

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Standing Committee on Finance met on *Monday, May 16th, 2022 at 7:00 PM* in the *Council Chambers, Brockton City Hall, 45 School Street*, with Councilor Lally presiding, Councilor Nicastro absent, to consider the following:

1. Appointment of Robert Simpson of 29 Keswick Road Brockton, MA 02302 to the License Commission for a three-year term, ending May 2025.

Invited: Robert Simpson

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

2. Appointment of Paul Beckner of 92 Quincy St., Brockton, MA 02302 as an alternate for the Council on Aging for a three-year term, ending May 2025.

Invited: Paul Beckner

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

3. Re-appointment of Karlene Derozier-Brizard of 31 Frost Ave Brockton, Ma 02301 to the Women's Commission for a three-year term, ending May 2025.

Invited: Karlene Derozier-Brizard

*Motion by Councilor Farwell to move item #3 to the end of the meeting, 2nd by Councilor Rodrigues. Motion carried by a hand vote.

4. Re-appointment of Janice Johnson-Plumer of 126 Peterson Avenue, Brockton, MA 02302 to the Women's Commission for a three-year term, ending May 2025.

Invited: Janice Johnson-Plumer

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

5. Ordered: That the City of Brockton will revoke the provisions of Chapter 44, § 53F½ of the Massachusetts General Laws, ceasing the Renewable Energy Fund as an enterprise fund effective fiscal year Fiscal Year 2023.

Invited: Pat Hill, DPW Commissioner

Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

*CFO Clarkson states that the amount of money that has flowed through this enterprise fund over the last several years is minimal. It has required a small subsidy over the last few years. One of the main suggestions that the Department of Revenue gave to the City of Brockton was that this enterprise fund should be eliminated because it is an underperforming asset. The city is working together to come up with another long-term solution for this solar project. CFO Clarkson states that it makes sense to him to decommission this enterprise fund because he feels that it is no longer necessary.

*Councilor Thompson asks what level of subsidy this has required in FY22 to which CFO Clarkson states that it was around \$14,000, but he's not sure of the exact number. Councilor Thompson goes on to ask when this solar field was put into operation. CFO Clarkson tells him that it has been some time, potentially between 2004 & 2007.

*Councilor D'Agostino asks how much it would cost to upgrade or fix this brightfield, to which CFO Clarkson tells him that around the last time it was looked at, the cost exceeded \$100,000.

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

*Motion by Councilor Asack to take items #6, #8 and #15 collectively as they are related to the same matter. 2nd by Councilor D'Agostino. Motion carried by a hand vote.

6. 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: \$78,000
FROM..... ASSESSORS OFFICE-PURCHASE OF SERVICES \$78,000
TO..... ASSESSORS OFFICE-FULL TIME SALARIES \$78,000

Invited: John O'Donnell, Chairman
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

8. 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: \$61,128
FROM: LAW DEPARTMENT-PURCHASE OF SERVICES \$20,000
HUMAN RESOURCES-FULL TIME SALARIES \$41,128
TO: LAW DEPARTMENT-FULL TIME SALARIES \$61,128

Invited: Megan Bridges, City Solicitor
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

15. 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: \$19,079
FROM: TREASURER/COLLECTOR-PURCHASE OF SERVICES \$4,000
HUMAN RESOURCES-FULL TIME SALARIES \$15,079
TO: TREASURER/COLLECTOR-FULL TIME SALARIES \$19,079

Invited: Martin Brophy, Treasurer
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

*CFO Clarkson states that in December this council approved changes to the pay ordinance which increased the pay for most of the ordinance employees in the city. Most of these changes were funded from within the existing salary budgets. However, the three departments that are requesting transfers are departments that did not have sufficient funds in their salary line. CFO Clarkson states that when it was possible, the transfers have been funded within the departmental budget, but in some cases additional funds were required. There is no overall increase for the operating budget in the city.

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

7. 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: \$22,880.05
FROM: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY- PURCHASE
OF SERVICES \$2,048
HUMAN RESOURCES-FULL TIME SALARIES \$22,832.05
TO: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY- FULL TIME
SALARIES \$22,880.05

Invited: Stephan Hooke, Director
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

*CFO Clarkson notes that item is related to the three that were just passed. Increases were made to the salaries in the Emergency Management department as part of the ordinance change noted previously.

*Councilor Teixeira notes that the sums do not add correctly to equal the sum stated in the order.

*Councilor Thompson asks for clarification on what the math is. The sum of the transfer should be \$24,832.05.

*Motion by Councilor Teixeira to make the amendment to change the math regarding this item, 2nd by Councilor Asack. Motion carried by a hand vote.

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

9. 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- Highway- Personal Services- Other Than Overtime
To: Department of Public Works- Highway- Personal Services- Overtime
(This transfer is necessary in order to cover projected overtime expenses and emergencies for the remainder of the fiscal year.)
Invited: Pat Hill, DPW Commissioner
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

*Commissioner Hill states that this transfer is to continue the level of service that has been provided from the Highway Department. He states that the overtime budget took a substantial hit in the month of November when we had the Nor'easter. During this, there were 5-6 days of straight overtime. COVID also impacted this department and pay raises as well.

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

10. Ordered: That the City of Brockton appropriates the amount of Sixteen Million Dollars (\$16,000,000) to pay costs of designing, reconstructing and rehabilitating the City's sewer system, including, but not limited to cleaning, inspecting and relining sewer lines and mains, manhole rehabilitation, bypass pumping and all other costs incidental and related thereto. To meet this appropriation the City Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under G.L. c. 44, §8(4), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor. 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: Pat Hill, DPW Commissioner
Martin Brophy, Treasurer
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

*CFO Clarkson states that in regards to items 10, 11 and 12, they are all requesting a large sum of money collectively. He goes on to say that the city has demonstrated the

opportunity for these borrowings to fit within our current debt schedule in the water and sewer enterprise funds not creating any further pressure on the rate-payers in the city and not requiring any additional appropriation to support this debt. CFO Clarkson tells the council that he has provided a series of payback schedules that have been approved by the Commonwealth under the state revolving fund. This fund is specifically geared toward water and sewer projects. Sewer projects get a preferred interest rate which as of now is 1.5%. They also get a certain percentage of principle forgiveness; the standard is and has been 9.9%. We have been notified that the principle forgiveness will be at least 17.4%. This takes the 16-million-dollar project and reduces it to \$13,000,206.

