

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Standing Committee on Finance met on *Monday, March 15th, 2021 at 7:00 PM, Via Zoom*, with Councilor Farwell presiding, 11 members present, to consider the following:

*Councilor Monahan speaks of the passing of Marvin Hagler and asks for a moment of silence.

1. Of James Sweeney of 33 Montrose St. Brockton, MA 02301 to the Planning Board for a five (5) year term ending March 2026.

Invited: Mayor Robert Sullivan
James Sweeney

* Mr. Sweeney speaks of his accomplishments and would be looking forward to serving in this position.

*Councilor Nicastro states that the Planning Board deals in matters that real estate brokers get involved in; being on the board you would not be able to be involved in those projects.

*Mr. Sweeney states he understands and that he would remove himself from those dealings.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Asack to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Monahan. Motion carried by a roll call vote, 11 in the affirmative.

2. Of Laura Biechler of 37 Fern Ave. Brockton, MA 02301 to the Conservation Commission for a three (3) year term ending March 2024.

Invited: Mayor Robert Sullivan
Laura Biechler

*Ms. Biechler makes her statement and is looking forward to serving the city.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Asack to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Nicastro. Motion carried by a roll call vote, 11 in the affirmative.

3. Ordered: That the request made by the Mayor on behalf of the DPW Commissioner Larry Rowley that there be a hearing on the Executive Summary for the Integrated Water Infrastructure Vulnerability Assessment and Economic Development Plan for Climate Resiliency for the City of Brockton by Fuss & O'Neil to address questions and concerns by the City Council pertaining to the report.

Invited: Mayor Robert Sullivan
Lawrence Rowley, Commissioner of D.P.W.
Chike Odunukwe, City Engineer

* Mr. Rowley speaks of a grant received in 2019 to develop a study to understand the flood risks in the city. Will be beneficial to the city, could lead to construction that will solve a lot of that flooding. When Fuss & O'Neil comes in to do a presentation we will learn a lot more of this.

* Mr. Odunukwe speaks of the project and that the more people that attend the presentation will be financially beneficial to the city.

*Councilor Thompson asks if there are any EPA or DEP grants or subsidies that would help offset the cost?

* Mr. Odunukwe states yes.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Asack to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Nicastro. Motion carried by a roll call vote, 11 in the affirmative.

4. Resolve: That the Mayor and the Chief Finance Officer of the City, come before the Finance Committee to discuss the status of establishing a fund and allocation of said fund relative to the marijuana impact tax fees and to further discuss any taxes which have already been received from the marijuana impact tax fees and how those funds have been spent in the City. Be it further Resolved that the City Council recommend to the Mayor that the City of Brockton create a fund for the marijuana impact tax fees to create a Recreation and Innovation Center that substantially supports the youth (over 17,000 children) of the City Brockton.

Invited: Mayor Robert Sullivan

Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

Megan Bridges, City Solicitor

Shannon Resnick, Legislative Counsel

* Councilor Cardoso states this is to address the taxes that have been collected, how much has been spent and if there is a possibility for establishing a fund with these impact fees. To Mr. Clarkson- how much did we receive in FY20 & 2021, forecasting, and how can we establish a separate fund for these fees that we collect.

* Mr. Clarkson states in FY2020 city received just over \$586,000 in direct payments from marijuana vendors. Thus far to date the city has received about \$296,000 from licensed vendors. In addition, those vendors pay money to the state and a portion of that comes back like the meals tax does. In additional funding in FY20 the city revived back approximately \$94,000 and thus far this year approximately \$253,000. It is possible to set up a fund. Forecasting for this year and last year, not knowing the status, we did not count the marijuana revenues as part of the revenue projections.

*Councilor Cardoso asks the Mayor if he would consider using the funds to support more youth programs.

* Mayor Sullivan states absolutely.

* Councilor Rodrigues states he thought a guideline was set up for this account, not sure why it has not been set up yet?

* Mr. Clarkson states the next legislative step is to set up this fund.

* Councilor Rodrigues asks why does it take a year and a half to set up?

* Council President Farwell asks if any objection on letting legislative counsel Shannon Resnick jumping in as she has some information on the matter.

* Attorney Resnick states that in preparation for this meeting she went back to the finance committee meeting minutes; there were (2) separate orders that were presented to the council late fall 2019. One was an order to establish this special stabilization fund,

the second was a percentage designation. In November of 2019, there was interest to table these items, they were tabled by the Council.

* Councilor Eaniri states we should wait for other businesses to come into play. We have one business alone, In Good Health, bringing in Medical and Retail.

* Councilor Lally states he agrees with Councilor Eaniri. No problem with earmarking a certain amount of money for youth, but would not support reserving all of the money for these programs. Pot money for pot holes, would like to see money to improve the roads.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Cruise to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Cardoso. Motion carried by a roll call vote, 10 in the affirmative.

5. Resolved, that the Mayor come before the Finance Committee to discuss establishing a Committee on Cannabis Industry in the City of Brockton, comprised of residents and City Councilors, to ensure that Social Equity (SE) and Economic Empowerment (EE) applicants have access to participate as license owners in Marijuana operations in the City. Be it further Resolved, that City Council recommend the establishment of this committee by the Mayor.

Invited: Mayor Robert Sullivan

Megan Bridges, City Solicitor

Shannon Resnick, Legislative Counsel

* Councilor Cardoso states she would like to ask the Mayor and the committee to consider a sub-committee, staffed with members who are knowledgeable. To be prepared this time to address equity around the application process.

* Mayor Sullivan would support this. Would need to figure out the membership the total number, professional qualifications, skill sets.

* Councilor Cardoso asks Attorney Bridges if she knows how these committees are set up and how and when we should set this up.

* Attorney Bridges states an advisory committee advises the Mayor. There is no legal format to be followed. The authority over the HCA still lies within the executive. The advisory group presents a powerful tool to provide insight to the Mayor's office. Happy to work on any legal concerns.

* Councilor Rodrigues feels it may be a year and a half too late as far as this committee.

* Council President Farwell asks Attorney Resnick if we had an advisory committee and a marijuana application was filed with the clerk, the clerk would process it and put it on the next agenda. Would we have to call a time out and schedule a meeting with the advisory committee and go through a review their application and then place it on the Council agenda?

* Attorney Resnick states that would not be required for their approval for their license. They would not need to be vetted by the advisory committee.

* Council President Farwell asks what authority would the committee have?

* Attorney Resnick states under the ordinances you don't have anything, have to amend the ordinance saying they'd have to be reviewed by the advisory committee.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Cardoso to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Cruise. Motion carried by a roll call vote, 6 in the affirmative.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM