

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Standing Committee on Finance met on *Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, Brockton City Hall, 45 School Street*, with Councilor Farwell presiding, 9 members present, Councilor Cardoso absent, to consider the following:

1. Appointment of Jacqueline Murphy of 138 Torrey Street, Brockton, MA to the Diversity Commission for a three (3) year term ending April 2024.  
Invited: Jacqueline Murphy

\* Council President Farwell states Ms. Murphy is not able to come this evening as she isn't feeling well.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Lally to report to POSTPONE to May 17<sup>th</sup> Finance Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Nicastro. Motion carried by a hand vote.

2. Appointment of Samantha Ambroise of 10 Kingman St., Brockton, MA to the Planning Board for a five (5) year term ending April 2026.  
Invited: Samantha Ambroise

\* Ms. Ambroise speaks of her experience and seeks appointment to the Planning Board.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Asack to report FAVORABLE, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Rodrigues. Motion carried by a hand vote.

3. Appointment of Jorge Vega of 40 Goldfinch Dr., Brockton, MA to the Library Board of Trustees for a three (3) year term ending April 2024.  
Invited: Jorge Vega

\* Mr. Vega speaks of his experience in libraries, excited for the opportunity.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Lally to report FAVORABLE, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Rodrigues. Motion carried by a hand vote.

4. Ordered: Acceptance and expenditure of the total grant award in the amount of \$190,596.00

From: The Executive Office of Elder Affairs-FY21 Formula Grant

To: The City of Brockton Council on Aging-FY21 Formula Grant Fund.

Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

Janice Fitzgerald, Director, Council on Aging

\* Council President Farwell states Ms. Fitzgerald is unable to make the meeting as she is sick this evening.

\* Mr. Clarkson states this is an annual grant used for salaries, program expenses, building expenses, supplements the budget for the COA.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Lally to report FAVORABLE, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Asack. Motion carried by a hand vote.

5. Ordered: That the City Council authorize the acceptance of M.G.L., Ch. 32, ss 103 (j) to approve the acceptance by the Brockton Retirement Board of an increase of \$1,000.00 in the maximum base amount upon which COLA is calculated for pension payments for FY21 and each year thereafter.

Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

Jeanne Martineau, Executive Director, Brockton Retirement Board

\* Council President steps down and Councilor Eaniri takes his seat.

\* Mr. Clarkson states this is to increase the cost of living allowance for retirees.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Lally to report FAVORABLE, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Rodrigues. Motion carried by a hand vote.

6. Ordered: Acceptance and expenditure of the total grant award in the amount of \$275,000 From: The Department of Housing & Community Development Grant

To: City of Brockton-Mayor's Office

Invited: Mayor Robert Sullivan

Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

Robert Jenkins, Executive Director, Brockton Redevelopment Authority

\* Mr. Clarkson states this is a new grant through the Commonwealth. No match required.

\* Mr. Jenkins states these funds will allow to rehab up to 3-4 family homes.

\* Councilor Asack asks how are we getting this out to the residents.

\* Mr. Jenkins states it is on their website as well as word of mouth.

\* Councilor Rodrigues asks questions on the average amount, stating those who need the help aren't going to get it. Would like to see less money to more people who need the help.

\* Mr. Jenkins states the problem is it costs more money to bring these homes up to code. These funds are first come first serve.

\* Councilor Thompson asks if these are loans or grants?

\* Mr. Jenkins states the state looks at this as a loan.

\* Councilor Nicasastro states with the \$275,000 you can't do that many properties.

\* Councilor Monahan asks where the word of mouth is going, how is it working?

\* Mr. Jenkins states they are on Facebook, also gets calls from churches, the Mayor's office, the Cape Verdean Association, banks, etc.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Asack to report FAVORABLE, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Lally. Motion carried by a hand vote.

7. Ordered: That in order to reduce interest costs, the City Treasurer with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to issue refunding bonds, at one time or from time to time, pursuant to M. G. L. c. 44, subsection 21A, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, to refund all or any portion of the city's general obligation bonds outstanding as of the date of adoption of this order, and that the proceeds of any refunding bonds issued pursuant to this vote shall be used to pay the principal, redemption premium and interest on the bonds of the City to be refunded, and costs of issuance of the refunding bonds; and that the Mayor and the City Treasurer are each authorized to execute such documents as may be necessary or desirable to carry out this transaction, including one or more refunding trust agreements with a bank or trust company. Further Ordered; that the City Treasurer is authorized to file an application with The Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Municipal Finance Oversight Board to qualify under 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.

Invited: Mayor Robert Sullivan  
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer  
Martin Brophy, Treasurer/ Collector

\* Mr. Clarkson states the request before you is that we will refinance existing debt and in the process save an estimated four hundred thousand dollars.

\* Councilor Nicastro states the language "from time to time" refunding bonds, she is not comfortable with it.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Nicastro to report to amend (to strike "or from time to time" in the first sentence), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Asack. Motion carried by a hand vote.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Eaniri to report to FAVORABLE as AMENDED, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Monahan. Motion carried by a hand vote.

8. Resolve: That the Mayor, Building Inspector James Plouffe, and State Representative Michelle Dubois come before the Finance Committee to discuss the possibility of the City acquiring the Massasoit Conference Center for use as a multi-generational community center.

Invited: Mayor Robert Sullivan  
State Representative Michelle Dubois  
Megan Bridges, City Solicitor  
James Plouffe, Building Superintendent

\*Council President Farwell states that Mr. Plouffe is not able to make the meeting this evening.

\* State Representative Michelle Dubois speaks of the conference center becoming a multi-generational center. States this is her #1 priority.

\* Mayor Sullivan thanks Representative Dubois, Representative Cassidy, and Leader Cronin. Supports this, we have to know what the price point will be. Mr. Plouffe states

the building is in turn key condition except for the roof. On the east-side of Brockton there is a need.

\* Councilor Thompson thanks the Mayor and Representative Dubois. The city needs community space. Concerned with the cost of acquisition as well as maintenance and up keep. Maybe there are other locations to look at.

\* Mayor Sullivan states if this makes sense, he will be coming back before the Council. Right now, for us it is premature at our level.

\* Council President Farwell states we are hearing that we may rezone this and that, if there are plans, I think it is time to let everyone know.

\* Mayor Sullivan states that Mr. May has meet with Councilor Thompson a few times, states he has not privy to those meetings. Everyone should be engaged.

\* Council President Farwell states this is just a resolve.

\* Councilor Asack also states this is a resolve. Would like to make sure we keep our relationship with Massasoit. Also, does not want the lot to get devalued.

\* Councilor Rodrigues states that the city needs a place for events.

\* Councilor Mendes asks if we get the property would we be able to get some grants?

\* Representative Dubois states that there is money since Covid.

\* Councilor Nicastro states having a community center on that side of town would be wonderful. Our community needs this.

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

9. Resolved, that the Mayor, Director of the Board of Health, and Chief Financial Officer come before the Finance Committee to discuss establishment of a Health Department consistent with the City's adoption of M.G.L. c. 111§26A-E, and to inform the Council of any planning and financial considerations for implementation of said Health Department.

Invited: Mayor Robert Sullivan

Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

Megan Bridges, City Solicitor

Shannon Resnick, Legislative Counsel

Dr. Eno Mondesir, Executive Health Officer

\* Councilor Eaniri states that with out Councilor Cardoso who sponsored this Resolve, would like to make a motion to postpone this Resolve until June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Eaniri to report to POSTPONE until June 7<sup>th</sup> Finance Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Monahan. Motion carried by a hand vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM