

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Standing Committee on Finance met on *Monday, March 6, 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 \$198,263.

From: Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Green Communities Division-FY23  
Green Communities Competitive Grant Program

To: Finance Department – FY23 Green Communities Competitive Grant Program Fund

(These grant funds will be used to fund the following projects:

- ◆\$188,263, City-EV charging stations (31)

- ◆\$10,000, City-Administrative assistance

(There is no match required for this grant.)

Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

Paul Umano, Financial Analyst

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

Troy Clarkson, CFO

- Provided a summary of community grant fund and explained what the funds are for and the need to prepare for infrastructure.

2. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the Earmark in the amount of \$100,000.

From: Massachusetts Department of Public Health- Legislative Earmark Funding Grant

To: The Mayor's Office- Legislative Earmark Funding Grant Fund

(These grant funds will be used to support the Champion Program. There is no match required.)

Invited: Robert Sullivan, Mayor

Dr. Mondesir, Board of Health, Executive Health Officer

Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

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

President Nicastro

- Asked who do the funds go to who audits the funds that go to Champion Plan?

Troy Clarkson, CFO

- Champion Plan/Gandara Center is a direct fund. The City Auditor will conduct on-site audits.

3. Resolve: WHEREAS, The Brockton Board of Health is charged with oversight of the health department; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:  
The three (3) appointed members of the City of Brockton, Board of Health be requested to appear before a committee of the city council to discuss the policies, oversight and operations of the department.

Invited: Dr. Mary T. Brophy  
Dr. Craig Andrade  
George F. Fiske III

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

Councilor Farwell

- Council approved and budget and would like to monitor updates. What measures does the Board of Health use to determine effectiveness? Are there policies in place to verify inspections are actually done? Issues to raise, family had no hot water and it took 2 weeks for the BOH inspector to come out due to car issues. Do inspectors have set days and do they report after completing an inspection?

George F Fiske III

- He agreed that it was unacceptable for staff to take 2 weeks. He stated that Dr Mondesir would be better to answer the day to day on goings and he is not there all the time but hears from residents and restaurants about complaints. The board has monthly meetings to review the various activity in the department.

Councilor Farwell

- Asked if there was a process or workflow of projects and how it's monitored? Annual report needs to be filed and he would like the report for FY22. Not one inspector submitted mileage reports. Do inspectors have office only assignments and why would mileage reports not be submitted?

George F Fiske III

- He reiterated that Dr. Mondesir would be more appropriate to ask about the day to day functions. With past mayors we had more responsibility.

Councilor Farwell

- Stated concern of a disconnect between the board and the daily office operations and asked to postpone until the full board is available. Motion to postpone until April.

4. Resolve: Be it resolved by the Brockton City Council to invite representatives from Brockton's Downey Youth Baseball, Brockton Baseball, Brockton Blazers Softball and Brockton Youth Soccer Association to provide information about their respective organizations, program offerings, and registration details.

Invited: Joseph Berolini, Brockton Baseball  
John Stevens, Downey Youth Baseball  
Al Basler, Brockton Blazers Softball  
Nolan Napier, Brockton Youth Soccer Association

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

#### Councilor Lally

- Sponsored order due to decline in participation in youth sports. There is tremendous opportunity and would like for the city to commit to provide the opportunity, what is offered and how to get involved.

#### John Stevens, Downey Youth Baseball

- There used to be 5 leagues in the city and we are down to 2 baseball leagues.
- Age ranges 4-18yr
- Registration fee ranges from \$50-120. All money goes to uniforms.
- Creating an alliance with Brockton Baseball to pool resources and volunteers.
- [www.downeybaseball.com](http://www.downeybaseball.com)

#### Joseph Berolini, Brockton Baseball

- Stated that not enough kids are participating and have partnered with Community Schools and posted online.

#### Al Basler, Brockton Blazers Softball

- The only youth softball league in the city.
- Spring and Fall ages 6-14, open to 18 in the summer league.
- Registration \$50-80
- Games are played at the Raymond School and some travel to Holbrook.

#### Nolan Napier, Brockton Youth Soccer Association

- Girls and boys ages 4-19
- Mentioned there are multiple programs and levels which include recreational and club, travel so that children will all skill sets can participate.
- Tiered pricing with multiple children in family. All fees pay for field and gym rentals.
- All coaches are trained in concussion protocols.

#### Councilor Minichiello

- Asked what the councilors could do to help and mentioned that they could talk to the school dept re: fees.

#### Councilor Rodrigues

- Mentioned that there was no volume on meeting and it is was to being aired.
- Stated that the school was working on a plan for more combination fields.
- He knows how bad the fields are and how he broke an ankle playing soccer in the past.

#### Nolan Napier, Brockton Youth Soccer Association

- Made a recommendation for a youth task force to fight for fields for all sports to superintendent and two previous mayors.
- Would like shared resources. The city has one dedicated soccer field and it is required to have one turf field. It is expensive to rent the field.

