

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Standing Committee on Finance met on *Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:00 PM* in the *Council Chambers, Brockton City Hall, 45 School Street*, with Councilor Lally presiding, Councilor Tavares absent, to consider the following:

1. Appointment of Kyras Rodriguez of 90 Country Club Lane Brockton, MA 02301 to the Brockton Redevelopment Authority for a five-year term, ending March 2027.

Invited: Kyras Rodriguez

\*Mayor Sullivan expresses his support of Ms. Rodriguez and hopes the council will consider her application.

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

2. Appointment of Dennis Eaniri of 137 Winnifred Road Brockton, MA to the Parking Authority for a five-year term, ending April 2027.

Invited: Dennis Eaniri

\*Mayor Sullivan expresses his support of Mr. Eaniri and goes on to thank him for his numerous years of dedication to the City of Brockton.

\*Councilor Farwell tells Mr. Eaniri that his skill-set regarding city government is and will continue to be very beneficial to the City of Brockton.

\*All councilors express their appreciation and gratitude for all that Mr. Eaniri has done for the city and look forward to what is next for him.

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

3. Re-Appointment of Ernest Pettiford of 1161 Montello St. Brockton, MA to the Brockton Housing Authority Board for a five-year term, ending April 2027.

Invited: Ernest Pettiford

\*Mayor Sullivan expresses his support of Mr. Pettiford and hopes the council will consider his application even though he is not in attendance.

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

4. Ordered: That the following named sum be and the same is hereby transferred as the same was submitted by the Mayor as follows: Transfer of: \$50,000  
From: Department of Public Works- Sewer- Personal Services- Other Than Overtime  
To: Department of Public Works- Sewer- Personal Services- Overtime  
(This transfer is necessary in order to cover projected overtime expenses and emergencies for the remainder of the fiscal year.)

Invited: Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner  
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

\*Commissioner Hill states that the shifts in this office are 24 hour shifts and that COVID impacted this office this fiscal year. He goes on to say that they've had to use their overtime budget to cover the shifts that were short-staffed due to COVID.

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

5. Ordered: That the following named sum be and the same is hereby transferred as the same was submitted by the Mayor as follows: Transfer of: \$100,000  
From: Department of Public Works- Water- Personal Services- Other Than Overtime  
To: Department of Public Works- Water- Personal Services- Overtime  
(This transfer is necessary in order to cover projected overtime expenses and emergencies for the remainder of the fiscal year.)

Invited: Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner  
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

\*Commissioner Hill states that the Water Department was impacted in the same way the Sewer Department was.

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

\*Councilor Asack makes a motion to move items 8 & 9 out of order, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Farwell. Motion carried by a hand vote.

8. RESOLVE: Whereas: Prostate Cancer occurs in approximately 250,000 new cases every year. Whereas: According to the American Cancer Society approximately 1 in 41 men will die from the effects of prostate cancer. Whereas: Prostate cancer disproportionately affects African-American men. Whereas: African-American men are more than twice as likely to die from prostate cancer than others.

Be it Resolved: To have Steven Bernard of the Brockton Area Branch of the NAACP appear before a committee of this Council to make a presentation on the efforts of the organization to spread awareness of the efforts to educate the public on the need for early diagnosis and treatment options via the Prostate Cancer Awareness campaign.

Invited: Steven Bernard from NAACP

\*Mr. Bernard begins his update regarding the Prostate Cancer Program in Brockton. The awareness program was initiated in Brockton and Plymouth County in 2015. The main feature of the campaign is that there is a broad engagement with the community regarding the information being spread. Before the campaign started, African-American men in Plymouth County, including Brockton, had the highest mortality rates due to Prostate Cancer, and it was even higher compared to the state average. White men had a 15%

mortality rate for Prostate Cancer higher than the state average as well. By 2021, Prostate Cancer mortality regarding African American men decreased more than 55% and is now significantly lower than the state average. Since 2015, we have relied on education and awareness to prevent health disparities. In 2021, the NAACP established a Prostate Cancer Equity Program with a goal to approve access to state's leading experts who have the most advanced approaches to screening, diagnosis and treatment available today. In addition to improving access to patient care, AdMeTech Foundation developed a simple patient referral process to support men in every step of their medical journey. They are concerned that black men are 22% less likely to receive treatment compared to white men in our state.