*CFO Clarkson goes on to say that we have the ability to temporarily borrow and pay interest only for a few years. The plan is to slide this \$16,000,000 in debt which are improvements to the sewer system and temporarily borrow for a few years to take advantage of the precipitous debt drop off in order to be able to borrow this large amount of money and take on new debt without increasing the budgeted amount that we spend.

*In the sewer enterprise, significantly more work can be done in addition to this \$16 million over the next few years and keep in within our current debt profile, which is important.

*DPW Commissioner Hill states that the initial phase of this work has been approved for \$2.2 million. This lining project will begin sometime before June of next year.

*Councilor Thompson asks if the 17.4% principle forgiveness is locked in and definite to which Mr. Clarkson states that it is the minimum. It could be as high as 49%. The Commonwealth has not committed to telling a final percentage. There has been no guidance on how the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law money will be applied.

*Councilor Thompson notes that CFO Clarkson said that the plan for the first few years of this borrowing is to pay interest only. After the precipitous drop, the plan is to pay both interest and the debt. CFO Clarkson tells him that that is correct. This drop occurs in or around 2028; Councilor Thompson asks if we would be able to ride this out until then. CFO Clarkson states that we can, and notes that the initial phase is only a few million. The proposed \$16,000,000 is the max to be borrowed and will not be spent all at once. We will only need to pay interest on the amount that is borrowed.

*Councilor Thompson asks what exactly the first \$2.2 million will get us. Commissioner Hill tells him that it will be used for lining. The DPW lines a substantial portion of the collection system every year. It provides less water and sewer to treat. He states that the projects pay for themselves. Councilor Thompson asks about the previous linings and if this will finish off the city, to which Commissioner Hill states that this will finish a portion of the city.

*Councilor Thompson asks if this work is done by the DPW or if it is contracted. Commissioner Hill tells him that it is contracted.

*Most of our sewers are clay lined with PVC.

*Councilor Thompson asks when it is expected to move past the initial \$2.2 million onto the additional phases to which Commissioner Hill tells him that every year they apply for this relining project. He goes on to say that there are a couple of other projects in the queue right now as well. Councilor Thompson asks if the additional projects would require another borrowing or if they are a part of this \$16,000,000 to which Commissioner Hill tells him that it would be part of this sum.

*Councilor Thompson clarifies that any projects that will be used through this sum of money will only be subject to the 1.5% interest rate and the 17.4% principle forgiveness if it is approved through the state revolving fund to which Mr. Clarkson said yes. The projects do not need to be SRF approved, but that is the only way to get these incentives.

*Councilor Farwell states that there is for sure a need to get these projects done. He also states that he is well aware of the significant amount of money being talked about regarding these three items. He states that the city is already borrowing \$98 million for the public safety facility and he reiterates that idea that these funds are coming out of the enterprise fund. He goes on to say that this is binding future mayors and City Councils to understand that the revenue going into the enterprise fund needs to be enough to cover the debt.

*Councilor Farwell states that while this work has to be done, this borrowing needs to be treated seriously. One of the main reservations he has about this borrowing is that the need these projects has been known since last March. The letter from bond council was dated March 17.

*Councilor Farwell states that as a City Council, they should get an accompanying list of what needs to be done, where it will be done, an appropriate timeline, and the approximate completion dates.

*Councilor Farwell states that he is disappointed that given all of the preliminary work done to receive this borrowing, they are just hearing about it in the month of May when so much is happening in the following months. He states that there is not enough information being shared.

*Councilor Farwell asks why we are borrowing \$16,000,000 if only \$13,000,216 is needed. He asks if the order should be amended to reflect this. CFO Clarkson tells him no due to the fact that the SRF only gives the principle forgiveness fund and interest rate after the full amount has been authorized.

*CFO Clarkson tells Councilor Farwell that he is on board with getting information out, and will disperse materials asked for. Councilor Farwell tells him that nothing was done wrong, but he hopes that the process regarding how information is dispersed will change in the future.

*Councilor Farwell asks for a summary on a ward by ward basis as to what is anticipated to be done and when with footnotes on what may be disrupted by these projects.

*Councilor Rodrigues refers to the increased interest rates everywhere. He asked what guarantee they have that this interest rate is actually going to be 1.5% by the time the

borrowing is approved. CFO Clarkson states that he believes that the SRF has generally been recession proof and the rates stay consistent. There is no guarantee, but CFO Clarkson has reasonable assurance due to what's happened in the past.

*CFO Clarkson states that the Commonwealth requires that we agree to the projects proposed before the end of the FY. If it takes the council a few weeks to approve this, CFO Clarkson is confident that the interest rates will remain the same, but he cannot guarantee it.

*Councilor D'Agostino states his concerns about the amount of debt the city already has and what is in the very near future and how it will affect the tax payers. He goes on to talk about the rates and fees that have recently been added to water and sewer bills in the city, and asks if they are supposed to go toward those projects. CFO Clarkson states that these fees do go toward these projects, it may not always be directly, but they do play a part in paying off the debt. These rates were put through to create revenue in the enterprise fund to fund capital projects. He goes on to reiterate the fact that this borrowing will not put any additional pressure on the tax payers.

*Councilor D'Agostino asks if there is a limit that the city can borrow to which CFO Clarkson states yes. He states that the general rule of thumb in Massachusetts for municipalities is that we spend no more than 10% of our operating budget on principle and interest. In the budget that was filed with the city clerk on May 16th, the principle and interest debt figure is around \$16,000,000, out of a general fund budget that's almost \$470,000,000. Therefore, we are well below that threshold. One of the reasons that we were able to get such a competitive interest rate on the pension obligation debt recently approved was because our debt profile is so low.

*Motion by Councilor Thompson to postpone this item, along with item 12 to the next finance committee meeting, 2nd by Councilor Farwell.

*On the motion, Councilor Asack asks CFO Clarkson if postponing this until the next finance meeting on June 20th is cutting too close to the deadline. CFO Clarkson states because it is a debt issue, it requires three readings in council.

*Council President Lally tells the committee that by reporting favorably or unfavorably back to the full City Council for the meeting on May 23rd, they could still get their three readings in.

*Councilor Thompson withdraws his motion to postpone.

