

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Standing Committee on Finance met on *Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 at 7:00 PM* in the *Council Chambers, Brockton City Hall, 45 School Street*, with Councilor Lally presiding, Councilor Farwell, Councilor Tavares, Councilor Thompson and Councilor Rodrigues absent, to consider the following:

### Public Hearing:

1. WHEREAS, the City Council adopted an order on July 25, 2016 approving the March 8, 2016 Urban Renewal Plan prepared by A.G. Jennings, LLC and Stantec as an Urban Renewal Plan prepared in accordance with M.G.L. c. 121B and 760 CMR 12.00 and approved the boundaries of the Downtown Urban Revitalization Plan as depicted in Map 1 in the Plan; and WHEREAS, there exists a need to amend the 2016 Urban Renewal Plan to facilitate further development and redevelopment in designated areas in the City to reflect the current status, progress and priorities in the City of Brockton.

ORDERED: That the City Council hereby adopt the amended Downtown Urban Revitalization Plan dated April 15, 2022 attached as Exhibit A. This Order authorizes the Mayor to approve minor, non-substantive language changes in the amended Downtown Urban Revitalization Plan if such changes are recommended by the Department of Housing and Community Development or MEPA Office. This Order shall take effect upon its final approval by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Invited: Robert Jenkins, Executive Director, BRA

Philip Griffin, Chairman

Rob May, Director of Planning and Economic Development

Megan Bridges, City Solicitor

\*Chairman Philip Griffin states that while there are some changes to the plan, the district remains the same.

\*Executive Director Robert Jenkins states that this plan was first passed in 2016. At that time, the BRA had estimated about 1,000 units over a twenty-year period. There are now over 500 units that are now in progress or completed. He tells the council that this is in accordance with MGL, 120B.

\*He goes on to say that some of the zoning areas have been updated since the initial approval of the plan in 2016. He states that there are new construction details in this amendment, and that while the budget is big, the city will not have to come up with any extra funds.

\*All extra sites that weren't in the initial proposal can be found on the city's website as well as the Planning Board's website.

\*Director May states that one of the largest parcels that has been added to the grouping is site AC, or the Stadelman Block. The vast majority of this site is owned by the Stadelman family. This site is being proposed to bring a new 350+ parking space parking garage with multi-residential development above it.

\*Site Z has been added to the list as well. The space at 26 School St. is designated to mixed use development. The plan is for retail on the first floor, and approximately 60 units of housing above.

\*Director May states that there is a series of proposed infrastructure and public amenities. These proposals include Frederick Douglass Avenue Garage, a performing arts center, expanding city hall plaza and green links. Green links are ways of connecting public parking facilities with major retail streets.

\*In terms of the performing arts center, Executive Director Jenkins states that this wasn't something that the BRA just thought of, this was a direct request from the community. Not only will it give residents a space to hold events, it will also bring traffic to businesses downtown and hopefully attract people to want to own businesses downtown.

\*Executive Director Jenkins reiterates the idea that this is merely a wish-list to be completed over the next fourteen years of this twenty-year plan.

\*He goes on to say that this is just a second amendment, and there will be more in the future to this plan.

\*Robert Jenkins states that he understands that this is a lot of money proposed. The idea is to have the city spend the least money possible. He plans on receiving grants and acquisition money from MassDevelopment; therefore, the proposed budget is not all coming from the City of Brockton.

### **Public Hearing Closed**

\*Councilor Minichiello refers to the fact that market-rate rental was spoken about. He asks if the apartments across the street from W.B. Mason are market-rate. Executive Director Jenkins tells him that it is mixed. It is considered a low-income housing tax credit development. 60% of the units are affordable, and 40% are market-rate in phase 1. In phase 2, which is currently under construction is the opposite.

\*Councilor Minichiello asks if any of the market-rate units downtown have been converted into Section 8 housing over time. Mr. Jenkins tells him not since he's been in his position. He goes on to say that in the downtown area there is a large percentage of subsidized housing. The Redevelopment Authority is working to obtain a balance.

\*Councilor Minichiello notes that people want to feel safe when being in the downtown area, and states that these quality of life details needs to be paid attention to.

\*Councilor D'Agostino notes that there isn't much that the city offers in terms of amenities for young people and young professionals. Director Rob May agrees, and tells him that that is an issue that they've been working to address. He goes on to say that there is an idea about how many people live and work downtown in terms of what constitutes having restaurants. The three major businesses downtown that have the most employees all have their own cafeterias to serve their employees. He goes on to say that he understands the need for this and the need to continue to maintain the downtown area.