\*He goes on to say that any man age 40 and older can take part in this program while the priority focus is on black, Hispanic and Latino men. He goes on to encourage the councilors to share information about meetings and the program to their constituents via the flyers he provided.

\*Councilor Asack reiterates that early detection is key to which Mr. Bernard agrees. She goes on to say that there is a Facebook Live event April 27, 2022 at 6:30PM, which can also be accessed through the AdMeTech website ([WWW.AdMeTech.Org](http://WWW.AdMeTech.Org)) and encourages people to attend.

\*Councilor Minichiello asks the reason why African-American men are more apt to be diagnosed with Prostate Cancer to which Mr. Bernard tells him that there are a number of reasons. He states that many of them have to do with cultural nuances, while others have to do with lack of access to care. He goes on to note that some medical professionals have admitted to not providing the same care to black men as they do to white men.

\*Mr. Bernard tells the council that they have recently learned that if there is equal access to Prostate Cancer screening, black men fare better than white men.

\*Councilor Minichello notes that annual check-ups are crucial in regards to early detection and survival rates. Mr. Bernard agrees, and goes on to say that men at high-risk, typically men of African or Hispanic descent, are encouraged to begin getting screened at age 40. For white men, the average age to begin getting screened is age 50. Men of all ages should be aware that it is very important to be screened as early detection is so important. For those knowing in the first five years, and beginning treatment, the survival rate is 100%, where as after that, the survival rate is only 28%.

\*Councilor Thompson asks if men coming through the program are given access to free screening, or if there is a cost associated with it. Mr. Bernard tells him that men are subject to having some kind of insurance.

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

9. RESOLVE: Whereas: Home fires claim approximately seven lives every day in this country. Whereas: Working smoke detectors can cut the risk of death by over 50%. Be it Resolved: To have a representative of the Brockton Area Red Cross appear before a committee of this Council to highlight their efforts in the "Sound the Alarm" campaign to

install 50,000 free smoke alarms and share safety information in at risk communities across the country.

Invited: Barbara Cotton, Executive Director

\*Ms. Cotton states that there is less than two minutes to evacuate a home in the event of a home fire. The Red Cross is renowned for it's providing aid and relief during a disaster. Home fires are the number one disaster in which the Red Cross responds to. She goes on to say that Brockton is the focus city this year for the "Sound the Alarm" Campaign. The goal of the campaign is between May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 22<sup>nd</sup> to install 50,000 smoke alarms across the entire country. Their commitment to Brockton is to make at least 50 homes safer. On Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 9am-1pm, the Red Cross will be in the community installing smoke detectors for anyone who calls to make an appointment. The number to make this appointment is 1-800-564-1234, or one can make an appointment online at [WWW.SoundTheAlarm.Org](http://WWW.SoundTheAlarm.Org). They will be installing a maximum of three alarms per home and carbon monoxide detectors with the goal of making homes safer.

\*Councilor Asack asks what the requirements are to participate in this campaign to which Ms. Cotton tells her that it would be ideal for homes that were fabricated before 1975 because they do not have the modern hardwires.

\*Councilor Asack goes on to ask if a renter could call, or if it had to be an actual homeowner. Ms. Cotton tells her that anyone could be helped by this, renters and homeowners alike.

\*Ms. Cotton tells the council that there will be bilingual speakers on hand to help the community that does not speak English as their first language.

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

\*Councilor Farwell makes a motion to combine items 6 & 7 and hear them together, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Asack. Motion carried by a hand vote.

6. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the previously appropriated funds of the American Rescue Plan Act that exceed the \$750,000 threshold for the following projects: City Hall Exterior Upgrades, City Hall HVAC, War Memorial HVAC, Senior Center Expansion, Emergency Operations, Liberty Tree and Abolitionist Park, Sycamore Grove, Nonprofit Fund Distribution, DW Field Clubhouse, Cosgrove Pool, Buckley Playground, Hancock Playground, Plymouth Street Playground, Holster Playground, Bent Playground, Hilstrom Farm Park, Parmenter Playground, Tukis Playground, and Otis Street Park, consistent with the spreadsheet below.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>
<b>Capital</b>	
City Hall Exterior Upgrades	\$4,000,000
City Hall HVAC	\$8,000,000

War Memorial HVAC	\$7,125,000
Senior Center Expansion	\$6,325,000
Emergency Operations Center	\$1,800,000
<b>Public Interest Projects</b>	
Liberty Tree and Abolitionist Park	\$1,200,000
Sycamore Grove	\$2,000,000
Nonprofit Fund Distribution	\$2,000,000
<b>Parks and Playgrounds</b>	
Cosgrove Pool	\$4,300,000
Parks & Playground Improvements	\$1,840,000
<b>Total Parks</b>	<b>\$6,140,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$38,590,000</b>

Invited: Mayor Robert Sullivan  
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

7. Resolve: **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor Robert Sullivan and the Chief Financial Officer Troy Clarkson be invited to come before the Finance Committee to provide an update regarding ARPA funding, spending, and infrastructure planning.

Invited: Mayor Robert Sullivan  
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

\*Mayor Sullivan states that the figures above are fluid figures. He has been asked on multiple accounts why there is spending happening on City Hall and other things that people do not agree with, but these funds have to be spent this way. The Mayor goes on to say that he has spoken with department heads of various departments to ask what is needed in the city. For example, Superintendent of Parks, Tim Carpenter, gave the Mayor a list of parks that need to be worked on. He goes on to say that they are committed to allocating these funds in the best way possible, and are committed to making every corner of the city better in the ways that they can.

\*Mayor Sullivan tells that council that he and CFO Clarkson went to DC in a fact-finding mission and to advocate for more money for the City of Brockton. They visited the US Chamber of Commerce, and they met with the Ambassador of Cape Verde, Congressman Stephen Lynch, Congressman Bill Keating and U.S. Senator Ed Markey.

\*The House deadline for submitting earmark requests was April 14<sup>th</sup>. The city submitted three earmark requests; one for the Cosgrove Pool, one for the EOC portion of the Public Safety Building, and the third was relative to the Sludge Dryer that the city needs to invest money on. Congressman Lynch has accepted and submitted them. Mayor Sullivan states that he is confident that the city will receive some money. These earmarks are separate allocations outside of the ARPA money.

\*The Mayor goes on to say that he advocated for the city to have electric vehicles; specifically, the busses. He states that the City of Brockton, the School Department and the BAT Bus Corporation will apply for a federal grant subsidy to be able to accomplish this.

\*Mayor Sullivan notes that infrastructure money, like the Build Back Better bill is still being discussed and is separate from the ARPA money.

\*Mayor Sullivan reiterates that the numbers in the table are subject to fluctuate as they are not set in stone and he and his team estimated more than they think they will need per project. The money is fluid and can be used in other projects and even projects that haven't been proposed yet if the situation presents itself for that.

\*Mayor Sullivan goes on to state that in regards to ARPA, he surveyed the Department Heads in City Hall and asked for capital projects that are in need. He states that a lot of these needs require a sizeable amount of money; some are real time events, while others are going to be taken care of down the line. He states that it would take more than \$100,000,000 to accomplish all the capital projects proposed. He goes on to say that they did a citizen survey that is still open online at [WWW.Brockton.ma.us](http://WWW.Brockton.ma.us). He is committed to listening to the perspective of the constituents. A high percentage of the citizen survey responses are in regards to the parks and playgrounds in the city.

