

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Standing Committee on Finance met on *Monday, April 5th, 2021 at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, Brockton City Hall, 45 School Street*, with Councilor Farwell presiding, 10 members present, to consider the following:

“Special Councilor Recognition- William Santos, IT and James Plouffe, Building Commissioner to provide overview of potential Audio and Video Enhancements to Council Chamber”

* Mr. Plouffe speaks of improvements to allow us to stream the live feed and YouTube to combine the two together in a computer in the BCA box. All of the sound from all the microphones and put into the system. Also having individual monitors for each councilor at their seat. Also, for the gallery, providing monitors to view. This is all in the works.

*Mr. Santos states a hybrid meeting all in one. To integrate the systems.

* Council President Farwell speaks of an elongated table near the podium with wireless mics for speakers making presentations.

* Mr. Plouffe speaks of new blinds to help with the sunlight that comes in the windows. Not covered by Covid funds.

* Councilor Nicasro speaks of the difficulties with the budget hearings last year. Supports this.

* Council President Farwell states that Councilor Monahan is on the call. Also states that the target date for this is before budget hearings.

1. Of Manuel Centeio of 29 Kenneth Ave., Brockton, to the Brockton Community Cable Television Board for a three (3) year term ending March 2024.

Invited: Manuel Centeio

*Councilor Asack asks Mr. Centeio if he is currently on the board? He states yes, that it is a reappointment.

* Councilor Nicasro asks Mr. Centeio how many years he has served on the board. He stated 7 years. Also asks what the plans for BCA are?

* Mr. Centeio states that the young kids are doing a great job. Will be getting a new general manager. Upgrades were done, building is cleaner.

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

2. Of John McGarry of 68 Cambo St., Brockton to the License Commission as an alternate for a three (3) year term ending March 2024.

Invited: John McGarry

*Mr. McGarry speaks of Brockton being a great city and keeping it going in the right direction.

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

3. Ordered: Acceptance and expenditure of donated funds from the Cape Verdean Association to be used towards the purchase of a new K-9 and equipment as needed for the Brockton Police Department in the amount of \$1,000.

Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
Emanuel Gomes, Chief of Police
Representative from Cape Verdean Association

* Councilor Rodrigues would like to thank the Chief of Police. Sends a message that the community looks favorably at the work the Police department does for the community. Also, would like to thank him and Officer DeAndrade who helped with the women's lunch. She did a wonderful job.

* Councilor Nicasro asks Chief Gomes what a K-9 trained dog cost?

* Chief Gomes states they come in different levels of training, certifications and abilities. The dogs that we have had and invest most in are tracking dogs. Used in missing children and Alzheimer's patients. Training ranges from \$7,000- \$20,000.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Asack to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Rodrigues. Motion carried by a roll call vote, 9 in the affirmative.

4. Ordered: Acceptance and expenditure of a donation in the amount of \$50,000.00

From: an Anonymous Donor
To: the City of Brockton Police Department.
Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
Emanuel Gomes, Chief of Police

* Councilor Cardoso asks why we are receiving such a large donation from an anonymous donor?

* Chief Gomes states just because it is anonymous doesn't mean we don't know who it is. This particular family runs a foundation, big supporters of K-9. All of these donations go specifically to the K-9 unit. The reason they keep their name out is because they don't want to be approached by everyone for a donation.

* Councilor Asack would like to thank the donor. Councilor Thompson thanks them as well.

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

5. Ordered: Acceptance and expenditure of the total grant award in the amount of \$5,000.00

From: the National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) Community Awareness Project (CAP) Subgrant Award
To: the City of Brockton Police Department-National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) Community Awareness Project (CAP) Subgrant Award Fund.
Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
Emanuel Gomes, Chief of Police
Michelle St. James, Brockton Police Department Grant Specialist

* Michelle St. James speaks of the grant. Virtual platform due to Covid, videos on Facebook. Giving out shopping bags with brochures about Victim assistance programs. Brochures have other resources listed on them.

* Councilor Cardoso asks if they are in different languages? Also, will there be anyone who is bi-lingual.

* Michelle St. James states these are being worked on.

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

6. Ordered: Acceptance and expenditure of the total grant award in the amount of \$9,240.00

From: the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS)-FY2021 First Responders Naloxone Grant
To: the City of Brockton Police Department-FY2021 First Responders Naloxone Grant Fund.

Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

Emanuel Gomes, Chief of Police

Michelle St. James, Brockton Police Department Grant Specialist

* Councilor Nicastro asks how many doses does this purchase?

* Michelle St. James states it will purchase about 300 doses for Fire, Police already purchased theirs for the year. Will also purchase gloves for both Fire and Police.