\*Councilor D'Agostino asks about the marketing plan, and wants to know how the BRA plans to bring people who do not live in the city into the city to shop and spend money. He asks about the marketing process and how the city plans to spread the word. Director May states that they've been in conversation with Brockton Partnership which is a group of local CEOs who are in cooperation with the Metro South Chamber, and they are planning a marketing campaign about Brockton in general with a heavy emphasis on downtown. Mr. Jenkins goes on to say that we need to appeal to more Brocktonians as well. He states that he wants to be sure that the residents of this city are taken care of as well.

\*Councilor Asack notes how important public parking is especially given all of the new development ideas in this plan. She goes on to ask what the City Council can do to help move this plan a little quicker. Executive Director Jenkins tells her that the first thing the council can do is approve this amendment. He goes on to say that the councilors should be making their constituents aware of what is going on in this city. Director May states that the most important thing is to speak as Brockton, as a unified voice, to support development projects and the people who are in charge of them.

\*Councilor Nicastro asks as a side note what Mr. Jenkins and Mr. May will do for the Campello neighborhood. Mr. May tells her that there will be an announcement made soon, hopefully, about a new investment opportunity called Connected Neighborhoods. He concludes by saying that there are plans in the works.

\*Councilor Nicastro asks if structural problems are considered when identifying properties to be demolished and rehabilitated and if so, how they are aware of them. Mr. Jenkins tells her that those issues are absolutely considered. In most cases, consultants, the BRA and the Planning Department do visuals of these properties. They follow up with an assessment. The BRA works with the Assessor's Department and the Building Department to see what information they already have regarding the properties. He goes on to say that it is a very thorough process.

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.

2. Ordered: That the City Council authorize the re-authorization of the Comcast Revolving Fund for FY2023, from all cash receipts from Comcast franchise fees, in excess of \$675,000, pursuant to the cable license contract, and that further, that the expenditure from this fund shall not exceed \$750,000 without further appropriation, during Fiscal Year 2023.

Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

\*CFO Clarkson is unable to make the meeting. Budget Director Tiffani Ciasullo will speak on his behalf.

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

3. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$190,596.00.

From: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs- Formula Grant

To: Department of Council on Aging- Formula Grant Fund

(These grant funds will be used to fund the Council on Aging and dispersed in the following manner: salary including overtime, energy, department equipment repair, printing, office supplies, and registration, memberships and subscriptions.)

Invited: Janice Fitzgerald, Director

Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

\*Michelle Brace, the Assistant Director of the Council on Aging, will speak on Director Janice Fitzgerald's behalf.

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

4. Ordered: That the City Council authorize the re-authorization of the Roadway Design and Construction Revolving Fund for the Fiscal Year 2023 for the sole purposes of funding the creation and maintenance of The Roadway Design and Construction Revolving Fund shall receive the receipts of payments of fines and fees for the engineering, design, construction and paving of projects. Expenditures from the Roadway Design and Construction Revolving Fund shall be made on the authority and direction of the Brockton Department of Public Works Commissioner, provided that no more than \$1,000,000 may be so expended from the Roadway Design and Construction Revolving Fund during fiscal year 2023. The Brockton Department of Public Works Commissioner shall comply with the reporting requirements of M.G.L., Ch. 44, Section 53E1/2.

Invited: Pat Hill, DPW Commissioner

Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

\*Commissioner Hill states that this is the second year of this fund. No money has been accepted as of tonight. The intent of the fund is to capture money from private utilities to reinvest in the roads. The selections are made street by street. There is no money in the fund yet, but he expects there to be money in it as of September.

\*Councilor Asack asks approximately how many streets would be able to get done this year to which Mr. Hill tells her that it depends on the streets and what work is done on each street.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Asack to report FAVORABLE, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Nicastro. 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: \$2,000,000.00  
From: Certified Free Cash  
To: Pension Stabilization Fund

Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

\*Ms. Ciasullo tells the council that money was borrowed for the Pension Obligation Bond and this is part of the plan of finance to put the \$5,000,000 a year into the Pension Stabilization Fund. This is the first transfer, and during the fiscal year, another transfer will be before the council.