\*He states that \$2,000,000 was put aside for the non-profit organizations and the recognized 501c3s. Out of 46 applicants who applied for a portion of this money, 42 of them met the thresholds under the federal guidelines. Three events were done in multiple different languages to ensure that every organization understood the application process and were given equal access to the money.

\*The councilors and the community is encouraged to advocate for their community as the Mayor states that this ARPA money needs to be spent in the way that it should be spent.

\*Mayor Sullivan states that he and CFO Clarkson will return to the Finance Committee as often as they would like them to to give updates regarding the ARPA funds and he believes that this is the first of many discussions to be had.

\*Councilor Farwell reiterates that these figures are just allocations and goes on to say that there will be public bidding, and scopes of services that are published amongst other things. He notes that the city will still go through the whole procurement process and that ARPA funds are not spent any differently than other funds.

\*CFO Clarkson states that this is not a typical appropriation process. The council already approved the appropriation of this money; therefore, the council and administration are working together to find a way to be transparent in the spending process and projects being done with these funds. These funds are fluid estimates of the priorities the administration would like to invest in but as the work gets done, things regarding these funds change.

\*CFO Clarkson begins the presentation by stating that Brockton's share of federal direct aid is approximately \$34,590,793.50. They also allocated an amount around \$100,000,000 to Plymouth County and Brockton will be lobbying for at least \$16,000,000 from this allocation. CFO Clarkson hopes to spend at least \$50,000,000 in this city's infrastructure and buildings.

\*CFO Clarkson goes on to say that on the heels of the ARPA money, the Commonwealth will be distributing millions more to Brockton in infrastructure money.

\*CFO Clarkson notes that this is the first of many projects to be started throughout the city with these funds and other funds. He is careful to say that these projects will not be at the expense of ARPA, but in addition to.

\*CFO Clarkson states that to-date, the city has allocated just shy of \$8,000,000 and has requested a little more the \$4,000,000 from Plymouth County. He goes on to say that over \$3,000,000 has been invested in the Shaw's Center and Campanelli Stadium. As part of the last round of collective bargaining agreements, the city committed almost

\$4,000,000 in premium pay for public workers. Some other smaller amounts were allocated to necessary projects as well.

\*The city has hired Dan Pallotta as the ARPA Project Manager. Some of the funds will be used as his salary which is split with the School Department. CFO Clarkson states that his salary is split between the City and the School Department because in addition these funds, the School Department is also the beneficiaries of about \$35,000,000 in federal funding to invest in school facilities. Dan is helping the school allocate these funds in the right way just as he is helping the city.

\*CFO Clarkson tells the council that City Hall was built in 1892, and has not had a significant renovation since then; about 130 years.

\*Mr. Pallotta states that City Hall is in desperate need of fresh air and in desperate need of conditioned air. It's also in desperate need of some of the infrastructure to be upgraded, such as piping in the building. He goes on to say that they are looking at City Hall being procured in two ways; 25A and Chapter 149. They will use 25A for anything that they can write off to energy that can help with the Green Communities Act, and 149 for any work that is going to be needed to be done to facilitate the 25A work. Mr. Pallotta states that the building has leaks everywhere. He states that there are things to be repaired in every office at City Hall.

\*Mr. Pallotta refers to the \$4,000,000 allocated from the City Hall Exterior Upgrades, and states that it will be used to hire an envelope specialist to identify every single problem. Based on the age and size of the building, they estimate that it's going to cost no greater than \$4,000,000 to get the perimeter of this building sealed. As fresh air starts being put into the building, there will be pressure moving around, and there is a need to be sure that there is a sufficient structure that doesn't allow energy to be lost.

