

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Standing Committee on Finance met on *Monday, February 6, 2023 at 7:00 PM* in the *Council Chambers, Brockton City Hall, 45 School Street*, to consider the following:

1. Appointment of Monique Screen-Berry of 126 Torrey Street Brockton, MA 02301 to the Zoning Board of Appeals as a Member for a three-year term, ending January 2026.
Invited: Monique Screen-Berry

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

2. Appointment of Iolando Spinola of 23 Noyes Ave, Brockton, MA 02301 to the Planning Board for a five-year term, ending January 2028.
Invited: Iolando Spinola

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

3. 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 \$90,000

From: Human Resources-Employee Benefits	\$90,000
To: Mayor-Purchases of Services	\$80,000
Mayor-Goods and Supplies	\$10,000

Invited: Robert Sullivan, Mayor
Sandi Charton, Director of Human Resources
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

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

Mayor Sullivan presented Where Better Begins campaign commercial

- Brockton is on the front page of Boston Business Journal.
- There is free advertising on route 24 digital display, requesting MBTA to have ads at various stops, putting ads in the Bat Bus.
- We need money to market Brockton. There is a need to attract specialty medical consultants and continue to work with elected officials from federal delegation.
- Traveling to Washington DC put us on the radar. \$5m signed off from Biden to go with ARPA funds for Cosgrove Pool and obtained a \$151k grant for electric vehicle charging stations from the Dept of Energy.

Councilor Minichiello

- Mentioned that the promotional idea is a nice a fresh picture of Brockton
- Residents love Brockton. The good things are outweighed by smaller thing like streets that need to be weed wacked, trash and people living under the bridges.

Mayor Sullivan

- Clean City Initiative- drives around Brockton, taking pictures for dept heads and is instituting a new task force for accountability.

Councilor Minichiello

- Reasonable expectation of clean up within a short timeframe.

Councilor D'Agostino

- Video was an excellent effort.
- Transfer items- motion to postpone to allow for review from budget hearings 7 months ago, requests CFO to provide an update on FY23 budget.
- Mayor still needs the transfer request and HR benefits. Currently 300K below projection.

Councilor Thompson

- Agreed that Brockton needs to be marketed. The video is just part of a marketing campaign, and not just a video. Did we develop a matrix on the success of the campaign? How do we know the campaign is working?

Mayor Sullivan

- Collaborative approach. Matrix is at an early stage. Success of spending money wisely and working with transit and branding Brockton.

Councilor Thompson

- City has an amazing story to tell. Marketing is a key part to attract new businesses and residents.
- Asked about Dr. Hermon, who is a consultant and the budget of \$120k in the budget.

Mayor Sullivan

- Stated that the budget was for any consultants not just Dr Hermon.

Councilor Thompson

- Stated that 100k is not enough to meet all consultant needs?

Troy Clarkson, CFO

- Budget is set to balance the budget with revenue. Statutory categories include smaller line items.

Councilor Thompson

- When council makes cut, where does the money go?

Troy Clarkson, CFO

- Un appropriated estimated receipts, to pay for old bills. Before you set the tax rate you can appropriate some extra. Most of free cash is used to balance the budget.
- Transfers are within the budget without growing the budget. He mentioned that the state is reviewing free cash certification.

Councilor Thompson

- Conservative budget makes sense.
- Unappropriated receipts become free cash and goes away and unable to be used for current year?

Troy Clarkson, CFO

- Unappropriated estimated receipts were used to pay for old bills. Before you set the tax rate you can appropriate some extra. Most of free cash is use to balance the budget.

Councilor Thompson

- Do we know how much is currently in the free cash from previous year available?

Troy Clarkson, CFO

- The auditor is currently calculating these figures.

Councilor Thompson

- Are we still in the window for free cash to be available as next agenda item is unappropriated funds transfer.

Troy Clarkson, CFO

- The next agenda is an enterprise fund and different from the general fund.