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

6. Ordered: That the City Council authorize the re-authorization of the Demolition Revolving Fund for the FY2023 for the sole purpose of helping to fund cost in

connection with demolition of buildings in the City of Brockton. The Demolition Revolving Fund shall receive the receipt of payments of all demolition charges of the City of Brockton. Expenditures from the Demolition Revolving Fund shall be made at the direction of the Building Superintendent, with the written approval of the Mayor, provided that not more than \$110,000 may be so expended from the Demolition Revolving Fund during FY2023. The Building Superintendent shall comply with reporting requirement of M.G.L., Chapter 44, Section 53E ½.

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

\*Superintendent Plouffe states that they are just looking for re-authorization of the fund as they have had this for a few years. They have used it in the past, and it has been reimbursed numerous times.

\*Councilor Nicastro asks how much money has been used out of this fund in FY2022 to which Superintendent Plouffe tells her that this fund has not been used in quite a few years. She follows up to ask why and Superintendent Plouffe tells her that it hasn't been needed. FY21 brought COVID-19 and in the past year they've assembled a number of buildings to be demolished. The money allocated to demolish the buildings was taken out of the Vacant and Abandoned Building Fund.

\*Councilor Nicastro asks how much is left in the fund to which Superintendent Plouffe tells her \$162,675.63. She goes on to ask if these buildings to be demolished will be soon, and he tells her yes. She asks if the cost of demolishing each structure will get tacked onto the tax bill, to which Superintendent Plouffe tells her that that is correct. He goes on to say the property owner is responsible for the tax bill, and if that bill is not paid within a year, the treasurer would place a lien to be paid that could potentially be subject to foreclosure at some point.

\*Councilor Teixeira refers to the transfer from the Vacant and Abandoned Buildings Fund from a few weeks ago, and how it correlates to this order being talked about. Superintendent Plouffe tells him that that transfer was for the demolition of buildings. This is a re-authorization for a long-standing fund that is used mostly for emergencies and unforeseeable circumstances.

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

7. Ordered: That the City Council authorize the re-authorization of the Vacant and Abandoned Buildings Revolving Fund for the purpose of maintaining the Abandoned Building Registry, as well as the closing, boarding up and care of vacant and abandoned buildings. The Vacant and Abandoned Building Revolving Fund shall receive the receipts of payments of fines and fees for the registration of vacant and abandoned buildings. Expenditures from the Vacant and Abandoned Buildings Revolving Fund shall be made on the authority and direction of the Building Superintendent, provided that no more than two hundred and fifty thousand (\$250,000) may be so expended without further appropriation from the Vacant and Abandoned Buildings Revolving Fund during the FY23. The Building Superintendent shall comply with the reporting requirements of M.G.L., Ch 44. Section 53E ½.

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

\*Superintendent Plouffe states that this is also a re-authorization of a long-standing fund that allows the department to have funds for demolition and board-ups.

\*Councilor Nicastro asks how much money is in this fund as of now, to which Superintendent Plouffe tells her that there is about \$960,000. She goes on to ask if there is a list of buildings that is made available to the public upon request. He tells her that there is a database of buildings, but this information is not available to the public.

\*Councilor Nicastro asks how many buildings on this list the city will eventually own. Superintendent Plouffe tells her that he does not have that information, but a lot of the vacant and abandoned buildings are foreclosed upon by banks. She asks if the Building Department tracks down the new owner after the foreclosure auction to which Superintendent Plouffe tells her that they will. They've been interviewing for a new Building Inspector who will be tasked with vacant and abandoned buildings in the city.

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

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: \$21,271.00

From: Parking Authority- Capital

To: Parking Authority- Snow Removal

Invited: Eric Akesson, Executive Director

Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

\*Executive Director Akesson states that the record-breaking 28 inch snowfall on January 28, 2022 used \$32,000 of the \$45,000 snow removal budget.

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

9. Ordered: The City accepts the fourth paragraph of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, which allows the dedication, without further appropriation, of all, or a percentage not less than 25 percent, of particular fees, charges or receipts to a stabilization fund established under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, to be effective for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2022, or take any other action relative thereto.

Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

\*Budget Director Ciasullo states that this is an acceptance of a portion of the MGL to set up a special stabilization fund for marijuana revenues to come in, both recreational and medical. As of right now, these revenues come in and go into the General Fund. Whatever is not used at the end of the year turns into free cash. With the stabilization fund, there will be a fund of cash that is specific instead of a general place to put it.