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

*Motion by Councilor Tavares to take item #3 from the end of the meeting and hear it at this time, 2nd by Councilor Asack. Motion carried by a hand vote.

3. Re-appointment of Karlene Derozier-Brizard of 31 Frost Ave Brockton, Ma 02301 to the Women's Commission for a three-year term, ending May 2025.

Invited: Karlene Derozier-Brizard

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

11. Ordered: That the City of Brockton appropriates the amount of Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000) to pay costs of conducting a lead service line inventory and creating a detailed electronic database and map of the City's water service lines, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto. To meet this appropriation the City Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under G.L. c. 44, §7(7), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor. 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: Pat Hill, DPW Commissioner

Martin Brophy, Treasurer

Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

*CFO Clarkson states that this is a requirement of the DEP to do this important work. He goes on to say that he feels confident that this is appropriate and affordable now.

*Councilor Rodrigues asks why the city needs to borrow \$600,000 if the fees from the water and sewer bills are adding up and the city already has this money. He sums up his question by asking why the city needs to borrow \$600,000. CFO Clarkson tells him that by going through the SRF, the principle forgiveness is still on the table. Councilor Rodrigues states that he gets that there is money being saved, but at the end of the day whether it's paid up front or down the line, it is all relative.

*Commissioner Hill reiterates the fact that it's 20% principle forgiveness, therefore it's a significant amount saved. He goes on to say that they're anticipating that this project will be funded at 49% due to the severity of this project, which roughly equals a \$300,000 principle forgiveness. This isn't set in stone, but it is the way everything is pointing as of now. Councilor Rodrigues states that if that is the case, he has no problem with that.

*Councilor D'Agostino asks how long it typically takes for the principle forgiveness to happen. CFO Clarkson states that the SRF is renewed every year, so each project is

completed on an annual basis. Commissioner Hill states that when the project is complete and the loan is closed out, the principle forgiveness comes up front and only the 1.5% is paid based on the total project value after the forgiveness.

*Councilor D'Agostino asks if the city can pay off whatever is left of the debt in one lump sum, or if it has to be made in payments. CFO Clarkson states that the City Council authorizes the Treasurer and the Mayor to borrow the money. They are not required to borrow the full amount of money authorized. It is often that the CFO rescinds borrowing authorizations when they are no longer necessary.

*Councilor Thompson moves to talk about the project itself. He states that these monies are to be used to hunt for lead piping in our system to which Commissioner Hill states that that is correct. Commissioner Hill states that what would be identified as lead service lines are service lines from the water main into the property that is entirely lead.

Commissioner Hill states that in his 20-years with the Water Department in the city, he has never seen a lead pipe. He goes on to say that the purpose of this is to look through the 26,000 locations and identify which services could potentially have lead service lines, put them into a GIS map, and then select a percentage of services that are unknown as the EPA looks at them. Commissioner Hill states that the city is obligated to be lead service free by 2025.

*Councilor Thompson states that any service line installed after 1975 would more than likely be cleared of lead, to which Commissioner Hill tells him that he is correct. Councilor Thompson goes on to say that we may have some understanding on which possibly have lead based on when they were installed, but others that we truly have no clue about. Commissioner Hill states that it depends on the record keeping over the years. He states that the department has to go through all 26,000 location cards to be sure there isn't anything missed. Commissioner Hill states that it is important to note that the SRF looks at this as the number one priority for the next five years.

*Councilor Thompson asks how long it will take to identify all of the lead service lines in Brockton. Commissioner Hill states that he expects everything to be identified by June of next year. He goes on to ask how long it will take to complete the lead service project and have all of them replace. Commissioner Hill states that it will depend on the size of the project; but he states that it could be a couple of years.

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

12. Ordered: That the City of Brockton appropriates the amount of Thirty-Four Million, Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$34,800,000) to pay costs of designing, constructing, equipping and furnishing an advanced water reclamation facility (AWRF) necessary for the efficient disposal of biosolids, which project will include, but not be limited to, demolition of the existing incinerator, installation of new sludge thermal dryers, sludge

conveyance equipment and all other ancillary systems and any other related repairs and upgrades to the AWRP, and including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto. To meet this appropriation the City Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under G.L. c. 44, §7(1), §8(14), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

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: Pat Hill, DPW Commissioner
Martin Brophy, Treasurer
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

*Councilor Farwell asks for a point of parliamentary inquiry on a couple of things. He asks Council President Lally if it is his intention to have a special meeting to approve the budget to which he replies yes. Councilor Farwell goes on to ask if there is anything other than the timing of borrowing orders that would preclude having the adoption of the budget as one agenda item, and then a second agenda item that is approval of these loan orders. Council President Lally states that there is nothing to his knowledge stopping this from happening. Councilor Farwell concludes that as long as it is in the agenda, this can happen and can meet the borrowing order timing and deadlines. Councilor Farwell asks Mr. Brophy if it is correct that loan orders need to have 8 votes, or two thirds of the votes, to which Mr. Brophy tells him that he is correct. Mr. Brophy goes on to say that another caveat to a loan order is that when it is passed to a third reading it needs to be advertised ten days prior to the final vote.

*Council President Lally reads a letter from Councilor Nicastro who was absent from the meeting. She writes that she learning about the sludge dryer about a week ago. She has some concerns about Ward 4 being a bit of a dumping ground, and would like the item postponed to a later date, after her ward meeting on June 1st so she can discuss this item with her ward.

*Councilor Farwell states that a few things he and Councilor Nicastro were worried about were the financial and environmental impacts on the city. He questions how it will affect Ward 4 environmentally, and what the projected budget is totally and completely. He believes that this project could potentially host an abundance of issues, and that the public needs to know a lot about this and should be able to discuss it.

*CFO Clarkson states that he would like to talk about how this works financially for the city, and how he understands that it is counter-intuitive to hear that there will be a borrowing of \$35 million and save money; he moves to address the issue.

*CFO Clarkson states that the challenge for the city is that right now out of the sewer enterprise, we spend approximately \$2.5 million a year out of the operating budget of the enterprise in transportation and disposal of sludge.

*In the first year of borrowing with the 17.4% forgiveness, the total principle and interest would be \$1.8 million, resulting in a savings in year one of nearly \$700,000. If the Commonwealth increases the 17.4% forgiveness to a higher number, then those savings would only increase.