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

7. Ordered: Acceptance and expenditure of the total grant award in the amount of \$1,300

From: the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Health-2021 Massachusetts Unwanted Opioid & Benzodiazepine Product Stewardship Program
To: the City of Brockton Police Department-2021 Massachusetts Unwanted Opioid & Benzodiazepine Product Stewardship Program Grant Fund.

Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

Emanuel Gomes, Chief of Police

Michelle St. James, Brockton Police Department Grant Specialist

* Councilor Nicastro asks how many trips this would take.

* Michelle St. James states many trips.

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

8. Ordered: Transfer of \$492,000
From Stabilization Fund
To Fire Department-Capital for \$200,000, Information Technology Center –Capital for \$136,000, Planning & Economic Development–Capital for \$120,000 and Weights and Measures–Capital for \$36,000
Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
Michael Williams, Chief of Fire
William Santos, Acting Director of Information Technology
Robert May, Director of Planning and Economic Development
Kevin Croker, Weights & Measures

* Troy Clarkson speaks to the departments in this order. Starting with Fire. Speaks of repairs needed to Station # 1. Information Technology would be to digitize the Board of Health, as well as printers. Planning and Economic Development- High-speed broadband project. Weights and Measures- New vehicle.

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

9. Ordered: Transfer of \$11,389,487.00
From: The Stabilization Fund, to various departments, such as Animal Control, Auditing, Finance Department, Human Resources, Law Department, Library, Mayor’s Office, Parks & Recreation, Public Property, Schools and Treasurer Collector.
Invited: Mayor Robert Sullivan
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
Thomas DeChellis, Supervisor, Animal Control
AnnMarie Raymond, Interim City Auditor
Sandra Knight, Director of Human Resources
Megan Bridges, City Solicitor
Paul Engle, Library Director
Timothy Carpenter, Superintendent of Parks
James Plouffe, Building Commissioner
Aldo Petronio, Chief Financial Officer Brockton Public Schools
Martin Brophy, Treasurer/ Collector

* Mayor Sullivan speaks of the order. Mayor’s office- youth commission and to streamline processes, as well as consulting. Troy Clarkson speaks to the departments: Animal control- hire an administrative assistant as well as radios for the employees. Auditing department- hire payroll clerks. Finance department- to fill the open Jr. Analyst position. Human Resources- Advertising for open positions. Law department- Workers compensation, on-going claims and costs. Library- Certification level funding, periodical materials. Parks & Recreation- pools. Public Property- Overtime costs. Schools- Chapter 70. Treasurer/ Collector- full time salaries (prorated) and Medicare tax.

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

10. Ordered: Pursuant to Provisions of General laws, Chapter 43, Section 59A as appears below, an election shall be held to fill said vacancy of the position of Ward One Councilor.

Invited: Cynthia Scrivani, Executive Director of Elections
Shannon Resnick, Legislative Counsel

* Attorney Resnick speaks on the order. Proposal for a Home Rule Petition will be read at the next City Council meeting. If approved by the Council it then goes to the state legislature for approval.

* Councilor Mendes would like to hear from Cynthia Scrivani in regards to what an election would entail.

* Ms. Scrivani states because of the ordinances you would need two elections; preliminary if there were more than two people and then the general special election. Each election would cost roughly about \$15,250.00. Not counting postage. Would need two months to get it all up and running.

* Councilor Asack states that whomever is elected would only be attending 2 meetings a month, during summer sessions.

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

11. Resolve: That the City Council, in conjunction with its Legislative Counsel, establish an Ad Hoc committee to discuss and make recommendations for considerations by the City Council for amendments to the City Council for amendments to the City ordinances and/or City Charter relative to the functions, responsibility, job description and accountability of the positions of City Clerk, Assistant City Clerk and Clerk of the Council.

Invited: Shannon Resnick, Legislative Counsel
Sandra Knight, Director of Human Resources

* Councilor Rodrigues states it is time to look into the job description, responsibilities and line of accountability of the Clerk's office.

* Councilor Cardoso asks who appoints the Clerk and Assistant Clerk?

* Attorney Resnick states that the Council appoints the Clerk. The Assistant City Clerk is appointed by the Clerk.

* Councilor Thompson inquired about how the Ad Hoc committee works.

* Council President Farwell states if favorable, would go to the Council, if approved there, he would start thinking of who would be on the committee.

* Councilor Thompson asks how is the Clerk's position be posted or would it?

* Ms. Knight stated her office could help get it posted. Council would be given the resumes to review. Would give some comps from other cities as well as salary ranges, etc. then it can be put together.

* Attorney Resnick states that the ordinances do not require a hiring process. This is very similar to when the Mayor makes his appointments. You have the opportunity to make a nomination amongst yourselves.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:43 PM