\*Councilor Asack asks if this will have to come before council again to be approved when money is spent. Ms. Ciasullo states that she would prefer to defer the question to law because she isn't completely sure. She tells Councilor Asack that this needs to be accepted prior to the end of the fiscal year as all stabilization funds need to be set up prior to the end of the year.

\*Council President Lally reminds the council that this item does require a final vote by the full City Council, therefore any questions that they might have could get answered by the time of the final vote.

\*Councilor Asack states that the council would benefit from having CFO Clarkson and Solicitor Bridges at the City Council meeting next week.

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.

10. Ordered: To see if the city will dedicate all or a percentage, which may not be less than 25 percent, of the community impact fees, including but not limited to medical and recreational fees, collected under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 94G and related Host Community Agreements to the Community Impact Stabilization Fund established under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, effective for fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2022, or take any other action relative thereto.

Invited: Troy Clarkson Chief Financial Officer

\*Budget Director Ciasullo states that this item is relative to item #9. This order would dedicate the percentages of what this money can be used on from the revenues received for medical and recreational marijuana for any specific purposes.

\*Councilor Asack asks how much the city has received from recreation and medical marijuana licenses. Ms. Ciasullo states that for FY22, recreational it is about \$550,000 and for medical it is about \$1.2 million.

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

11. 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: \$185,000.00

From: Certified Free Cash

To: Education- Collaborative Programs Southeastern Regional School

Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

\*Budget Director Ciasullo states that this is the final payment to Southeastern. The city pays them quarterly and this \$185,000 was cut in the FY22 budget cuts, therefore they are appropriating it to fill the obligation to Southeastern Regional.

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

12. 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: \$750,000

From: Cable Revolving Fund

To: Brockton Public School – Facilities Revolving Account

(This transfer will be used for the renovations to the Brockton High School’s Auditorium.)

Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

\*Budget Director Ciasullo states that this will be used for upgrades to the auditorium’s sound system.

\*Councilor Nicastro asks why ARPA funds aren’t paying for this. Ms. Ciasullo tells her that ARPA funds require specific usage dedicated toward COVID or something related to COVID. Any purchases using the ARPA funds need to fall in a specific category under federal guidelines.

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

13. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$50,000

From: 2022 Blue Cross and Blue Shield (BCBS) of Massachusetts National Fitness Campaign- FY22 National Fitness Campaign Grant

To: Parks and Recreation Department- FY22 National Fitness Campaign Grant Fund (These grant funds will be used by the Parks and Recreation Department to renovate Tukis Playground into a Fitness Court to meet the differing needs of a shifting community.)

Invited: Tim Carpenter, Superintendent of Parks  
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

\*Councilor Mendes states that there are more details and information to be reported and more time has been requested regarding this matter.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Mendes to report POSTPONED TO THE NEXT FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING IN JULY, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor D’Agostino. Motion carried by a hand vote.

14. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$2,617.00.

From: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)- FY2021-22 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant

To: Emergency Management Agency Department- FY2021-22 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant Fund (These grant funds will be used by the Emergency Management Department \_\_\_\_\_ to purchase office supplies and materials to be used for planning purposes.)

Invited: Stephan Hooke, Director

Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

\*This grant does not require a match and will be used to assist BEMA with planning.

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

15. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$8,605.00

From: Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro South-Nancy Lieberman Charities Grant

To: The Brockton Police Department-Nancy Lieberman Charities Grant Fund

(This donation will fund two weeks of a Junior Cadet program for Brockton youth between the ages of 14 and 16 this summer.)

Invited: Michelle St. James, Grant Coordinator, BPD

Brenda Perez, Acting Chief of Police

Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

\*Council Asack asks how many kids are signed up for the program approximately, to which Ms. St. James states that there will be 20 kids per session. There will be two sessions this summer, one week each.

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

16. Resolved: To have an Ad Hoc committee made up of the City Clerk, the Chief Financial Officer and the City Auditor, or their designees, investigate the compensation and staffing levels of the Mayor's Office, City Council and School Committees of similar Gateway Cities to the City of Brockton in size and scope in Massachusetts.

Invited: Tim Cruise, City Clerk

Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

Karen Preval, City Auditor

\*Clerk Tim Cruise states that the compensation level for the City Council and the School Committee is woefully inadequate for what the job is. This proposed committee would go out and look at similar cities in the Commonwealth to see how these departments are funded and how they are served. This will show if other cities and towns are doing something different and how what they're doing could potentially benefit the City of Brockton.