*CFO Clarkson concludes that this is a very sound initiative and makes good fiscal sense.

*Councilor Thompson states that we can also sell the treated sludge. He goes on to ask if this is a plant, if we are building a separate building, or if this is within the existing complex. He concludes by asking what the \$34 million is getting us. Commissioner Hill states that this is going to put two pieces of equipment into service; the sludge dryer and a pyrolysis unit. He goes on to say that the dryers will fit within the main building where the incinerator used to stand and the pyrolysis unit will sit outside. These machines will be operated by Veolia.

*Councilor Thompson asks if this is a quick process. Commissioner Hill states that that is not the case/ He goes on to say that there is probably a years' worth of engineering to be done to be sure that they fit within the building and to get everything going.

*Councilor Thompson asks what the environmental impacts of these dryers are.

Commissioner Hill begins by telling him that sludge typically gets transported to the only incinerator in New England which is in Connecticut. When this sludge gets transported, it is mainly liquid. The sludge dryers will be able to dry the sludge to 90% so that it will be 90% solid. From there, the 90% solid will be put into the pyrolysis machine which is basically a high-heat combustion chamber, and it reduces it to biochar. Commissioner Hill states that we are projected to produce 4.5-5 tons a day of biochar.

*Councilor Thompson states that with heating comes exhaust. He wants to know what exactly is coming out of the exhaust stack. Commissioner Hill states that with the two technologies together, there won't exactly be a stack coming out of the dryer. The heat produced by the dryer will be introduced to the pyrolysis machine to increase the efficiency of it. The only stack will be out of the pyrolysis unit itself. Commissioner Hill states that this technology is used in Europe; it is not something new. The sludge removal issue had been around for 5-6 years. He goes on to say that numerous other cities and towns have thought about doing this, but none has followed through. Doing it in house will save on trucking costs because there will be no need to transport the sludge. In regard to Councilor Thompson's initial question, Commissioner Hill isn't sure what comes out of the pyrolysis unit.

*Councilor Thompson asks if this equipment is being used anywhere else in Massachusetts and Commissioner Hill tells him no.

*Councilor Thompson asks if the DEP will sign off on something like this.

Commissioner Hill states that the sludge drying process is being done in Massachusetts.

This technology has been around for 15-20 years. The pyrolysis unit is a new technology to the United States. Commissioner Hill states that there will be approval from the EPA before we purchase these machines.

*Councilor Thompson asks if there is any anticipation or expectation to take on sludge from another city or town. Commissioner Hill tells him that it is not designed for that. The machines are sized for the number of wet tons that are produced a day. He states that there will be room to accept other sludge, but that is not the goal.

*Councilor Thompson states that according to the paper provided, the City of Brockton only receives 10% of the proceeds from the sale of the sludge; he asks why. Commissioner Hill states that that's a negotiable thing. That is currently what the model plant that Commissioner Hill saw in California receives. He states that that is \$300 per ton. Councilor Thompson asks who gets the other 90%, and Commissioner Hill tells him that it's removed entirely by the manufacturer of the unit, and they remove it for free. They get 90% of the product.

*Councilor Thompson asks what the biochar is used for. Commissioner Hill tells him that it is currently used in soils and is pretty popular in the farming industry.

*Councilor Farwell reiterates the idea that there is only one other of these operations in the entire United States. Commissioner Hill agrees, and goes on to say that there are three other installations currently happening now, two in Pennsylvania and one in New Jersey meaning that the technology is accepted through the EPA.

*Councilor Farwell states that the projected savings is difficult to nail down. If Veolia is going to operate this, they may very well want an increase in their payment each year that we give to them to operate the plant. He asks if this was factored in to the projected savings. Commissioner Hill tells him that this conversation was had with Veolia, and it doesn't seem as though it's going to be more than one or two additional employees to operate this.

*Councilor Farwell states that he hopes that the council moves to postpone this item. He goes on to say if this is recommended favorably, it will seem like a smack in the face to residents of the city. He states that he does not want the southeast section of the city to be known as the sludge receptacle of the city. He states that before anything is done on this, there needs to be a meeting in Ward 4 to hear the residents take on things. He thinks it'll be beneficial for the Ward 4 councilor, Commissioner Hill and CFO Clarkson to make a presentation to the residents and to hear the residents' concerns.

*Motion by Councilor Farwell to postpone to a future Finance Committee meeting after the Ward 4 meeting on June 1st, 2nd by Councilor Teixeira.

*On the motion, Councilor Rodrigues asks how much the city pays to truck the sludge to Connecticut every year. Commissioner Hill states this fiscal year it was about \$2,000,000, but it will continue to go up each year. Councilor Rodrigues goes on to ask if

this technology works, if it'll be savings for the city to which Commissioner Hill replied yes.

*Councilor Rodrigues states that given the time sensitive matters, he thinks that it is important to report favorably to the full City Council. He notes that he will attend the Ward 4 meeting on June 1st, and if he doesn't end up liking something that he hears, he is will be sure to table the matter at the next meeting. He states that as a resident of ward 4, he is willing to push it forward so the City Council has about a month or so to reconvene on the matter.

*On the motion, Councilor Farwell states that he understands the timing of things, and that is why he is a bit resentful. He states that this could have been broached a long time ago, and it could've been fully vetted without rushing.

*On the motion, Councilor Mendes clarifies that if it was to be postponed there will not be enough time to pass it before the deadline.

*On the motion, Councilor Thompson states that a lot of things will not be answered until the engineering is complete. Commissioner Hill states that that is correct. Commissioner Hill goes on to say that generally speaking, they wouldn't be trying to rush anything through; he states that the SRF program usually comes out in February, but this year it came out last week.

*On the motion, Councilor D'Agostino asks that if this does get postponed and the city does not meet the deadline, what the negative implications are exactly. Commissioner Hill tells him that if a loan appropriation isn't put in place with the SRF program when they ask for it, then that money that was set aside for this project in particular, will go to another project. In conclusion, the risk could be that we lose this entire opportunity.

*Councilor D'Agostino states that he has concerns about the negative environmental implications from this project. He asks that answers to these environmental questions come up at the next reading.

*Councilor Farwell states that in section 2-86 of the ordinances of the City of Brockton, it reads "any ordinance, order or resolution may be passed through all its stages of legislation at one session; provided, that no member of the council objects thereto; but if any member of the council objects, the measure shall be postponed for that meeting." He goes on to say that unfortunately, we do not have legislative council here. He states that this is just a point of information, and wonders if there is potentially a state law that reflects this.

