

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Standing Committee on Finance met on *Monday, October 5th, 2020 at 7:00 PM* in the *Council Chambers, Brockton City Hall, 45 School Street*, with Councilor Asack presiding and all Councilors present to consider the following:

1. Ordered: Appropriation of \$75,000
From: Department of Public Health's Bureau of Substance Addiction Services- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMSHA), Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC),
To: Mayor's Office-Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC) fund.
Invited: Honorable Mayor Robert Sullivan
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
Koren Capiello, Director of Social Services

*Councilor Cardoso asks why the purchase of service is empty, nothing on the budget sheet? Koren explained she gets those immediately to them and would like to explain now. Both grants were slated to end on June, because of Covid the state extended both grants through this June. Both of these grants we subcontract with Highpoint; 97% goes to Highpoint, 3% goes to a fiscal manager. These are not for treatment; trainings, campaigns, work in schools. Councilor Cardoso asks if they collaborate with any grass root organizations. There are a lot of grass root organizations in the city with zero grants. Koren stated that they could collaborate with those groups as well.

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

2. Ordered: Appropriation of \$75,000
From: Department of Public Health's Bureau of Substance Addiction Services- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMSHA),
To: Mayor's Office-Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA) fund.
Invited: Honorable Mayor Robert Sullivan
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
Koren Capiello, Director of Social Services

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

3. Ordered: Appropriation of \$50,000
From: Executive Office of Health and Human Services/Department of Mental Health-
FY21 Massachusetts Jail Diversion Program Grant
To: Police Department-FY21 Massachusetts Jail Diversion Program Grant fund.
Invited: Honorable Mayor Robert Sullivan
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
Emanuel Gomes, Chief of Police

*Mayor Sullivan states this is a yearly grant.

*Councilor Cardoso asks about the training involved in this grant. The jail diversion training is done in house. Councilor Cardoso asks if we are doing anything to increase the amount of social services that the police have access to? Chief Gomes states licensed councilors go out in the field with police officers dealing with drug abuse or homelessness that may not be police related is part of the diversion program.

*Councilor Rodrigues asks how the funding compares to similar communities? Chief Gomes states we have our own grant department, we apply for everything that is out there.

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

4. Ordered: Transfer of \$2,069,670.20
From: Planning Department-40Q for \$38,224.08
Planning Department-Consultants for \$2,677.50
Planning Department-Other Const. Services for \$59,000
Police Department-Vehicles for \$145,584
Police Department- Department Equip. for \$32,500
Police Department-Capital projects for \$450,000
Animal Control-Other Cont. Serv. For \$14,764.36
DPW Water-Consultants for \$114,473.49
DPW Water-Street Repairs for \$441,846.00
DPW-EPA/DEP Mandate (Safe Water) for \$158,476.73
DPW Sewer-Capital Projects for \$159,472
DPW Highway-Paving for \$299,075.63
DPW Highway-Capital projects for \$153,576.41
To: Capital Fund for \$2,069,670.20.
Invited: Honorable Mayor Robert Sullivan
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
Emanuel Gomes, Chief of Police
Lawrence Rowley, Commissioner of D.P.W.
Robert May, Director of Planning and Economic Development
Thomas DeChellis, Director of Animal Control

*Mayor Sullivan states this is a reclassification so the funds do not go into free cash.

*Councilor Cruise asks if we have a capital fund or have we had one in the past? Troy Clarkson states that all of the money has been appropriated, we are just reclassifying the money so it doesn't go to free cash.

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

5. Ordered: In compliance with the provisions of the Election Laws, notice is hereby given that the State Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 in various polling places.

Invited: Cynthia Scrivani, Executive Director, Elections

*Councilor Thompson asks where the mail ballots are kept once mailed in? Cindy states they are kept in a safe in her office and she is the only one with the key to her office.

*Councilor Thompson asks if they are opened prior to election day? Cindy states they come in a brown envelope which comes in a white envelope, we open the white envelope and time stamp the brown envelope and make sure it is signed, close it back up and put into VRIS that we have received it attach the application to it and put it in the safe.

*Councilor Thompson asks where the ballots go on election day. Cindy states that on election day the police officer comes in the morning we put all the ballots we receive into a bag and then they are taken to the polling location. Then the warden opens them up and they read the name and feed it through the machine.

