

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Standing Committee on Finance met on *Monday, June 21st, 2021 at 7:00 PM, in the GAR Room, Brockton City Hall, 45 School Street*, with Councilor Farwell presiding, 9 members present, Councilor Monahan absent, to consider the following:

1. Ordered: That the naming of North Manchester Street also have the honorary name of “Ruth E. Silva Way” in recognition of Ruth E. Silva, who is a resident of the City of Brockton and has fostered over 250 children on North Manchester Street.

Invited: Ruth E. Silva

F. Peter Gaskins, Jr.

Raymond Rosario

Jeffrey Sousa

* Councilor Thompson speaks regarding North Manchester Street also having the honorary name of Ruth E. Silva Way. Three gentlemen are also here to speak of her worthiness of this honor.

* Peter Gaskins Jr. speaks of Ruth as “Nana”. States she is very humble, she raised her 4 children in Brockton as well as over 240 foster children. States this will be an honor for her.

* Jeffrey Sousa speaks of her love, guidance and knowledge. How she raised all her foster kids with the same love, care and respect. She also would help the families as well. Naming the street after her will show this is a special place in Brockton.

* Raymond Rosario worked as a family resource social worker in Brockton for over 30 years. States that the Brockton office depends greatly on Ruth. She has been recognized by local municipalities as well as state government offices. Ruth treats her foster children as they are her own. States she is one of the most selfless people that he knows.

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

2. Ordered: Acceptance and expenditure of a donation in the amount of \$3,000.00 from Easton Festival of Trees to the City of Brockton Police Department.

Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

Emanuel Gomes, Chief of Police

* Troy Clarkson states this grant is for bulletproof vests for the K-9s.

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

3. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the re-authorization of the Comcast Revolving Fund for FY2022, from all cash receipts from Comcast franchise fees, in excess of \$675,000, pursuant to the cable license contract, and that further, that the expenditure from this fund shall not exceed \$750,000 without further appropriation, during fiscal year 2022.

Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
Joseph Miranda, President Brockton Community Access

* Council President Farwell thanks Mr. Miranda for all the work his team has done especially during the budget hearings.

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

4. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the re-authorization of the Demolition Revolving Fund for FY2022 for the sole purpose of helping to fund cost in connection with demolition of buildings in the City of Brockton. The Demolition Revolving Fund shall receive the receipt of payments of all demolition charges of the city of Brockton. Expenditures from the Demolition Revolving Fund shall be made at the direction of the building Superintendent, with the written approval of the Mayor, provided that not more than \$110,000 may be so expended from the Demolition revolving Fund During FY2022. The Building Superintendent shall comply with the reporting requirement of M.G.L., Chapter 44, Section 53E ½.

Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
James Plouffe, Building Superintendent

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

5. Ordered: That the City Council authorize the re-authorization of the Vacant and Abandoned Buildings Revolving Fund for the purpose of maintaining the Abandoned Building Registry, as well as the closing, boarding up and care of vacant and abandoned buildings. The Vacant and Abandoned Building Revolving Fund shall receive the receipts of payments of fines and fees for the registration of vacant and abandoned buildings. Expenditures from the Vacant and Abandoned Buildings revolving fund shall be made on the authority and direction of the Brockton Building Commissioner, provided that not more than two hundred and fifty thousand (\$250,000) may be so expended without further appropriation from the Vacant and Abandoned Buildings Revolving Fund during FY22. The Brockton Building Commissioner shall comply with the reporting requirements of M.G.L., Ch. 44, Section 53E ½.

Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
James Plouffe, Building Superintendent

- * Mr. Plouffe states 326 buildings land on the registry, down from 400.
- * Councilor Thompson asks how often is the vacant building list audited?
- * Mr. Plouffe states not too often. There is an inspector who is going around looking into this. Trying to catch up on this, possibly hire a part time employee to help.
- * Councilor Nicastro stated the Treasurer/ Collector could help with this.
- * Councilor Rodrigues asks are if these are owned by residents of Brockton?
- * Mr. Plouffe states he is not too sure but can find out, but most are owned by banks.

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

6. Ordered: In accordance with the provisions and stipulations of section 53E ½ of Ch. 44 of the M.G.L., that the City Council authorize the renewal for FY2022 of the revolving fund for revenues from parking fine violation fines up to and including the amount of \$250,000.

Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

Eric Akesson, Executive Director of Parking Authority

* Councilor Lally states there was to be an amendment tonight to allow the Parking Authority with permission from their board to expend up to \$100,000 more a year for capital expenses. This would require the Mayor to resubmit. It will be refiled to the clerk's office and be in front of the Council next week.

* Mr. Akesson states any money that is collected from parking ticket revenue goes into the general fund, every year the revolving fund is funded by the first \$250,000 that comes out of this fund. Money is used for salaries and equipment related to enforcement.

* Councilor Eaniri asks if the board needs to make the approval first?

* Mr. Clarkson states that the Council provides the framework and the parking authority would still have the ability to approve that additional expense for capital or not.

* Councilor Eaniri asks if the board has been informed?

* Mr. Akesson states not yet.

* Councilor Lally asks Councilor Eaniri if he would consider having this tabled and the new item that comes in putting in a stipulation that it only kicks in once the board approves it?

* Councilor Eaniri said he doesn't want to table it. States he thinks the board should be aware. Is this going to hold you up?

* Mr. Akesson states there is a deadline of June 30th. We can reach out to the board tomorrow morning to let them know.

* Councilor Lally states to move to approve, then when the new item is on the agenda we will have feedback from the board and the council can decide the appropriate action.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM

This meeting may be accessed via YouTube on the Brockton Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheBrocktonChannels/live>