*CFO Clarkson states that the 10-day ad requirement is not waivable as part of that section of the ordinance. He goes on to say that he understands the reservations that the councilors have and accepts their pleas to have more information whole-heartedly. To conclude, he states that making this work within the constraints of the statute and the ordinances is what is most important.

*With a motion properly made and seconded to postpone this item to the next Finance Committee Meeting, a rollcall vote fails with two yays and seven nays.

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

13. 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: \$48,011.95

From: Department of Public Works- Highway- Snow Removal

To: Department of Public Works- Highway- Personal Services- Other Than Overtime

Invited: Pat Hill, DPW Commissioner

Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

*Commissioner Hill states that this is a transfer that is done every year.

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

14. 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: \$635,456.00

From: Department of Public Works- Highway- Purchase of Services

To: Department of Public Works- Highway- Capital

(These funds will be used for the purchase of snow and ice removal equipment.)

Invited: Pat Hill, DPW Commissioner

Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

*Councilor Thompson asks what exactly is being purchased, to which Commissioner Hill tells him that the goal is to purchase two new sidewalk plows. The machines themselves and the attachments that come with them are \$180,000 apiece. The machines will come with a v-plow and a 48-inch snow blower. He states that these machines will allow for the sidewalks to be opened up fairly quickly.

*Councilor Thompson asks if these are to supplement that existing sidewalk plows, or if they are in replacement. Commissioner Hill states that the equipment we currently have will be used as long as possible, and that the city doesn't plan on getting rid of it. These new machines serve a need and a purpose.

*Councilor Thompson asks how many sidewalk plows the city owns, including these two machines. Commissioner Hill tells him that this would bring our total sidewalk plows up to thirteen. Two of which are still waiting on parts, but the other eleven are working. Six

of them are ten years old, and weren't equipped for the amount of snow Brockton gets, but they are limping along. There are a few pieces of newer equipment that were purchased that are called trackless machines; even some of these machines aren't powerful enough to get through some embankments.

*Councilor Thompson asks Commissioner Hill to talk about the streetsweeper also being purchased with this money. Commissioner Hill states that a streetsweeper is \$280,000. We currently have an older machine that is being replaced, but the city typically likes to keep two on hand.

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

16. 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: \$297,495

From: Certified Free Cash

To: Brockton Police Department – Capital Vehicles

Invited: Brenda Perez, Acting Police Chief

Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

*CFO Clarkson states that this purchase is part of the routine replacement of patrol vehicles. He goes on to say that every year, as part of the close-out of the city's books, a process is undergone. Certified free cash is a "snapshot as of June 30th". The basis of it is revenues in excess of projections and funds budgeted but not spent. The practice in Brockton has been out of necessity to use the entirety of the free cash every year to balance the next year's budget. At the next budget meeting, \$15,000,000 will be proposed to balance this upcoming year's budget. He states that the free cash certified as of last June 30th was \$19,305,255. Therefore, there is more free cash left than what is needed to balance the budget.

*CFO Clarkson states that the funding source for these police cruisers is certified free cash left over. Budgeted funds do not have to be used, and they can be used toward other things, like operations. Money doesn't need to be borrowed, and interest costs are not in question.

*This transfer in particular is to purchase six police patrol vehicles.

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

17. 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: \$1,400,000
From: Public Property- Vacant and Abandoned Building Revolving Fund
To: Public Property - Capital

Invited: Jim Plouffe, Superintendent of Buildings
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

*CFO Clarkson states that the balance of this fund is \$2,307,163.

*Superintendent Plouffe states that over the past couple of years, many buildings have been identified as dangerous and they need to be removed. There are about ten buildings that this fund will pay to demolition as they are a safety hazard.

*Councilor Farwell states that it is very important to get these buildings down because they are fire issues, and homeless people are camping out in them. They are not stable enough for people to enter, so this is a hazard.

*Councilor Teixeira asks if a private owned building can be torn down by the city. Superintendent Plouffe tells him that they can be. MGL c. 143 states that if a building is dangerous and unsafe according to the superintendent and confirmed by the Board of Survey, the city has the authority to take said building down or make it safe. After demolition, the city will lien the property onto the property owner for that amount. Any liens paid from the Vacant and Abandoned Building Fund, would then be put back into that fund once repaid.

*Councilor Thompson asks what happens to a lot that isn't able to be paid off, to which Superintendent Plouffe tells him that a lot of times, if someone isn't able to pay their lien the lot becomes an abandoned lot. The city can then sell the property, and it will probably be sold for a loss.

*Councilor Thompson asks if this scenario is essentially a taking of the property. Superintendent Plouffe states that that is correct. It would not immediately be the city's property. It will only become the city's property if the lien does not get paid, and it goes to land court. The lien is solely given to cover the cost of the demolition.

*Councilor Asack states that this has been done a few times in the past. She states that it does pay to bring the buildings down as they are dangerous and eye sores to our city. She goes on to say that run-down and boarded up buildings do not help our city, and hopes that something can be created in the future that doesn't allow buildings to sit dormant. Possibly creating a time-limit that gives investors a set amount of time to begin a renovation would be helpful in getting these abandoned buildings functional again.

*Superintendent Plouffe mentions a few demolitions that have been paid back by private property owners and reiterates the idea that sometimes the city does get paid back, but it is not always guaranteed.

*Councilor Teixeira asks if the city works with the owners of the privately-owned property and gives them fair notice that the city wants to demolition their buildings. Superintendent Plouffe tells him that that is correct. The city gives the owner the

opportunity to demolish their own buildings before even touching it. He goes on to say that the city consistently keeps the pressure on the owners to demolish their buildings because if they back-off in any way it is possible that the owner will ignore the threats.

*Councilor Rodrigues states that he doesn't feel comfortable allowing the city to interfere with some of the proceedings of the buildings that are privately-owned. There are owners who have plans for their buildings, and doesn't think that it is fair for the city to move in. He goes on to say that there are plenty of other issues to deal with in the community. Councilor Rodrigues states that the city should be there to help the process of rebuilding or fixing buildings with owners who want the help, rather than taking the building down completely. He states that it doesn't make sense to use city resources to demolish a building when the owner is still very much engaged in the process of fixing their own building. He concludes by stating that there are bigger fish to fry than trying to pick fights with people who are willing to work with the city.