\*Councilor Asack asks if this needs to be an Ad Hoc Committee, to which Clerk Cruise tells her that an Ad Hoc Committee just means that there is no authority given to the committee. He goes on to say that until he gets more information, he isn't sure if CFO Clarkson and City Auditor Preval will be too involved with this anyway. He states that with the help of his staff in the Clerk's Office, they will be researching other cities and

towns, particularly the other gateway cities and towns, and how they are operating to know and understand best practices.

\*Clerk Cruise notes that this is a vote to be able to gather information. He states that he wants the public to know that they will be looking at this in a fair and equitable manner.

\*Councilor Nicastro asks how much time will be needed to research this information to which Clerk Cruise tells her that he isn't entirely sure. He doesn't believe that there needs to be a timeframe, and states that as soon as all the information is put together, he will ask to be in front of the council again to report on it and make recommendations.

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

17. Resolved: To have an Ad Hoc committee made up of the City Clerk, the Elections Commissioner and the City Solicitor, or their designees, research and define the process for possible changes to the term of office for City Government in the City of Brockton. Be it further resolved to have this committee examine other cities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as to their City Charters and lengths of terms of office.

Invited: Tim Cruise, City Clerk  
Cynthia Scrivani, Executive Director  
Megan Bridges, City Solicitor

\*Clerk Cruise states that this will take less research. This committee will work to research the benefits and downfalls of changing the terms of office for the Mayor and the City Councilors. The process of this is in the city charter. He states that it is a difficult process to change the terms; it's a vote of the council, then the state legislature has to approve it, and finally it needs to go on the ballot to the people of the city. The research part of this will be finding out what other cities and towns do.

\*Councilor Asack notes that while this is a process, it is important and worth it. She goes on to say that besides the council discussing this, there was a group having meetings regarding this.

\*Clerk Cruise states that this committee may reach out to them, but the main focus of the committee is just the facts. They will be looking at the process, and looking at what other similar cities and towns are doing.

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

18. Resolve: To invite Scott Mercer, the Executive Director of Brockton Community Access to appear before the Finance Committee of the Brockton City Council to discuss his role at BCA and his plans for the city's community tv access services.

Invited: Scott Mercer, Executive Director, BCA

\*Councilor Asack asks Mr. Mercer what his goals are and what his plans for BCA are. Mr. Mercer tells her that he hopes to grow it, and he hopes to further make the community part of it. He states that he has begun speaking with non-profit organizations to hopefully increase community engagement. He hopes to amplify their voices so the community knows that they are there and what they offer. He goes on to say that he hopes to get the residents engaged in the public access part of the BCA. When the residents get engaged, it gives them a platform to speak their minds. He hopes to reach the youth as well, and allow them to explore a potential career in media, production and/or television. Mr. Mercer states that he is working on outreach to ensure that everyone knows that Brockton Community Access is there for the community.

\*Councilor Asack asks which channels are taken by the BCA to which Mr., Mercer tells her that all channels can be found on BCATV.org as they've changed since he's started there. Mr. Mercer tells her that Brockton is one of the only cities that have the government channels in HD. He states that there were 113 total programs in May. His goal is to expand that, and wants to have more programs.

\*Mr. Mercer states that the goal is truly to get more people engaged because that's ultimately how a community gets built.

\*Councilor Asack states that the seniors in the community cannot afford cable and need a lower rate on their cable bills and they're not getting it. She tells Mr. Mercer that there needs to be something that we can do for them. Mr. Mercer agrees with her and he believes that the dollar is the issue. He believes that seniors should have a discount, but also understands that companies need to make their money as well.

\*Mr. Mercer states that he is still in the learning stage, and that thus far he has addressed the most immediate needs of the infrastructure and his staff.

\*Councilor Nicastro refers to an "update available" message on one of the channels, and asks about technical issues and how modern the equipment is. Mr. Mercer states that there is always going to be technical issues with government channels. He goes on to say that they are not network, they don't have the resources, human or financial. He states that the on-air issues will be resolved as he moves forward with this job and understanding the capabilities of his staff and equipment.

\*Councilor Nicastro refers to the election coverage that has been broadcasted in the past years on BCA but not last year, and she wants to know the expectation of election night coverage going forward. Mr. Mercer tells her that he will do everything that he can to make sure that that does not happen again. He notes that he knows and understands the importance of local news for a community.

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: 9:12pm