\*Mr. Pallotta moves to HVAC Compliance and states that all of the fresh air that comes through the building will go through an energy recovery wheel where the therms from the heat from the exhausted air will be transferred to the incoming air.

\*CFO Clarkson clarifies that while the appropriated estimations for these projects are \$12,000,000 combined, what is not spent can be reallocated into other projects, new or existing.

\*Mr. Pallotta moves on to speak about the Senior Center. He states that it is incredibly undersized for the number of seniors in the city. Because of COVID, ARPA allows for the expansion of this building that is specifically for the city's most vulnerable population to allow them to socially distance. There is a plan to add approximately 3,600 square feet horizontally that would be added in addition to the multi-purpose room. He goes on to say that in this building, the HVAC system is 24 years old and codes have changed four times since then. The air in this building will need to be updated also.

\*Mr. Pallotta moves to the War Memorial Building which was built in 1929, and is 93 years old. The HVAC will be upgraded in this building as well. He tells the council that a lot of the windows in this building are original and need to be replaced. There have been leaks in regard to the ceiling, and these things need to be fixed.

\*Next on the capital funding schedule is the EOC, which is going to be located within the new Public Safety Building. Mr. Pallotta notes that this is okay to use ARPA funds for because it is in regards to first responders.

\*Mr. Pallotta moves on to parks and begins with the Cosgrove Pool. He notes that just about every piece of plumbing would have to be looked at, tended to, or worked on.

Filtration for the pool and restroom facilities need to be tended to as well. The other parks on the list vary in needs; they plan to replace basketball courts, tennis courts, fencing, and provide parking throughout all of the parks amongst other things.

\*Mr. Pallotta moves on to public works projects where he states that these reimbursements will be sought through Plymouth County. These projects include a transformer project at the wastewater plant, ultra-violet disinfection at the wastewater plant, programmable logic controllers which help the efficiency of the plant, biosolids management design, Silver Lake treatment media for freshwater and Silver Lake programmable logic controllers for the upgrade and efficiency of Silver Lake.

\*Mr. Pallotta begins to speak about public interest projects such as Sycamore Grove, the Liberty Tree project and the non-profit fund distribution. All of these projects were spoke about previously in front of the council.

\*Councilor Asack asks if preserving the artwork in the city buildings is an expense that we can add to the spending of the ARPA funds. Mr. Pallotta tells her that ARPA funding is for COVID related expenses, and cleaning the artwork will not cut it. Mayor Sullivan notes that he is committed under capital projects to get this done.

\*Councilor Asack asks if the \$2,000,000 allocation for the non-profits has been completely given out yet to which CFO Clarkson tells her no. He goes on to say that there was a pretty meticulous process to review all of the applications and he believes that decisions have been made as to which group gets the money. The funds will be separated in four separate payments. Mayor Sullivan tells the council that they will all be invited to the ceremony planned to give out the first set of funds to the organizations.

\*Councilor Thompson tells the Mayor that he believes that the next project in the are of Sycamore Grove is to develop a comprehensive parking plan. He believes there is a need for an easy and convenient parking plan. He goes on to say that he believes they should consider automating the Adam's Garage so it can become a 24-hour parking facility. He tells them that he appreciates the funding of every project and specifically mentions the funds allocated for repairing the Cosgrove Pool. He notes that Cosgrove Pool is 1 of 4 outdoor Olympic size (50 meter) pools in the Commonwealth and suggests have swimming competitions and swimming lessons there to bring some buzz into the city. He asks if the bottom of the pool where it feels prickly will be part of these repairs to which Mayor Sullivan replies yes. There will be a full renovation done inside and outside of the pool.

\*Councilor Thompson mentions the application process regarding the non-profits and asks how the money will be divided. He states that he recognizes that that information is forthcoming and will be waiting for it.

\*Councilor Thompson asks what exactly the May Center that was mentioned is. Mayor Sullivan tells him that it is the old nursing home that was on Summer Street. He tells Councilor Thompson that it is going to be a new school.

