

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

\*Councilor Farwell makes a motion to take agenda item 7 out of order and hear it first, second by Councilor Nicastro. Motion carried by a hand vote.

7. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$9,016,226.11.

From: Plymouth County

To: Unappropriated Estimated Receipts- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund

Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

Tom O'Brien, Plymouth County Treasurer

Greg Hanley, Plymouth County Commissioner

Jared Valanzola, Plymouth County Commissioner

Sandra Wright, Plymouth County Commissioner

\*Tiffani Ciasullo, budget director, states that Mr. Clarkson could not make tonight's meeting and that she will be standing in on his behalf.

\*Ms. Ciasullo states that these funds are in addition to the amounts received directly from the federal government but are subject to the same rules of the US Treasury. She goes on to say that although the city expects further funds to be released by the county, this amount represents only phases 1 & 2 of what the county has allocated to the City of Brockton. She states that the county has set up a rigorous process of what needs to be done in order to submit projects.

\*Ms. Ciasullo goes on to say that even though there are only \$9 million dollars in front of the council tonight to be accepted, they do expect further allocation from the county to come before them to be accepted as well.

\*Councilor Thompson asks if any projects have been submitted to the county as of yet, to which Ms. Ciasullo tells him yes, about 4. She states that they have not received any funding yet. Councilor Thompson asks which projects they've submitted thus far. Ms. Ciasullo tells him that the purchase of the May Center for Brockton Public Schools, the design portion of the sludge dryer, and two orders of test kits have been submitted thus far.

\*Councilor Thompson asks where we are with the County in terms of the process. He follows up to ask if there is an expectation that these monies will be distributed contingent to the acceptance of this grant authorization to which Ms. Ciasullo tells him that this is currently on the final audit review, and then it goes to the County Treasurer for final review. She states that we are currently at the last stages.

\*Councilor Thompson asks if there are any anticipated projects that Ms. Ciasullo knows of. She tells him that she isn't sure at the moment. She states that CFO Clarkson and the Mayor do want to come back in front of the Council to give an update on the rest of the projects in the future.

\*Councilor Thompson states that the city did hire an ARPA consultant, but asks who in the city is the point person regarding all things that have to do with ARPA. Ms. Ciasullo tells him that there is a whole team of people who meet every other week. This team consists of the DPW Commissioner, Troy Clarkson and members of the Finance department. She goes on to say that the main person who has taken the lead on all things to do with ARPA is the Financial Analyst in the Finance Department, Paul Umamo.

\*Commissioner Wright states that she is very confident that there will be great opportunities that become available to Brockton and appreciates all of the effort from the staff in terms of ARPA. She goes on to congratulate the city and states that she looks forward to working with everyone.

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

1. Appointment of Ruth Moore of 1380 Main St. Brockton, MA 02301 to the Women's Commission for a three-year term, ending July 2025.

Invited: Ruth Moore

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

2. Appointment of Christina Derome of 315 Sully Road Brockton, MA 02302 to the License Commission for a three-year term, ending July 2025.

Invited: Christina Derome

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

3. Appointment of Martha Testa of 430 West Chestnut Street, Brockton, MA 02301 to the Women's Commission for a three-year term, ending August 2025.

Invited: Martha Testa

\*Councilor Nicastro wholeheartedly supports this appointment, as does Councilor D'Agostino.

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

4. Ordered: That the City Council hereby rescind the Amendment to the Order declaring the City owned parcel at West Elm Street, Brockton, MA

(known as Keith Field), Assessor Map 58, Route 71-1, Plot 56, being the same premises shown on “Plan of Land in Brockton, June 12, 1920, Hayward & Hayward, Surveyors, 28 Main Street, Brockton, filed with Plymouth County Land Court Records, as surplus and available for disposition. The Amendment reads as follows: *To include in the order that the transfer of land shall be subject to a deed restriction which provides that the City shall have the right of first refusal, which shall be subject to City Council approval, to execute an option to purchase the land at the purchase price provided for in the transfer made pursuant to the order. Said option shall be executed upon the expiration of one hundred and twenty days upon receipt of notice to the City, for the option to purchase back the transferred land in the event the purchaser elects to sell the land transferred in this order.* This Order shall only rescind the language of the Amendment so that the land remains declared as surplus without the restriction contained in the Amendment.

Invited: Megan Bridges, City Solicitor

Rob May, Director of Planning & Economic Development

\*Councilor Farwell states that this particular issue has consumed a great deal of time since 2020. He states that the agenda wasn't posted properly in terms of potentially going into executive session if they feel that it is appropriate. He also notes that Legislative Council, Shannon Resnick, is not in attendance. He states that they need more time to properly digest this matter and properly post a new agenda with the correct language.

\*Councilor Nicastro states that some of the councilors have done a lot of work on this matter. She states that it is very important to her that all councilors are similarly advised by the City Solicitor in a frank way. She states that exception number six to the Open Meeting Law clearly applies to this. She states that this is a controversial matter that involves a lot of law. The matter involves a lot of background and information in the RFP process. She feels as though they will be well-served to be able to sit down in executive session and speak about such an important matter together.

\*Councilor D'Agostino states that when this matter came in front of the School Committee when he was a member, they took the time to properly discuss this issue. He states that this issue should be vetted properly and fully.

\*Councilor Asack states that she would like a discussion at least before postponing this matter as the invited guests took time to come to this meeting.