4. Ordered: That the following named sum be and the same is hereby appropriated as the same was submitted by the Mayor as follows:

Appropriation of \$815,802

From: Unappropriated Estimated Receipts \$815,802

To: DPW- Sewer Enterprise-Purchase of Services \$815,802

Invited: Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

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

Councilor Farwell

- Reviewed two documents and asked why DPW was doing water work and why the transfer to sewer and other expenses that are related to water?

Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

- Explained how the list included wastewater projects that are upcoming.

Councilor Farwell

- Verified if there are sufficient funds to cover the expenses.

Troy Clarkson, COF

- Provided examples of projects for water and sewer and explained the sewer contractual obligations and why funds would be separated. He was looking to restore cuts during budget process.

Councilor Farwell

- Doesn't have a list of the sewer projects. Water consultant to put together a water management plan, compliance time may have passed and has contacted the state. 2017/2019 Why did the city not contract with the regular budget request. Trying to make best decision for the residents' money.

- He will email questions to Patrick Hill to be able to prepare for next meeting.

Councilor Thompson

- Clarifying consultant costs were budgeted and cut by council.

Troy Clarkson, CFO

- He will bring a copy of the budget construction and is working to make the budget more transparent. There will be a more streamlined process for FY24 budget.

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 \$416,389

From: DPW-Water-Desal-Variable Cost	\$416,389
To: DPW-Water-Purchases of Services	\$416,389

Invited: Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

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

Councilor Nicastro

- Asked for the budget lines to be posted.

Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

- Budget request are due around June.

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 \$175,000

From: DPW-Highway-Snow Removal	\$175,000
To: Planning & Economic Development –Purchases of Services	\$175,000

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

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

Rob May, Director of Planning and Economic Development

- Request restoration of budget for line item DIF funding. Would like to target industry specific marketing.
- Preparing an arts policy and plan that was recommended by local Rapid Recovery Planning program.

Troy Clarkson, CFO

- Funding source of transfers- snow removal balance \$1.9M. We have spent 3% thus far and recommend the transfer from this line.

Rob May, Director of Planning and Economic Development

- Requested to clarify DIF- District Improvement Financing- Mass General Law 40Q.DIF plan established in 2015 by this council.

Councilor Rodrigues

- Issue with snow removal money being used, if the city didn't have a surplus in the snow the budget. What would you do? Where would this money come from?

Troy Clarkson, CFO

- Review the budget and ask for transfer if available in budget or wait for free cash to be certified as potential options. Surplus from contracts that were budgeted but not needed.

Councilor Rodrigues

- Requests balance in the stabilization fund.

Troy Clarkson, CFO

- Main stabilization account has \$3M. The Chapter 324 stabilization account has \$7M and we created a retirement stabilization account with \$22M.

Councilor Rodrigues

- I would like to see a commitment from the Mayor and the council to save money for future so we don't have to come back to tax payers. Taxes are ridiculous to live in this city with nothing to offer residents. We don't advertise what we do have, poor signage that promotes parks and public buildings. Signage in other cities promoting us. Beautification goes beyond the video.

Mayor Sullivan

- Will work with state representative on storefront signage.

Troy Clarkson, CFO

- Stated that there is more money currently in reserves than in the history if the city.

Councilor Rodrigues

- Wants firm commitment when the city has a surplus in snow removal to put it away for future years vs trying to find a place to spend. In years the snow removal funds are exhausted there will be reserves so we do not have to ask for more.

Councilor Farwell

- We need to remember the rest of the city not just downtown with all this discussion of improvement.
- Reserves do not do anything for our residents. Commonwealth gives it back. Would like to give a break on services.
- The city will not reach success with downtown until you restore a sense of safety and security. Police used to walk beats and regularly patrol. Increase police personnel, visibility deters crime.

Councilor D'Agostino

- How much revenue does the city bring in without any state aid, from taxes alone?
- What position will we be in if we do not have savings?

Troy Clarkson, CFO

- \$165M from property tax plus local receipts.
- Budget reports based on prior year.