\*Councilor Thompson asks about the rotunda on the top of the school department building and how it is in disrepair. He asks if this project in particular is ARPA eligible. Mayor Sullivan tells him that there have been conversations, and right before COVID they were able to clean this area up a bit. It potentially may qualify for the school department's version of ARPA, but the Mayor cannot guarantee that at this time.

\*Councilor Thompson goes on to ask about the Liberty Tree and wants to know what type of tree it is. Mayor Sullivan tells him that it is a Sycamore tree. The city doesn't



currently own this tree, and is working to acquire it. On Frederick Douglass where the tree sits, the plan is to create a pocket park called Liberty Park around this tree and potentially create a statue in remembrance of Frederick Douglass and all of the history that surrounds the tree. Phase 1 of this project is to buy the tree, and phase 2 is to create the park around the tree.

\*Councilor Rodrigues tells the council that the Cape Verdean Association did not apply for the non-profit appropriation of money in hopes to be sure that there are no rumors of favoritism because he is an elected official.

\*Councilor Rodrigues moves to talk about the Cosgrove Pool and how important it is to the City of Brockton. He mentions the renovations of the Manning Pool done in the past, and notes that at that time that these renovations were done cost about \$2,000,000, which was around 2008. He talks about how it turned into a swimming park, and wasn't just a renovation of the pool and hopes that the Cosgrove Pool can turn into something like that as well.

\*Councilor Rodrigues tells the Mayor that he is worried that when a developer sees a \$4,000,000 budget they may create their interpretation that needs to be done, rather than what actually needs to be done. He is sure that the city can get a lot more "bang for our buck" than what will probably be pitched by the developer. The initial proposal needs to include the entire complex rather than just the pool. The Mayor tells him that he will not be shortsighted in terms of the pool, and is committed to creating a fun, family-oriented experience. He goes on to say that there are plans for greenspace and picnic areas as well.

\*Councilor Rodrigues brings up the parks in question, and reiterates the idea that he is not against trees, but he is against trees that are not upkept. He notes that given the state of trees in this city as of right now, there needs to be a plan in place to keep up with the trees and take care of them. The Mayor agrees with him, and believes that the city needs to have a watering process. He states that the city shouldn't spend money on trees and greenery just to do it and not keep up with it because that is a waste of money.

\*Councilor Rodrigues asks for an update on the Shaw's Center and Campanelli Stadium even though they are not directly related to the ARPA funds. The Mayor tells him that the city has been working diligently with the new owner of the Brockton Rox to bring the stadium up to par. The new owner told the city what he needs, and the city has begun making the stadium the best it could be to begin having baseball this year.

\*The Mayor goes on to say that we ordered new lockers from Indiana, gutted the entire stadium to rid Raccoons, and began acquiring a new rubber flooring to make the stadium multi-purpose. The city has been working with Ameresco to update the HVAC in the Shaw's center to be able to make it a regional COVID testing center which was reimbursed under the CARES Act.

\*CFO Clarkson goes on to talk about a complete upgrade of the HVAC systems and the lighting both inside and outside of the stadium and inside the offices. While these improvements were costly, they were necessary.

\*Councilor Rodrigues asks what the Shaw's Center is being used for currently to which Mayor Sullivan told him that it is still being used for COVID reasons. He states that the city is not in the position at this time to begin renting out the Shaw's Center again.

\*Councilor Nicastro mentions that she hopes to see something cultural or artistic as constituents in the community are looking to her for more to do. She goes on to say that she has looked at what other communities are doing and they are incorporating things like

this and asks whether or not we can as well. Mayor Sullivan tells her that additional money should be coming in from Plymouth County and hopefully we can use these funds for something like she is talking about.

\*CFO Clarkson tells Councilor Nicastro that there is a proposed auditorium going into the War Memorial that will be used for concerts and theatre. It will hopefully be used as a vibrant arts venue.