\*In response to Councilor Asack, Councilor Farwell states that he did not think it would be fair to ask substantive legal questions to the City Solicitor in public without her having at least some advance knowledge to what those questions may be.

\*Councilor Thompson states that this matter is ripe for discussion tonight. He states that Attorney Bridges had been working very hard on this matter for some time. He doesn't know if any question asked would be something

that she wouldn't be able to discuss. He notes that they've all done a lot of work on this matter, and that what is in front of them is relatively simple. He thinks that the Council is ready to move forward today, and would oppose any motion regarding a postponement.

\*Councilor Tavares agrees with Councilor Thompson and thinks that it is unfair to have had their invitees come and not speak about this.

\*Councilor Rodrigues believes that the city needs to stop the "crab-form of walking". He notes that they have been at this for two years now. He states that if there is some language that needs to be adjusted, they can do that. However, at the same time, he believes that considering they have invited guests to speak on the matter, and given the fact that they showed up, he believes that they are ready to speak on the matter. He states that he would like to hear some of this information so the council can make a vote. He continues to say that the council cannot continue to vote on something in the past and have to come back to revote on it in the future. He would like to see things to move forward.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Farwell to report POSTPONED TO THE NEXT FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor D'Agostino. Motion carried by a reverse roll call vote.

\*Councilor Farwell makes a motion to dispense of the reading other than the purpose and the amount, second by Councilor Nicastro. Motion carried by a hand vote.

5. Ordered: That the following named sum be and the same hereby appropriated as the same was submitted by the Mayor as follows: Appropriation of: \$55,572.82

From: Human Resources- Employee Benefits- Contractual Union Costs

To: Board of Health- Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Full-Time Salaries	\$1,687.54
Board of Health- Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Educational Incentive	\$700.00
Board of Health - Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Stipend	\$600.00
Council on Aging- Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Full-Time Salaries	\$7,191.06
Council on Aging - Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Educational Incentive	\$700.00

Council on Aging - Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Stipend	\$1,200.00
DPW-Administration- Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Full-Time Salaries	\$4,771.72
DPW-Administration - Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Stipend	\$600.00
DPW-Water Enterprise- Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Full-Time Salaries	\$4,316.46
DPW-Water Enterprise - Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Educational Incentive	\$700.00
DPW-Water Enterprise - Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Stipend	\$600.00
DPW-Engineering- Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Full-Time Salaries	\$8,386.50
DPW-Engineering - Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Educational Incentive	\$700.00
DPW-Engineering - Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Stipend	\$1,200.00
Library Department- Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Full-Time Salaries	\$1,332.44
Library Department - Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Educational Incentive	\$700.00
Library Department - Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Stipend	\$600.00
Parks & Recreation- Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Full-Time Salaries	\$4,592.18

Parks & Recreation - Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Educational Incentive	\$700.00
Parks & Recreation - Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Stipend	\$600.00
Police Department- Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Full-Time Salaries	\$4,316.46
Police Department - Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Educational Incentive	\$700.00
Police Department - Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Stipend	\$600.00
Procurement Department- Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Full-Time Salaries	\$4,592.18
Procurement Department - Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Educational Incentive	\$700.00
Procurement Department - Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Stipend	\$600.00
Veterans Department - Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Full-Time Salaries	\$1,586.28
Veterans Department - Personal Services Other Than Overtime- Stipend	\$600.00

for purposes of funding the SEIU, Local 888: Department Heads Unit union contract, without detrimental impact on the continuous provision of the existing level of municipal services. This appropriation provides funding for three (3) years (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2025), of a three (3) year contract.

Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer  
Megan Bridges, City Solicitor  
Sandra Charton, Director of Human Resources

\*Ms. Ciasullo states that this contract is one of the many contracts that will be before council sometime this fiscal year. She states that the reason that this is coming out of the HR budget is because during the FY23 budget process, they put additional funds into the contractual union cost line item in the HR budget to fully fund any anticipated union contract settlements. She states that the settlements are fiscally conservative and sustainable. She follows up to say that the Department Head Unit only covers department heads that are not covered under the ordinance that the City Council did increase.

\*Councilor Farwell states that he doesn't understand why certain department heads have been carved out and put into a union while others are under an ordinance. He states that this is unfair.

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

6. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$30,000.00.  
From: The Massachusetts Department of State Police/ FY23 Massachusetts State Police Edward J. Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program  
To: City of Brockton Police Department-FY23 FY23 Massachusetts State Police Edward J. Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program  
Fund. (These grant funds will be utilized by the Brockton Police Gang Unit teaming up with the Massachusetts gang unit over the summer targeting gun crimes and illegal firearms possession. **There is no match requirement.**)

Invited: Brenda Perez, Chief of Police

Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

\*Chief Perez states that this grant is a partnership between the Brockton Police and the Massachusetts State Police and it is for initiating investigations, developing investigative intelligence and conducting undercover operations relating to gun violence. It is also used to develop intelligence on violent offenders. She states that this partnership and proactive approach are all efforts to the reduction and prevention of gun violence, homicides, assaults and many other offenses.

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

8. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$740,000.  
From: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office for Administration and Finance- Mask Program Grant  
To: Board of Health- Mask Program Grant Fund  
(These grant funds will be used to purchase and distribute face masks.)

Invited: Dr. Eno Mondesir, Executive Health Officer  
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

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

Adjourned: 7:37pm