

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Standing Committee on Finance will meet on *Monday, November 21st, 2022 at 7:00 PM* in the *Council Chambers, Brockton City Hall, 45 School Street*, to consider the following:

Public Hearing:

1. Ordered: That the common necessity and convenience of the inhabitants of the City of Brockton require the laying out and acceptance of **DOROTHY ROAD**, extending from Boundary Street, westerly, a distance of about 480 feet, more or less, and for that purpose it is necessary to take an easement for **Highway Purposes** and lay out as a public street or way of said City of Brockton, said easement passing by or over lands of those persons shown on "EXHIBIT A", attached hereto and parties unknown. Said layout of said street, being 50.00 feet in width, is shown more particularly on a plan entitled "BROOKFIELD HEIGHTS, SECTION III, at Brockton, Mass., Scale 1" = 40', October 30, 1958", drawn by Bradford Saivetz, C.E., Quincy, Mass., and recorded at Plymouth County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 11, Page 603. The land taken is more fully described as follows:

All the land within the limits of a private way known as **Dorothy Road**, supposed to belong to parties unknown, being a strip of land 50.00 feet in width, with curved corners at Boundary Street, extending from said Boundary Street, westerly, a distance of about 480 feet, more or less, ending in a cul de sac of 45.00 feet radius at the westerly terminus, as shown on the herein described plan, to which reference is hereby made for a more particular description. And we have considered and estimated the damages sustained by all persons who have not waived damages in their several estates as follows: **NO AWARDS**. Exhibit A, Layout and Acceptance and all other attachments are all located in the Clerk's Office for viewing.

*Councilor Lally declares the hearing open. He goes on to ask if there is anyone present in favor. No one in favor. It is declared that portion of the hearing is closed. He continues asking if anyone present is in opposition. No one in opposition. It is declared that portion of the hearing is closed.

*Motion by Councilor Farwell to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Asack. Motion carried by a hand vote.

2. Ordered: That the common necessity and convenience of the inhabitants of the City of Brockton require the laying out and acceptance of **CORALA ROAD**, extending from Dorothy Road, northwesterly, a distance of about 275 feet, more or less, and for that purpose it is necessary to take an easement for **Highway Purposes** and lay out as a public street or way of said City of Brockton, said easement passing by or over lands of those persons shown on "EXHIBIT A", attached hereto and parties unknown. Said layout of said street, being 50.00 feet in width, is shown more particularly on a plan entitled "BROOKFIELD HEIGHTS, SECTION III, at Brockton, Mass., Scale 1" = 40', October 30, 1958", drawn by Bradford Saivetz, C.E., Quincy, Mass., and recorded at Plymouth County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 11, Page 603. The land taken is more fully

described as follows: All the land within the limits of a private way known as **Coral Road**, supposed to belong to parties unknown, being a strip of land 50.00 feet in width, with curved corners at Dorothy Road, extending from said Dorothy Road, northwesterly, a distance of about 275 feet, more or less, as shown on the herein described plan, to which reference is hereby made for a more particular description.

And we have considered and estimated the damages sustained by all persons who have not waived damages in their several estates as follows: **NO AWARDS**. Exhibit A, Layout and Acceptance and all other attachments are all located in the Clerk's Office for viewing.

Invited: Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

* Councilor Lally declares the hearing open. He goes on to ask if there is anyone present in favor. No one in favor. It is declared that portion of the hearing is closed. He continues asking if anyone present is in opposition. No one in opposition. It is declared that portion of the hearing is closed.

*Motion by Councilor Asack to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Thompson.
Motion carried by a hand vote.

Public Hearing Closed

3. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance of the Hazard Mitigation Plan from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This plan will reduce the long-term risks to human life and property from natural hazards.

Invited: Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

*Mr. Hill explains this plan was brought before Council in April of the previous year before being sent to FEMA. He goes on to state that the plan should have been brought to FEMA before Council as there were changes made. The City is now in possession of the final plans as of August of this year.