*Councilor Thompson asks who is there during the counting of the ballots. Cindy states at the end of the night all the poll workers are there, any members of the public can be there as well as the canvases.

*Councilor Rodrigues asks if they are in need of poll workers? Yes, still excepting applications. Councilor Rodrigues asks if she is prioritizing multi lingual applications. Cindy states, yes always. Anytime anyone applies, I pull the multi lingual first.

*Councilor Farwell states anyone can bring an interrupter with them.

*Councilor Cardoso asks about the training and what they are being paid. Cindy states she holds training sessions once for every election cycle. I stress the patience and being nice to either the poll workers as well as the voters.

*Cindy states two of the polling locations have been changed for this election; the Douglas House Ward 2A and Conemera Senior Living 4A. The Conemera House voters will now go to the Gilmore School and the Douglas House voters will go to the Barrett Russell School.

*Mayor Sullivan states that the clerks at the polls make \$150/day and the Warden make \$200/day. It is an ordinance so it will need to go through the amendment process if any Councilors wanted to support that. In person voting at the Westgate Mall will be for 2 weeks in November.

*President Asack asks Cindy how the residents are being notified about the changes to their polling places. Cindy states letters are going to go out for every registered voter in 2A and 4A as well as on the website. The early voting will be November 17th – 30th.

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

6. Resolved as follows: That the City of Brockton should consider amending the current curfew and allow Brockton's restaurants to operate later daily or in the alternative to operate later Thursday's, Friday's, and Saturday's.

Invited: Honorable Mayor Robert Sullivan

Dr. Richard Herman, City's Medical Consultant

Chris Cooney, President of Metro South Chamber of Commerce

Hamilton Rodrigues, Restaurant Business Owner

*President Asack states that Chris Cooney contacted her and is unable to make it tonight.

*Councilor Mendes makes a statement.

*Mayor Sullivan strongly disagrees with the statement.

*Councilor Farwell states as a point of information that this is not part of the resolve, but since it is now out there, that he requests that the Council President work with the Mayor and obtain statements from the witnesses that were there to understand what went on.

*Dr. Herman presents a power point presentation on the current Covid-19 status in Brockton.

*Councilor Cardoso asks Dr. Herman to explain the rationale of the curfew. Dr. Herman states the curfew seems to work. He asks why would you want to pursue an activity that is going to spread the virus? When you have an alternative to not do that? No one is closing down restaurants at 11PM they are closing everything at 11PM. Which initially was in response to social gathering. Councilor Cardoso states that people are still not going home; when they leave the restaurant, they are going to each other's homes and congregating. How we stop the spread is through education. Not by having business owners pay the price for people who are being irresponsible. Once they leave they can't control where they go. Education is key, understanding the community is key, chipping away at the stigma, holding workplaces accountable; enforcing those guidelines that Massachusetts has put in place. Workers are still going to work sick and the employers are allowing it. Those to me are the big pictures. Not shutting down a restaurant at 11PM.

*Hamilton Rodrigues speaks about how the restaurant businesses are struggling during the pandemic. Would like to come to a compromise. Would like to see the curfew lifted or leeway on Thursday, Friday and Saturday's and to be able to have live music with a vocalist.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Farwell to report to POSTPONE until the October 19th Finance Committee Meeting, 2nd by Councilor Eaniri. Motion carried by a hand vote.

7. Resolve: That the Mayor and a representative of the Law Department be invited to a committee of the City Council to discuss potential funding of a consultant to work with the City Clerk, Legislative Counsel to the City Council, and the Law Department, to update and modernize the city ordinances.

Invited: Honorable Mayor Robert Sullivan
Megan Bridges, City Solicitor
Anthony Zeoli, City Clerk

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

8. Resolved: Whereas Elected and appointed officials will periodically hold professional development sessions to discuss, evaluate and define roles and responsibilities, goals, objectives, and to establish best practices for the orderly function of the organization to which they belong. Resolved: The City Council shall hold a professional development session on Saturday, October 24, 2020, at a time and location to be determined by the City Clerk. The Clerk shall ensure the session is duly posted in compliance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law. The Clerk shall develop an agenda in consultation with councilors who may offer recommendations for the topics to be discussed.

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

AMENDMENT- To have City Council President and sponsoring councilor work together on finding a common date and forum inclusive to all councilors.

Meeting adjourned @ 10:33 PM