*Superintendent Plouffe tells him that he doesn't think the city is essentially picking fights. He states that dangerous buildings, like those after fires, are a public safety hazard. These hazards need to be taken care of immediately to prevent injury or any other hazardous issues to the people of the city.

*Councilor Rodrigues asks if the building that he is referencing has been condemned, which Superintendent Plouffe tells him that in building codes, "condemned" isn't a word used. The building has been declared as dangerous and unsafe. Councilor Rodrigues asks what happens if a building on the demolition list is salvageable, and the owner wants to try to salvage it rather than take it down. Superintendent Plouffe states that the owner was informed that if they receive information from an architect or engineer with drawings showing that they can salvage a building, they can do so. The building in question was turned down by an architect who wasn't comfortable renovating the building; they suggested tearing it down.

*Councilor Rodrigues asks when the tearing down of buildings begins after the order gets approved. Superintendent Plouffe tells him that the demolition has to go out to bid; the bid documents are ready to go out the Wednesday after City Council approves or rejects the order. It will take a month and a half to two months to begin any demolition.

*Councilor D'Agostino refers to the same building that Councilor Rodrigues was speaking about, and reiterates the idea that the owner was thinking about tearing it down anyway. He asks why the city is stepping in if the owner is gearing up to take the building down themselves anyway. Superintendent Plouffe states that the city steps in when the buildings are unsafe and they haven't been taken down in a period of time. The MGL states that when the Superintendent determines a building to be dangerous and unsafe, the owner has until 12pm the next day after the notice is sent to begin to make the building safe. Superintendent Plouffe states that the building owner gets ample opportunity and notices to fix their own buildings, but sometimes the deadlines do not get met.

*Councilor Tavares agrees with Councilor Rodrigues and believes that the city should allow more time for the property owners to fix their own buildings as the process for getting permits and contractors is lengthy. While she understands that it is unsafe, she believes that the city should be more helpful and provide more resources rather than moving in to demolish the building so quickly.

*Councilor Asack states that this will be a great thing for the community in terms of beautification and she believes that a lot of residents of the city will be incredibly happy to see some of these buildings be taken down. She states that we should not wait to bring the buildings down because the longer the city waits, the more it will cost them in the end.

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

18. Resolve: To have Tim Carpenter, Superintendent of Parks, appear before the Brockton City Council Standing Committee on Finance, to discuss efforts for the spring time cleanup and opening of athletic fields and parks in the City of Brockton.

Further resolved to have Mr. Carpenter give an update on the plans and timelines concerning repair and rehabilitation of multiple City of Brockton parks and playgrounds. Be it further resolved to have Mr. Carpenter report on the methods, and rules and regulations used for permitting groups to use the city Parks and athletic fields.

Invited: Tim Carpenter, Superintendent of Parks

*Superintendent Carpenter states that in terms of preparation of ballfields, the parks department likes to do that as early in the year as possible. Permits generally start April 1st whether the maintenance gets completed or not. Many times, the weather conditions do not allow for a proper maintenance to be done before the April 1st deadline. All deadlines were met this year. Fields were properly lined for opening days as well as weekly games.

*In terms of the permitting process, all permits offered are available through the Parks Department at their office and online. There is a \$25 application fee for all associated permits.

*Superintendent Carpenter states that he has been working with Mr. Pallotta, the ARPA project manager, to discuss parks projects and renovations. The focus has been on the Cosgrove Pool. He goes on to say that the city has hired someone who they call a “house doctor” who will do a lot of the survey work for improvements to the parks.

*Councilor Rodrigues asks how many soccer fields in the city are being used and permitted. Superintendent Carpenter states that under the care and control of the Park Department, there is O’Donnell’s Playground, Snow Park, East Jr. High, and the fields behind the B.B. Russell school. Councilor Rodrigues follows up to ask what the process

is on deciding who gets to use the fields versus who doesn't. Superintendent Carpenter states that the Park Commission has had the long-standing policy that youth sports (18 and under) get first crack at permitting for all field space. If there is space left, that is when permits get opened to adult organizations.

*Councilor Rodrigues touches on the fact that many youth soccer organizations in the past were using fields that they now cannot use. Superintendent Carpenter states that some of that is determined by youth applications. New Heights Charter School, Cardinal Spellman and Brockton Public Schools alike put through applications to use these fields as well. Councilor Rodrigues reiterates the fact that those schools are typically Monday-Friday permits, whereas the leagues he was talking about play on the weekends. He asks why they have to travel to other cities and towns to use their fields when they've been using Brockton fields for many years prior. Superintendent Carpenter states that while he is not sure which league that he is talking about, there was a vote taken by the Park Commission in October of 2021 in regards to adult use at the Parmenter Playground to not have adult sports on those fields due to many issues and complaints for years on end. Because of this, there are limited fields that adults can use, at least for this year.

*Councilor Rodrigues tells Superintendent Carpenter that there is word that he was told to not rent the fields to the leagues in question. Councilor Rodrigues reiterates the idea that he doesn't truly believe, but wants to make Superintendent Carpenter aware that this is what is being said. Superintendent Carpenter states that his job is to utilize field space without damaging the fields. He states that he does not exclude anyone from renting the field space.

*Councilor Rodrigues notes that several years ago, City Council approved a \$1.5 million dollar borrowing to get an artificial turf soccer field in the city. He asks what is taking so long in terms of getting the ball rolling. Superintendent Carpenter tells him that the initial plan was for the field behind the B.B. Russell (Parmenter), which he states may not have been the best choice. They are working to shift their focus to put the turf field elsewhere in the city. He goes on to say that while this is still in conversation, the original borrowing will not cover how much the field costs; it costs much more than that.

*Councilor Rodrigues notes that it has been three years in the making, and asks if there is anyway that this particular project could be pushed along quicker. He goes on to say that no matter where this field goes, someone will have an issue with it. He notes that ARPA monies can be used as well to push this along.

*Councilor Rodrigues states that it's unfair to expect people over 18 years old to just stop playing soccer. Once the 18-year old's turn 19, they are no longer the priority, and he thinks that it is very unfair especially since this is not the case for many residents in the city. Superintendent Carpenter states that the Park Commission voted not to charge youth leagues. Many youth leagues are 18 and under. 18 and over leagues are considered adult, therefore there is a fee. He reiterates the idea that being over 18 does not mean that they cannot play in the community anymore.