*Councilor Nicastro asks what the plan will do for the city. Mr. Hill explains this plan is meant to examine and mitigate all the possible natural disasters that could impact the city. Councilor Nicastro asks who is responsible for following through with the plan. Mr. Hill states this was taken on by the city engineer. Councilor Nicastro brings up the financial remuneration that comes along with adopting this plan and questions the amount. Mr. Hill states the grant total is \$25,000 and requires a 25% match of \$6,250. Councilor Nicastro goes on to ask if the city has received any of the mentioned funds. Mr. Hill explains that he could not find the funds during his research but can have an answer after meeting with Ms. Preval. Councilor Nicastro asks when the plan will be put into action if the Council approves it next week. Mr. Hill explains that once approved by Council, the plan will return to FEMA for a final approval. He assumes it should take approximately a

month for their approval. Once the approval from FEMA is received, the plan will be finalized. Councilor Nicastro asks if there is a reporting requirement. Mr. Hill explains the grant has been extended for a year and was due November 2, 2022. He will follow up with the city engineer to ensure this was done.

* Councilor Thompson asks if the acceptance of this mitigation plan makes the city eligible for more funding for hazard related issues in the future. Mr. Hill states that it does. The city will be eligible for both state and federal grants. There are a few grants currently coming out that require the acceptance of this plan to apply for the others.

*Councilor Farwell asks if there is anything in the plan that will require council to mandate additional fees. Mr. Hill explains this is a revenue neutral plan and there is no financial commitment attached to it.

*Motion by Councilor Asack to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Nicastro. Motion carried by a hand vote.

4. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$5,000.

From: Executive Office of Public Safety and Security- 2022 Address Verification Program (AVP) Grant

To: Brockton Police Department – 2022 Address Verification Program (AVP) Grant Fund

(These grant funds will be used by the police department to verify addresses of registered sex offenders, conduct investigations, and place into violation those offenders with valid addresses. There is no match required for this grant.)

Invited: Chief Perez, BPD
Steve Williamson, Captain, BPD
Troy Clarkson, CFO

*Chief Perez explains this grant is for officers and verify addresses of sex offenders, required investigations, and violations for any offenders currently not in compliance with their level.

*Motion by Councilor Asack to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Thompson.

*On the motion, Councilor Thompson asks how many registered sex offenders are currently in the city. Chief Perez states around 320. Councilor Thompson goes on to ask how many of the offenders are level 3. Chief Perez states that she does not currently have a breakdown of the level but she can get the information. Councilor Thomson questions if the list of sex offenders is public and where is can be found. Chief Perez explains that the state maintains the database with that information.

* Motion carried by a hand vote.

*Chief Perez introduced Eugenia Lopes, the new grant coordinator.

5. Ordered: In accordance with the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 44, recommending that the City Council authorize the total proposed approval of the unappropriated estimated receipts of \$243,616.20
FROM: UNAPPROPRIATED ESTIMATED RECEIPTS
\$237,317.95

TO: FINANCE DEPARTMENT-FINANCE PURCHASE OF SERVICES
\$237,317.95

AND

FROM: FY23 FUNDS	\$6,298.25
TO: PUBLIC PROPERTY-PURCHASE OF SERVICE	\$1,574.67
FINANCE-PURCHASE OF SERVICES	\$365.41
HUMAN RESOURCES-HR EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$258.00
LAW-PURCHASE OF SERVICES	\$245.82
LAW-GOODS & SUPPLIES	\$600.00
LIBRARY-PURCHASE OF SERVICE	\$916.84
MAYOR'S OFFICE-GOODS AND SUPPLIES	\$1300.00
POLICE DEPARTMENT- GOODS AND SUPPLIES	\$300.00
BROCKTON PARKING AUTHORITY-OUT OF STATE TRAVEL	\$737.51

Invited: Troy Clarkson, CFO
Karen Preval, City Auditor

*CFO Clarkson brought a list of all the unpaid bill in question. He goes on to explain that each year after the close of the fiscal year, when vendors send invoices that need to be paid, the funds need to be reallocated. Unappropriated funds are included in the budget each year for this purpose. CFO Clarkson explains an agreement made with the Rehoboth solar company for the city. He goes on to explain the purchase and credits included in the

agreement. The city is currently 8 years into a 20-year agreement. Some of the bills from the solar company were received after the close of fiscal year 2022.

