

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Standing Committee on Finance met on *Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 7:00 PM* in the *Council Chambers, Brockton City Hall, 45 School Street*, to consider the following:

1. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$267,600.
From: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security- FY2023 Massachusetts Municipal Public Safety Staffing Grant
To: Brockton Fire Department- FY2023 Massachusetts Municipal Public Safety Staffing Grant Fund
(These grant funds will be used for overtime necessary to maintain staffing levels. There is no match required for this grant.)

Invited: Brian Nardelli, Fire Chief
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

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

2. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$41,500.84.
From: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Fire Services- 2023 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant
To: Brockton Fire Department- 2023 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Fund
(These grant funds will be used to purchase equipment to combat the ever-increasing fires and fire potential from lithium ion batteries. There is no match required for this grant.)

Invited: Brian Nardelli, Fire Chief
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

- Councilor Farwell wanted to look into ordinance in regards to lithium batteries
- Councilor Minichiello asked questions pertaining to the golf cart operations at the High School.
- Chief Nardelli stated that charging batteries with cell phones that are not using the proper outlets and cords are a fire hazard and people need to be more aware.
- Councilor Minichiello asked if a flyer could be available to the public.
- Councilor D'Agostino mentioned that this is a threat and concern for the public.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Asack to report FAVORABLE, 2nd Councilor Minichiello. 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 \$213,485.
From: Brockton Neighborhood Health Center and Atlantic Hill Nursing and Wellness Inc.-FY2023 Expanding COVID-19 Vaccination Grant
To: The Mayor's Office- FY2023 Expanding COVID-19 Vaccination Grant Fund
(This grant will be used to vaccinate the community and do outreach and educate about the COVID vaccine.

Invited: Robert Sullivan, Mayor
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Farwell to report TABLED, 2nd by Councilor Lally. 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 \$230,940.00
From: The Executive Office of Elder Affairs-FY23 Formula Grant
To: Council on Aging-FY23 Formula Grant Fund
These grant funds will be dispersed in the following manner:
- Salaries including overtime
 - Energy
 - Department equipment repair
 - Printing
 - Office Supplies
 - Registration, memberships and subscriptions

Invited: Janice Fitzgerald, Director of Council on Aging
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

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

5. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$150,000.
From: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)- 2022 Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Grant.
To: Department of Planning and Economic Development-2022 Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Grant Fund. (These grant funds will be used to study nature-based solutions to reduce flooding on Trout Brook and the Salisbury Plain River. There is a local match of \$50,000 required.)

Invited: Rob May, Director of Planning & Economic Development
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

- Councilor Thompson asked if 30% design of Trout Brook was done and if it will prevent flooding in certain portions of Trout Brook.

- Rob May stated that it would alleviate flooding concerns within the area.
- Councilor Thompson asked how the two MVP Grants would work together to develop Trout Brook.
- Rob May stated that these two grants will be used to address flood prone residential and industrial areas on Trout Brook as well as prepare the land for future economic development.
- Councilor Rodrigues asked if the City has ownership of the property or if the City has had discussions with CSX about owning this property.
- Rob May stated that the City is having discussions with CSX in regards to buying the property and surrounding areas.
- Councilor Rodrigues asked why the city can't be more demanding in getting CSX's attention since the councilor stated that CSX has been a major plight to the City.
- Rob May stated that for 160+ years, railroad companies have been immune to virtually all types of recourse by Federal Law.
- Rob May also stated that the City needs a partner in order to have leverage in acquiring this land.
- Councilor Rodrigues asked why City is using government funds to clean up the land when it is private property and not owned by the City.
- Rob May stated that the mayor met with Mass Development and that the City is closer than ever to making this project a reality.
- Councilor Rodrigues asked why we are putting out a project when we don't have ownership of the land currently owned by CSX.
- Rob May stated that the RFP is meant to find a developer to partner with the City in order to acquire this land from CSX.
- Councilor Rodrigues asked if CSX is even entertaining that idea of selling the property.
- Rob May stated that CSX would entertain that idea of selling the property.
- Councilor Farwell asked if there is a document or email that indicates that CSX made an offer to the City with an identifiable price or trigger a negotiation. If so, it would be public record.
- Troy Clarkson stated that he is not aware of anything related to this, but would try to find if the mayor received such communications.
- Councilor Farwell asked if the City needed permission from CSX in order to perform a study on nature-based solutions and if those permissions have ever been requested or granted.
- Troy Clarkson stated that he is not involved in those discussions and Rob May could answer that if needed.
- Troy Clarkson stated that the larger picture is that bringing in a private developer to leverage their funding sources to acquire and develop this land would be the best way.
- Councilor Farwell stated in his remarks that the City needs to look at acquiring and developing the Brockton Fair Grounds since it is the last big piece of underdeveloped property in Brockton.
- Councilor D'Agostino asked if the grant required a match and if the City would foot the bill.