\*Councilor Teixeira asks if there is any way to use the ARPA funds to create a turf soccer field for the youth of the city. Mayor Sullivan refers to a bond authorization that the city already received for this. There is a project started to convert the soccer field at Brockton High to a turf field.

\*Councilor Mendes asks if there is an idea of how many people answered the public interest survey. She goes on to say that in order to have an equitable distribution of funds, it's important to reach out to the hard-to-reach population and get their input in this as well. Mayor Sullivan told her that there were 229 total responses to the survey. He reiterates the fact that it is still an open survey on the city website. Councilor Mendes asks if the surveys are just in English or if it is available in other languages to which the Mayor told her it was just available in English at the moment.

\*Councilor D'Agostino refers to the \$4.2 million that was mentioned for the May Center and asks if that sum is within the \$16,000,000 the city plans to get from Plymouth County. Mayor Sullivan tells him that that is correct.

\*Councilor D'Agostino asks about the bipartisan infrastructure bill that is coming and asks if there are any estimates about what that might look like. The Mayor tells him that at this time, he is unsure of where that stands. He plans to get more information as things progress. The money is being given to the Commonwealth to be distributed amongst the cities and towns, so it is not money going directly to municipalities. Councilor D'Agostino goes on to ask if the Commonwealth has to distribute the funds, or if they can keep the money to use it for highways and state roads. CFO Clarkson tells him that the state will receive the money for the purpose of distributing it to the cities and towns.

\*Councilor D'Agostino asks in the event that some of the proposed projects come in under budget, if the Mayor will come back to council and talk about what the plan is for the extra money. The Mayor tells him yes, and that he plans to keep the council in the loop every step of the way.

\*Councilor D'Agostino asks what will happen with the Shaw's Center when it is no longer needed for COVID purposes. The Mayor tells him that he plans to create a state-of-the-art conference center in the City of Brockton. It will be up to par to accommodate events again.

\*In regard to the water and sewer projects, Mr. Pallotta tells Councilor D'Agostino that there is a comprehensive list in the works that refers to some of these projects and that they plan to use some of the ARPA funds to begin the design work. Once the design work is done, the city will be eligible for SRF and WSRF loans from the Commonwealth. He tells the councilors that they will update them as they go forward.

\*Councilor Farwell states that once these projects are done, it is so important to build into the annual operating budget enough funds to support the maintenance and needs in order to preserve the work accomplished with ARPA funds.

\*Councilor Farwell refers to the new owner of the Brockton Rox and asks if he is the new lessor or if the previous owner is still the lessor. The Mayor tells him that the terms are

that everything is assigned to the new buyer. Councilor Farwell goes on to talk about the previous owner and how he left the stadium in disrepair and left the city with tens of thousands of dollars in unpaid taxes. He wants to be sure that the new owner understands that this cannot happen again, because the responsibility will fall on the city again.

\*Councilor Farwell asks to continue to be in the loop in regard to project completion dates and estimated completion dates to which Mayor Sullivan agrees that they will continuously keep the council in the loop. Mayor Sullivan goes on to say that while he is unsure of estimated completion dates, he is concerned about supply chain delays as this will delay projects. Mr. Pallotta states that there is a master schedule of all of the projects and they are working toward completing it. It is helpful in terms of staying on track. He goes on to say that the procurement of all the designers was done before May 1<sup>st</sup>, therefore as of now they are still on track.

\*Councilor Asack refers to the Shaw's Center and Campanelli Stadium and reiterates the fact that the previous lessor left the place in an unfit state. She asks if the new contract is written in such a way that would ensure that this does not happen again. Mayor Sullivan states that as Mayor, and not the City Solicitor, he does not have the authority to say much. He states that he can ensure that the city has dotted their I's and crossed their T's. He states that the gentleman who toured the facility has the same vision as they do; to make the facility a place to be proud of.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 9:18pm