*Councilor Thompson questions the setting of the tax rate. CFO Clarkson explains that once council meets tomorrow, the information will be sent to the Department of Revenue for approval of the tax rate. Councilor Thompson mention the 8 bills that need to be paid to the solar company and asks if there are any others. CFO Clarkson states that there are no others he is aware of at this time.

*Councilor Farwell asks what the net gain to the city is for the credits we receive. CFO Clarkson explains that there is a 20% discount. It is a credit placed on the meters of municipal buildings. Councilor Farwell questions if the contract will continue to yield the benefits in the current state of energy pricing. CFO Clarkson states that an energy specialist has been part of the discussions to ensure the contract is still in favorable standing for the city.

*Councilor Rodrigues asks what in real dollars would this cost the city without the current contract. CFO Clarkson explains that the city benefits with this contract against the fluctuating cost of energy. Councilor Rodrigues states that this contract would not be favorable for the city if the saving amount was only a few dollars.

*Councilor D'Agostino asks when these bills came in and why this issue is just being brought to council when the bills came in months ago. CFO Clarkson explains that there were more bills this year that came in after the close of the fiscal year than normal. He goes on to tell the council that a discussion has been had with the company to avoid this issue in the future.

*Motion by Councilor Asack to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Thompson. Motion carried by a hand vote.

6. Resolve: WHEREAS, The Human Resources Department is responsible for the timely, professional recruitment and screening of candidates for positions within city departments; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: Director of Human Resources Sandra Charton and such other department heads as may be interested appear before a committee of the council to discuss the factors affecting recruitment of the best qualified candidates for career positions in city government. Provided further, that Ms. Charton share with the council relevant information from other cities regarding candidate recruitment practices and policies.

Invited: Sandi Charton, Director Human Resources

*Ms. Charton explains that part of her job in Human Resources is to find the best candidates for the city. She goes on to state that we are in competition with the private

sector, the state, other cities without residency requirements, and the school department that doesn't have a residency requirement. The City of Lynn recently abolished their residency requirement. Ms. Charton would like to establish a residential preference as opposed to a requirement.

*Councilor Farwell believes that the barriers need to be looked at if the city is looking for the best candidates. He explains how he does not understand why school department employees do not need to live in the city but other city employees do.

*Councilor Tavares asks if there aren't people within the city who are qualified for positions. Ms. Charton explains that some positions are more specialized. Councilor Tavares asks if we aren't having applicants apply for positions or they just aren't qualified. Ms. Charton explains that is difficult to say based on different positions.

*Councilor Thompson agrees with Councilor Farwell. He believes the time has passed for this requirement. He goes on to question how the city could go about rescinding this requirement. Councilor Lally explains this would involve a conversation with the Mayor and the council's council.

*Councilor Asack states that she supports residency. She has a hard time believing that in a city of over 100,000 people we can't find qualified individuals. She goes onto explain that changing the requirement was voted in and would need to go back to the residents for a new vote. Councilor Asack asks about the process of posting positions. Ms. Charton explains the city uses Interview Exchange to track who has applied. Ms. Charton explains the levels of posting starting with internal department staff before moving to union employees and the general public. Councilor Asack who is present during interviews. Ms. Charton explains this depends on the position. Higher positions require more people including the Chief of Staff. For other positions, the department heads and another person are present for interviews.

*Councilor Rodrigues states that the city has a difficult time retaining employees. He goes on to state that the current Treasurer of the city used to work at a department store in the shoe department but he was given a chance without the background. He believes we do not give people in the city a chance.

*Councilor Nicastro states that she thinks the residency was a good idea when it was voted in but that was a different community than today. She goes on to state that a report from an audit completed by the Department of Revenue in 2009 recommended eliminating the residency requirement. Ms. Charton states her recommendation would be to find the best people to serve the city. She would give a preference to Brockton resident.