*Superintendent Carpenter states that some pressure will be relieved in the schedule when O'Donnell's Playground is finally ready to be used. This should be ready to be open sometime at the end of June.

*Superintendent Carpenter states that the Parks Department has already renovated two baseball/softball fields to convert them into soccer fields in the city. He notes that finding space for a full-size soccer field in already existing park spaces is not easy.

*In terms of the leagues that haven't been able to get permits, Councilor Rodrigues asks what has changed in the last year. He asks why this year is different, and why all of a sudden, they cannot get the permit to play on the fields they've been playing on.

Superintendent Carpenter states that all league's requests, other than the adult league that the Park Commission voted on, have remained the same and have been able to be fulfilled. Councilor Rodrigues asks what happens to the organization that is not able to use that field. He states that these issues that arose may not have even been at the fault of the players or the league. He wants to know what this league can do to be able to play in the city again, and what their options are. Superintendent Carpenter tells him that the vote was to only allow youth sports at Parmenter, this did not mean that the league couldn't put a request to get a permit for a different field.

*Councilor Rodrigues asks what happened to the adults that used to play at Parmenter, he wants to know what the city did to accommodate them. Superintendent Carpenter states that for a long time he did not receive permit requests from the Sunday League, but this year, the Sunday League was reestablished and they're playing at East Jr. High. Councilor Rodrigues clarifies that every adult league, to Superintendent Carpenter's knowledge, has been accommodated in the city. He tells him that the only one that he can think of off the top of his head that may have an issue is the Brockton Amateur Soccer League, but the city has not received a permit request from them this year.

*Councilor Rodrigues asks how clear the process is to apply for permits. Superintendent Carpenter tells him that the youth permitting process is always started around February 1st. At this time, they reach out to the youth organizations that have requested a permit the year before and let them know the deadline in which their permit should be in by. After this, the permit process opens up to adult organizations about a month later.

*Councilor Rodrigues asks if we are working to accommodate the young adults that play on these leagues as well. Superintendent Carpenter tells him that that is true, and reiterates the fact that his job is to get the most use out of the fields without damaging them.

*Councilor Rodrigues asks what the stipulations are in terms of youth teams. Superintendent Carpenter tells him that the Park Department asks for a certificate of insurance from all youth organizations to ensure that they are servicing the youth in and from the City of Brockton.

*Councilor Teixeira notes that a few teams play soccer outside of the city despite living and working in the city. He states that these teams should be able to use the fields in the

city as long as they play by the rules. Superintendent Carpenter asks if these teams in question have put in a permit request. Councilor Teixeira states that he believes they did, but he isn't absolutely sure. Superintendent Carpenter tells him that the only reason that someone would not have gotten a permit, would be due to a scheduling issue. This means, if an organization requests a day and time that is already taken by a youth organization, which takes precedent, or another organization that put their request in before them, they would not be permitted to play. He goes on to say that he gives permits to nearly anyone who submits a request, as long as the field is available.

*Councilor Teixeira mentions the league in which Councilor Rodrigues was speaking about who is no longer allowed to use Parmenter Field because of the numerous complaints and issues that were brought to light. He goes on to talk about how it is possible that all of the things that were complained about, like trash and beer bottles, were not the fault of the soccer players. He states that the city should be able to work with the players to have them understand that cleaning up after themselves is their responsibility. He notes that everything cannot be blamed on them, given the homeless population that inhabits that part of the city. Superintendent Carpenter understands that that could be the case, and notes that he is not casting dispersions on anyone. He goes on to say that he would argue that his office, the Park Commission and the DPW alike had tried to make adult sports work at this particular site for nearly 5 years. It wasn't just the beer bottles that were an issue, there was also an insufficient amount of parking that led to cars being parked in front of people's houses.

*Councilor Teixeira asks what the city can do to make sure these soccer leagues are being treated in the same way other sports leagues are treated in this city. Councilor Teixeira reiterates the idea of working with the league and laying out all of the rules beforehand and seeing if they are willing to follow the rules before revoking the permits. Superintendent Carpenter tells him that he has tried to reason with this league for years in the way that he is describing, and he goes on to note again that if a permit request was not received, there is nothing that he can do in terms of issuing a permit. He concludes by telling him that he truly did not get an application for field use from that particular organization this year.

*Councilor Teixeira asks what the future plans are for the turf soccer field proposed a few years ago. He notes that other towns have them and wonders why this city can't afford even one. Superintendent Carpenter tells him that there is money available, which is the \$1.5 million-dollar authorized borrowing spoken about previously, set aside. When the perfect location and the rest of the funds are acquired, the project can move forward. He states that there could be one behind the Arnone School at the E.B. Keith field, meaning there could potentially be two in the city, not to mention Marciano Stadium as well.

*Councilor Teixeira follows up to ask what exactly the perfect location is.

Superintendent Carpenter states that himself, Mayor Sullivan, CFO Clarkson, Councilor

Teixeira and Councilor Rodrigues can certainly have a conversation about a proposed location if they would like to.

*Councilor D'Agostino moves to talk about staffing. He notes that there are several school fields that the Park Department maintains in addition to all of the other parks in the city. He asks Superintendent Carpenter if he has any staffing issues, if he is going to propose a budget for more staff, or if he is staffed adequately. Superintendent Carpenter tells him that just on the parks side, not including the people who work at the golf course, there are five employees working at this time, one of which is an employee out of work on long-time worker's compensation. This means that there are four people who maintain approximately 900 acres across the city. Councilor D'Agostino asks if four people is enough, and if not, what number is enough to be able to adequately maintain the parks and fields in the city. Superintendent Carpenter tells him that a crew of eight people would do a phenomenal job, but a crew of ten people would be the best. He also goes on to say that he would need machines and vehicles well beyond what he has now to accommodate this as well. The associated cost is not only the staff and the benefits, it's also the additional costs of vehicles and equipment. Superintendent Carpenter states that this is almost out-of-reach for this department. He concludes with the fact that there isn't even a maintenance facility to house all of the extra vehicles that would be needed.