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 \$200,000

From: DPW-Highway-Snow Removal \$200,000

To: Public Property – Stadium Purchases of Services \$200,000

Invited: Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

James Plouffe, Superintendent of Buildings

Troy Clarkson: Chief Financial Officer

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor D’Agostino to report POSTPONED, 2nd by Councilor Lally. Motion carried by a hand vote.

James Plouffe, Commissioner of Buildings

- There are two elevators that are at the end of life, placed out of service by the commonwealth. ADA compliance and life and safety issue.
- Sprinkler system compressor and piping needs replacement.

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 \$70,000.

From: Law-Court Judgements \$50,000

Law-Personal Services Other than Over-time \$20,000

To: Law-Purchases of Services \$70,000

Invited: Megan Bridges, City Solicitor

Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

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

Councilor Lally

- It is encouraging to know that we can confidently shift money from judgements to defense.

Councilor D’Agostino

- Thanked the law dept and wanted clarification on litigation regarding the new public safety complex.

9. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$293,850.00.

From: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security’s Office of Grants and Research-FY23 Municipal Public Safety Staffing Grant

To: Brockton Police Department – FY23 Municipal Public Safety Staffing Grant Fund
(Grant funds are provided to the Brockton Police Department to pay overtime wages for patrol shift minimum staffing, shift overruns, detective investigations, restraining order service, training, community policing activities. There is no match required.)

Invited: Brenda Perez, Police Chief
Steve Williamson, Captain
Lugenia Lopes, Grant Coordinator
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.

Councilor Rodrigues

- How much will it take to increase the police presence throughout the city?

Chief Perez, Police Chief

- The Police department is currently understaffed but are in process of hiring and requesting transfers from other communities. 206 is the authorized number of staff, currently we are at 186.

Councilor Minichiello

- The little things like speeding cars and lack of safety matter to people. When the public sees transferring funds for overtime they are ok with it if it means a safer environment.

10. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$286,488.75.

From: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services-Department of Public Health -FY23 CoVid-19 Sexual and Domestic Violence Trust Grant Program

To: Brockton Police Department – FY23 CoVid1919 Sexual and Domestic Violence Trust Grant Program Fund

(Grant funds are provided to the Brockton Police Department to pay overtime wages for patrol shift minimum staffing, shift overruns, detective investigations, restraining order service, training, community policing activities. There is no match required.)

Invited: Brenda Perez, Police Chief
Steve Williamson, Captain
Lugenia Lopes, Grant Coordinator
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Minichiello to strike language in order 10 and replace with new language, 2nd by Councilor Thompson. Motion carried by a hand vote.

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

I make a motion to strike:

(Grant funds are provided to the Brockton Police Department to pay overtime wages for patrol shift minimum staffing, shift overruns, detective investigations, restraining order service, training, community policing activities. There is no match required.)

And to replace with the following language:

(Grant funds are used to partner with Health Imperatives and Brockton Family and Community Resources, Inc. to provide a direct link to enhanced advocacy and emergency services for survivors of sexual and domestic violence. There is no match required.)

11. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$718,400.

From: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security-Office of Grants & Research-FY23 Senator Charles E. Shannon, Jr.
Community Safety Initiative Grant

To: Brockton Police Department – FY23 Senator Charles E. Shannon, Jr. Community Safety Initiative Grant Fund

(These grant funds will pay for gang prevention efforts throughout the City. Police overtime will be used for outreach efforts to at-risk youth, hot spot suppression by the Brockton Police Department Gang Unit, and SRO/School Police home visits. This award will also fund Old Colony YMCA street development through its Kidz Konnect program, provide camperships at the Boys and Girls Club, create services from Luminosity. The grants funds will also allow Strategies for Youth to continue to introduce their Juvenile Justice Jeopardy Game that fosters relationships with the at-risk youth and law Health Imperatives to educate youth about dating violence, and Free the Captive Ministry to teach STEM education via one on one coaching and mentoring. The match consists of in-kind services only.)

