Mayor Robert Sullivan or designee

Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

Robert May, Director of Planning and Economic Development

*Rob May speaks about grant and the area of the potential location.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Cruise to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Lally. Motion carried by a hand vote.

10. Ordered: That the City of Brockton opt into the PACE Massachusetts program. The PACE program is an economic development tool for cities and towns across the Commonwealth that focuses on financing energy improvements in commercial buildings.

Invited: Honorable Mayor Robert Sullivan or designee
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
Robert May, Director of Planning and Economic Development

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Cruise to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Lally. Motion carried by a hand vote.

11. Order: That pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 4, the City Council authorizes the Mayor to execute an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Whitman for treatment of wastewater.

Invited: Honorable Mayor Robert Sullivan or designee
Lawrence Rowley, Commissioner of D.P.W.
Megan Bridges, City Solicitor

*Mayor Sullivan states this is not a new IMA, it is a renewal.

* Councilor Cruise asks if we raise a sewer increase does that transfer to Whitman? Commissioner Rowley states this is all by the flow. Troy states the way the flows are calculated the overall funds from this agreement will increase.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Cruise to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Eaniri. Motion carried by a hand vote.

12. Ordered: That the naming of Brookfield Drive also be known as Zuckerman Way in dedication of Rae Zuckerman.

Invited: Bobby Zuckerman

*Bobby Zuckerman spoke of the wonderful works of his Mom, Rae Zuckerman.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Lally to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Cruise. Motion carried by a hand vote.

13. Resolve: Whereas, The City is currently evaluating plans for new public safety facilities, including a potential, combined fire, police, and emergency management facility at a location to be determined. Now, therefore, be it resolved. The Mayor, Chief Financial Officer, and such other individuals as the Mayor may determine to be appropriate, be invited to a Finance Committee meeting on September 21, 2020, in order to provide information to the City Council on the current progress of the public safety facilities project.

Invited: Honorable Mayor Robert Sullivan or designee
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
Robert May, Director of Planning and Economic Development

- *Mayor Sullivan speaks of the need for a new Public Safety Facility.
- *Troy Clarkson presents and overview of the city's debt.
- *Mayor Sullivan speaks about the Shaw's Center; being able to utilize the building for Flu and Covid-19 testing. Once it is approved by DPH.
- *Joe Sullivan from CHA and Todd Costa from KBA speak about the project.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Cruise to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Lally. Motion carried by a hand vote.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 PM