*Councilor Mendes mentions the complaints that have come to her attention regarding golf balls being hit at D.W. Field Park that are breaking windows and hitting people. She mentions that people are afraid to leave their homes because of the balls flying. She asks what can be done to address these issues. Superintendent Carpenter tells her that he is aware of the complaints, and that they have taken several steps over the past couple of years to prevent these things from happening. He states that they've planted over thirteen trees and even built two new tee boxes further away from the homes to replace the old. He goes on to say that unfortunately neither of these things have worked, but they are currently working with a designer to put together the bid-specs for what would be 85-ft poles and a screen system to protect approximately 250-300ft on the right-hand side of the 11th hole. When this project goes into effect depends on when this goes out to bid, and how soon the contractor would be able to put it up. Councilor Mendes asks if there is money in the budget to begin the project as soon as it is approved to which Superintendent Carpenter tells her that he hopes there will be enough money in retained earnings to undertake the project. Both the CFO and the Mayor know about this and are on board. She goes on to ask if there is an approximate amount that this will cost. Superintendent Carpenter tells here that the preliminary estimate two years ago was about \$145,000; today this could be anywhere from \$200,00-\$225,000.

*Councilor Thompson asks about O'Donnell's Field and what is to be expected of it. Superintendent Carpenter tells him that the industry standard is about 2.5 years that people are typically supposed to wait before using a new field. Because of this, the department did a substantial over seeding in the fall, and the irrigation system will be

ready to go next week. He goes on to say that it was a difficult winter for this field in particular because there was a lot of snow mold out on the field. He is confident that it will be good to go for limited play by mid to late June. He states that he would be willing to permit it 3-5 days a week.

*Councilor Thompson asks if Snow will no longer be available for permitting after O'Donnell's opens to which Superintendent Carpenter tells him that they don't have the ability to do that this year. He agrees that there is a lot of work to be done at Snow Park, but with the demand of field space in the city it isn't likely that this field can come offline as of yet.

*Councilor Thompson brings up Cosgrove Pool and the significant upgrades that it will get with ARPA funds. He asks if Cosgrove will be open this year and Superintendent Carpenter tells him that the plan is to open it this year. He states that the goal would be to have the engineering and specs done by close of pool season this year. He goes on to say that he cannot guarantee that the pool would be ready and open in time after restoration from summer of 2023.

*Councilor Thompson asks when it is projected to open this year. Superintendent Carpenter tells him that due to school getting out late this year, they are working with the Y to be sure that there are life-guards ready to work. Without the guards, there will be no pool. He projects the pool to open in late June-early July.

*Councilor Thompson moves to discuss the turf soccer field and how it was talked about to be installed at East Jr. High. He asks if they've moved on from this location, or if this location is still in talks. Superintendent Carpenter tells him that he has had conversations with the Superintendent of Schools and they've decided that that may not be the best location for it. They've begun to identify some other possibilities that may provide an ample amount of parking and will take up some space that's not as utilized. He goes on to talk about the fields behind Asiat Skating Rink and how this space has been in the conversations regarding the turf field. He states that there is a huge area back there that is under-utilized.

*Councilor Tavares asks what the requirements are to play on the fields. She asks if an organization needs to be formed, or if people can just play on the fields. Superintendent Carpenter tells her that in terms of sports fields, there is nothing stopping a group of people from using the fields when they are available. The advantage to having a permit is that that becomes the allotted time that an organization has and they essentially have the power to kick anyone else off the field with that permit.

*Councilor Tavares asks what the time frame is to apply for the permit as well as the rules and regulations. Superintendent Carpenter states that for one-time field use, like a pick-up game for example, the organization leader can simply call the Parks and Recreation office and they'll be directed to the appropriate application on the city's website. If the field space is available, a \$25-dollar money order is required and a permit

is issued. He goes on to reiterate the fact that this one-time use application doesn't need to be an organization, anyone can apply for this.

*Superintendent Carpenter emphasizes the fact that these permits are all available under the Park Department's section of the city's website.

*Councilor Tavares asks how long it takes for a permit to be issued. Superintendent Carpenter tells her that if the space is available it can be done pretty quickly.

*Councilor Tavares goes on to ask how we can make access to the parks more available for everyone. Superintendent Carpenter tells her that he believes access to parks in the city is not an issue. It is typically a quick phone-call to the Parks Department and the filing of the right application.

*Councilor Asack brings up South Jr. High and the space available for the potential turf soccer field. Superintendent Carpenter states that he has not had any conversations with anyone about this location. He tells her that if this was the location chosen, the field would be much smaller than anywhere else it may go. A full-size field would not fit. He goes on to say that football will be there in the fall through Community Schools, so it is definitely a multi-use area.

*Councilor Asack asks if any of these improvements talked about could be eligible for ARPA funding. Superintendent Carpenter tells her that the mayor has committed about \$1.8-million dollars to parks in just about every ward in the city.

*Councilor Farwell moves back to the blatant staffing issues in the Park Department. He strongly believes that come the time for the budget hearings, Superintendent Carpenter and Mayor Sullivan need to put something together to beef up the staff greatly and equip them with all things they need.

*Councilor Farwell mentions the issues previously discussed about the complaints at Parmenter park. He tells the council that he doesn't believe it was the soccer players, or anyone who truly lives in the city. He believes that it was spectators from out of town who ruined it for everyone.

*Councilor Rodrigues notes that Superintendent Carpenter and his employees do a great job. He goes on to talk about the soccer field at East Jr. High, and that players are getting injured because of it. He asks if there is an organization(s) already lined up to use the O'Donnell's field once it is open. Superintendent Carpenter tells him that there has been a request from an organization for a few weekends in June. Councilor Rodrigues goes on to ask if it would be possible to move the Sunday League from East Jr. High to the O'Donnell's park on Sundays to which Superintendent Carpenter tells him yes on Sundays, but he wouldn't be able to guarantee practice time during the week and an amended permit would have to be worked on.

*Councilor Rodrigues notes that these fields are being destroyed by dirt bikes, and neighborhood kids who do not have a permit for the fields. It is very rarely the actual leagues. Superintendent Carpenter agrees with him, and tells him that it is an issue all over the city.

*Councilor Rodrigues asks if a team's permit is a full day, or if it has a time limit. Superintendent Carpenter tells him that it depends on the request.

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

Meeting Adjourned: Approximately 10:35pm