Invited: Brenda Perez, Police Chief
Steve Williamson, Captain
Lugenia Lopes, Grant Coordinator
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.

Motion by Councilor Lally to report takt
TOGETHER, 2nd by Councilor Asack. Motion carried by a hand vote.

12-16

12. Orders: Pawnbrokers are to deliver a list of purchased/pawned articles to the Chief of Police.

Invited: Timothy Cruise, City Clerk

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Thompson to collectively report items 12-16 as FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Asack. Motion carried by a hand vote.

13. Orders: Rules and Regulations governing motor vehicles for hire under Chapter 159A for the carrying of passengers.

Invited: Timothy Cruise, City Clerk

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Thompson to collectively report items 12-16 as FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Asack. Motion carried by a hand vote.

14. Orders: Assessors to act as agents of City Council in matter of apportionment of betterments.

Invited: Timothy Cruise, City Clerk

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Thompson to collectively report items 12-16 as FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Asack. Motion carried by a hand vote.

15. Orders: Clerk to give notice of hearings before Council.

Invited: Timothy Cruise, City Clerk

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Thompson to collectively report items 12-16 as FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Asack. Motion carried by a hand vote.

16. Orders: Regulations governing the operation of hawkers and peddlers within the City of Brockton.

Invited: Timothy Cruise, City Clerk

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Thompson to collectively report items 12-16 as FAVORABLE, 2nd by Councilor Asack. Motion carried by a hand vote.

Councilor Thompson

- Asked if it's not required to vote in future do we need to vote today?

Tim Cruise, City Clerk

- Because it is on the agenda, it's better to not have an issue and vote vs tabling. In the future City Councilors will not need to vote unless something changes.

17. Resolved: To invite Brockton Chief of Police, Brenda Perez, to appear before the City Council to present her annual report, prepared pursuant to Revised Ordinances Sec. 19-26, discussing the department's business of the preceding calendar year, with her remarks and recommendations.

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

Councilor Farwell

- Authorized 206 and only have 186 with not all positions filled and having 3 shifts with different divisions within the department, then account for vacations and time off, it leaves minimal staffing.
- What are the things Chief Perez is finding most difficult? Is there anything where the Council can play a role in.

Brenda Perez, Police Chief

The morale of the department and its inability to increase staffing. There is a plan in place.

Councilor Farwell

- The public would like more traffic enforcement.
- Networking with ATF and other law enforcement for illegal ownership.

Councilor Lally

- Expressed appreciation for neighborhood concerns.
- What can the council do to help with 'walking beats' policing?

Brenda Perez, Police Chief

As staffing improves we can assess areas to shift patrols. We are actively seeking staff.

Councilor Thompson

- We have a mental health problem in the downtown area.
- Establish a bid for security company, Business improvement district.
- What is the plan for the walking beat?

Brenda Perez, Police Chief

- Police is starting the walking beats in February.
- There is the Link-Up grant covers areas beyond downtown, Montello and Campello that is a 2-part strategy. A recovery coach and an officer to see what services people may need. The second part is addressing quality of life issues as a whole. If officers see lights out, missing signs they can report on.

Councilor Thompson

- What are the plans for the homeless that are causing disturbances and are a safety issue?

Brenda Perez, Police Chief

- Always call the police if it is a disturbance but it often takes more than one tries from the resources we are providing. It takes a collaborative effort.

Councilor Asack

- Wants an understanding about the transfers from 17 offered position to the two that accepted.
- Can the cadet program be expanded?
- Is residency an issue with applicants?

Brenda Perez, Police Chief

- Difficult to expand the cadets in the current building with space but would like to discuss.

Councilor Asack

- Do they reach out to Brockton High? How can we expand the connect program?

Brenda Perez, Police Chief

- The City of Brockton holds the youth academy in the summer.

Councilor D'Agostino

- Mentioned that directed patrols are effective and appreciated.

- Mental health is important and moving in the right direction.
- Specific areas with traffic concerns.