*Chief Nardelli explains the difficulties he has had trying to hire an electrician for the Fire Department for the last 6 months.

*Mr. Engle explains that libraries operate based on guidelines set by the state. This makes it very difficult to find people with the set qualifications when limited to just people living in the city.

*Councilor D'Agostino states that the tax payers pay the salaries of city employees. The people made their voices heard on the residency requirements. The voters need to have a say in changing the residency. He goes on to remind everyone that waivers are available if they are truly needed.

*Councilor Farwell explains that the residency requirement has already been fractured by a previous Mayor bargaining to allow employees to leave the city after 7 years.

*Motion by Councilor Farwell to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Thompson. Motion carried by a hand vote.

7. Resolve: BE IT RESOLVED, that Members of the Brockton Interfaith Community leadership team or their designees, be invited to come before the Finance Committee to discuss "Blueprint for a Welcoming Brockton" and to provide additional information regarding the event scheduled on October 20, 2022 at the Joseph F. Plouffe Academy school.

Invited: Iolando Spinola
Angel Cosme

*Mr. Spinola gives his background and his connection to the city. Mr. Barreras gives his background and his connection to the city since moving here 5 years ago. He goes on to talk about the work he and Mr. Spinola do within the city for immigrants and the Brockton Interfaith Community. He discusses the welcoming standards they are now using to benefit their work to make Brockton more welcoming for immigrants and all residents.

*Motion by Councilor Mendes to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Farwell.

*On the motion, Councilor Farwell states that he does not work in immigration. He suggests hearing from Councilor Rodrigues who works with similar groups within the city.

*Councilor Rodrigues states that sometimes people from the immigrant community feel the need to destroy before they rebuild. He goes on to explain that the Association has been around for 44 years and still struggles to get resources. He explains that he is an

immigrant who came to this country at 16 years old. Councilor Rodrigues goes on to explain the importance of working together and not against each other.

* Motion carried by a hand vote.

8. Resolve: **In Support of the Fair Share Amendment**

WHEREAS, Massachusetts needed new investments in our transportation and public education systems even before the COVID-19 pandemic, and those investments are needed more than ever to lift our economy into an equitable and long-lasting recovery;

WHEREAS, the best way to help working families and rebuild a strong economy for us all is to make sure that we have quality public schools for our children, affordable public higher education, and a reliable transportation system; and

WHEREAS, for Massachusetts to compete against other regions around the nation and the globe, we need modern, reliable transportation: safer roads and bridges, public transportation that works, and safe ways to walk and bike around town; and

WHEREAS, Brockton has overdue road repair and replacement projects; and

WHEREAS, students need a well-rounded education, founded on a rich and varied curriculum that includes science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), music, art, and athletics; and

WHEREAS, major investments in public education are needed to help students recover academically, socially, and emotionally from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, tuitions and fees at our public colleges are among the highest in the country, forcing students to take on enormous debt just to receive a degree; and

WHEREAS, new state revenue is necessary to rebuild crumbling roads and bridges, improve our public schools from Pre-K through college, expand access to vocational and technical training, invest in fast and reliable public transportation, make public higher education affordable again, and expand opportunities for healthy walking and bicycling; and

WHEREAS, wealthy Massachusetts residents saw their investments grow during the pandemic while working families struggled, and Massachusetts' wealthiest residents should pay their fair share to support our communities and grow our economy.

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that **BROCKTON CITY COUNCIL** supports the proposed Fair Share Amendment that would create an additional tax of four percentage points on annual income above one million dollars and dedicate the funds raised by this tax to quality public education, affordable public colleges, and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges, and public transportation.

*Councilor Nicastro makes a motion to dispense of the reading, second by Councilor Thompson. Motion carried by a hand vote.

* Motion by Councilor Asack to report Tabled, 2nd by Councilor Thompson. Motion carried by a hand vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9:09pm

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLLsFHKGmP4>