- Rob May stated that the worst-case scenario would be to use a line item to reinvest in economic development.
- Councilor D'Agostino asked if the City would have exposure after acquiring a piece of land that may need additional cleanup.
- Rob May stated that the City will not have exposure and that LLCs as holding entities would keep any liability away from the City.
- Councilor Lally stated that he is happy that the City is working on redeveloping Trout Brook and that the City is looking to do something with the Brockton Fair Grounds.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Lally to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Asack. 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 \$426,000.

From: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development- FY2023 Community Empowerment and Reinvestment Program Grant
To: Finance Department-FY2023 Community Empowerment and Reinvestment Program Grant Fund

(These grant funds will be used to support the Brockton Second Chances Project. The services that will be provided to meet the unique needs of formerly incarcerated and court-supervised individuals are IT trainings, CDL training programming, housing services for individuals suffering from substance use disorder, and case management services.)

Invited: Troy Clarkson: Chief Financial Officer
Paul Umano: Financial Analyst

- Councilor Asack asked how many people are involved with this grant.
- Paul Umano stated that there will be over 125 participants for this grant.
- Councilor Asack asked if this program is strictly for Brockton residents even though it is administered through Plymouth County.
- Paul Umano stated that it is strictly for Brockton residents.
- Councilor Rodrigues asked if the grant pays for the license and test.
- Paul Umano stated that the grant does cover the entire license.
- Councilor Rodrigues asked if the grant covers transportation from Brockton to the Taunton location.
- Paul Umano stated that the grant does cover transportation and that they're trying to find a major hub to take people to Taunton and back.
- Councilor Rodrigues asked if residents incarcerated in different counties would be eligible to participate in this program.
- Paul Umano stated that currently the grant program does not allow for that, but would be open to discussions on implementing that policy.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Lally to report FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Thompson. 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 \$50,000.
From: The Massachusetts Office on Disability MMARS Department-FY23Municipal ADA Improvement Grant
To: Finance Department-FY23 Municipal ADA Improvement Grant Fund
(These grant funds will be used to hire a consultant with EOAF Grant Funds to complete an ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. The Project scope includes an ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan encompassing all of Grantee's facilities, activities, programs and services.)

Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
Paul Umamo, Financial Analyst

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

8. That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$73,551.
From: The U.S Department of Justice- FY22 Massachusetts State Police Edward J. Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program
To: City of Brockton Police Department- FY22 Massachusetts State Police Edward J. Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program Fund.
(These grant funds will be used to fund overtime used for community policing and outreach efforts. **There is no match requirement.**)

Invited: Brenda Perez, Police Chief
Steve Williamson, Captain
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

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

9. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$80,000.
From: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection-FY23 MassDEP FY23 RDP Grant
To: Department of Public Works Refuse Division- FY23 MassDEP FY23 RDP Grant Fund
These grants will be used by the Department of Public Works Refuse Division to pay the January, February, March and part of April Recycle Cart portion of the trash bill (\$23,682 per month). The City will own the containers after April.

Invited: Pat Hill, DPW Commissioner
Patrick Sullivan, Refuse Contract Administrator

Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

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