- Their coaches are all licensed.

#### Councilor Rodrigues

- Mentioned that costs prevent some from signing up. Population has grown but less participation.
- Marijuana sales proceeds were supposed to be divided and wants to have a discussion with the city.
- He stated the need to have revenue invested in children or the police will be asking for funds in the future.

#### Councilor Asack

- Mentioned that Brockton Community Access feed was not working and that everyone was aware that the meeting would not be live tonight.
- Advocates for youth softball and questions who is to maintain the field at Raymond and will advocate for state funds.
- Downey is getting some work this year. Children should have safer fields.

#### Councilor Rodrigues

- Echo's comments of co-councilor. Reiterated need for marijuana fund spending on youth.

#### President Nicastro

- Wanted to note that there is a 3<sup>rd</sup> baseball league. Brockton Boxers Baseball out of Gilmore School. Advocates for field improvements.

#### Councilor D'Agostino

- Mentioned that there was a discussion years ago regarding fields and staff and he would like it included in budget.

#### Councilor Lally

- Thanked all sports members for their time, played soccer and feels involvement is important and has a strong impact on hard work and success.

#### Al Basler, Brockton Blazers Softball

- Softball girls went to championships. Girls make lifelong friends.

#### Nolan Napier, Brockton Youth Soccer Association

- Would like some changes for kids, based on age vs grade. Other towns have discrepancy with the way they place teams.

#### Troy Clarkson, CFO

- Mentioned that there was a future resolve regarding ARPA funds and how the City would receive several millions for parks/playgrounds.

#### Councilor Minichiello

- Mentioned that residents want clean parks. There is a strong tradition of youth sports.
- Stated there was a need for discussion with mayor and supports task force.

Councilor Lally

- Stated and agreed to file an ordinance for an official city committee for youth sports. A local version of NCAA for Brockton.

5. Resolve: To invite Dr. James Bruce to appear before a committee of the Brockton City Council to discuss the growth of the Brockton Cultural Affairs and Tourism group in the past year and to inform the public of the Cultural Affairs Expo to occur on March 25, 2023.

Invited: Dr. James Bruce

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

Dr. James Bruce

- Discussed cultural affairs and tourism
- Cultural Affairs Expo to get involved. Next meeting March 9, 2023.

Councilor Asack

- Provided additional information and thanked Dr Bruce.

6. Resolve: Be it resolved by the Brockton City Council to invite Mayor Robert Sullivan and Patrick Hill, Commission of Public Works, to come before the City Council to discuss plans for road paving and other infrastructure work.

Invited: Robert Sullivan, Mayor

Patrick Hill, Commissioner of DPW

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

Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

- The city has not had pavement preservation since 2010. Beta Engineering to create a pavement management program.
- There are 276 miles of road to maintain.
- To restore all roads, it would cost \$200M, \$53M to repair sidewalks.
- Current street pavement scoring is 58.
- Paving will begin in April.

Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

- It used to be 15 or so years but due to salt it is now about 12 years.

Councilor Rodrigues

- Asked what the life expectancy of a road and for copy of roads to be paved.

Councilor Asack

- Mentioned that the number one call from residents is regarding street paving.
- Can we advocate for more funding? Stated that State representatives were in the city and hoped they noticed.

Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

- State legislation controls Chapter 90. No additional funding for next year.

Councilor Farwell

- Stated that the city does not charge utilities per sq. ft to open roads. Gas is exempt but can we update the ordinance? Utility companies should be compensating the City and should have expected standards when there is a need to repave.

Councilor Teixeira

- Asked if a score of 58, does each ward get a certain amount of paving done? What ward would have most work done? When paving is done are pipes replaced at that time?

Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

- All wards are assessed and repaved for a variety of reasons. Worst overall in the past would be based on which ward has more roads.
- With more roadwork it would bring the score up but costs have increased. Paving is up 30% and pipes are up 40% because older pipes are not always replaced when paved.

Councilor Lally

- Ward 6 had to delay road pavement of some roads to match money to replace pipes.
- Would like to see a stamping system seen elsewhere to mark roads, i.e. National Grid stamps the road that they have repaved so the city knows who did the work.

Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

- All information is listed in the GIS system and could be monitored.

Councilor Lally

- Asked what the deadlines for Naugatuck plant in Connecticut closing the Sludge dryer is.

Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

- Proposals are being reviewed and there is progress for issuing a request for proposal (RFP) for engineering contract.
- Stated what used to be \$145/ton is now \$296/ton.

President Nicastro

- Stated that the comments are out of scope of the agenda.

Councilor D'Agostino

- Mentioned that costs of paving are up. What are we exploring to repair/replace and what are other towns doing?
- Asked about micro-surfacing. What determines if it has to be full rebuild? Are vendors subject to city ordinances?
- It was mentioned that utilities open streets. How does it happen? Maybe an additional fee could be applied.
- Asked about biosolids and what the dryer was.

Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

- Other towns like East Bridgewater micro-surface. Apply layer of sealant. There is a South East Regional service contract. Not under current contract, it's part of regional procurement. Looking for alternative options.

Councilor D'Agostino

- What determines resurface vs replace?

Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

- DPW operates as subsurface should be 4". Per MassDOT standard is 6".

Councilor D'Agostino

- Mentioned roads repaved and then utilities dig up and ruin the road.
- Asked what the difference between dryer and incinerator.

Councilor Farwell

- Stated that he knows there is no money for sidewalks but keeping up with the shrubs would be better.

Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

- Stated there was a drought last year and office is working on compliances.
- Stated that Maine and NH use slug as fertilizer and the dryer reduces slug by 10%.

Councilor Farwell

- Stated that the City used to give utilities 6 month notice that we would open the roads. Can we put a moratorium on permits?
- Asked about Biosolids and what do other communities doing?
- Discussed a home rule petition with Aquaria and the public has rights on water source.

Councilor Rodrigues

- Asked when the permit is issued, does the City inspect?

Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

- Civil engineers go out to inspect but the work is only guaranteed for a yr. on patchwork.

President Nicastro

- Stated that work is not completed by utilities and gave Pine Ave. as an example.

Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

- Stated that they are on schedule for April and will post a paving list.

7. Resolve: WHEREAS, the City of Brockton was required to, and the City Council did adopt on December 22, 20019 the stormwater control ordinances (Revised Ordinances section 23-131) to comply with the Stormwater Program of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System promulgated by the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of said Ordinances is to "... effect proper management of Stormwater runoff and its control facilities, in a prudent manner; to Comply with state and federal environmental regulations."; and

WHEREAS, said Ordinances provide, at sections 23-132 and -135, for the imposition of a Stormwater Utility Fee to fund Stormwater services and payable into a special dedicated fund.;

WHEREAS, said fee is intended, as stated in Sec.23-135, to be "...operated in the manner the existing sewer and water utilities are operated"; and

WHEREAS, since the City began billing property owners for said Stormwater Utility Fees, there have been repeated problems with the billings including inaccuracies and duplicate billings, and how the bills are calculated, as well as the need to clarify the amounts being raised.

NOW Therefore, be it resolved by the Brockton City Council to invite the Commissioner of Public Works, Patrick Hill, the Treasurer/Collector, Martin Brophy, and CFO Troy Carlson to appear before the Finance Committee of the Brockton City Council to discuss billing issues and such other related issues as may arise.

By separate resolve, the members of the Stormwater Authority will be invited to discuss the uses of the funds raised and other related issues.

Invited: Robert Sullivan, Mayor  
Patrick Hill, Commissioner of DPW  
Martin Brophy, Treasurer/Collector  
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

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

Troy Clarkson, CFO

- Provided information regarding billing and future collaboration with Martin Brophy, Treasurer/Collector to prevent future issues.
- Going forward bills will be sent annually.
- Revenue is scheduled to be \$800k, we have currently collected approx. \$560K.
- FY24 budgets are being put together and to be used for roads and debt.

Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

- Apologized for confusion and inconvenience and mentioned that residents would be given 90 days to pay.

Martin Brophy, Treasurer/Collector

- Stated that the system showed the balance as past due because of limitations.

Councilor Farwell

- Who is on the stormwater Commission?

Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

- Mentioned the following staff: Evan Lacasse in Finance, Highway Foreman, City Engineer, conservation.

Councilor Farwell

- Stated that it was as conflict of interest for stormwater with no civilians on this board.
- Questioned the fee structure, specifically if someone had a pool on their property.
- The city lost a business due to this billing.
- The amount for having a pond that is 400 sq. ft is a lot.
- The mall has the same size area as an empty lot on the south side with no traffic going through it and pay the same.
- Not happy that we passed this ordinance with this information being confusing.
- Wants a thorough review and civilian involvement.

Councilor D'Agostino

- Mentioned he was frustrated and maybe misunderstood the mandate from EPA to generate revenue from stormwater.

Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

- Stated he was not directly involved with negotiations in 2017 for permitting.
- Prior, highway was maintaining storm drains but not to the level of standards that is now required.
- Many cities have combined systems and captured the costs with their sewer funds and agreed to look at additional locations.

Councilor Minichiello

- Stated that as a community we recognized that revenue needed to be acquired to increase the budget to comply with mandate. It was discretionary and we chose to do this.
- Constituents are irate that the bills were late and the need for a new mechanism.

Councilor Rodrigues

- Asked what recourse do businesses have when their regular water bill is \$70 but stormwater is over \$100?

Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

- Stated that residents can request for an abatement.

Councilor Rodrigues

- Asked if city and school pay?

Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

- Stated no.

Councilor Rodrigues

- The city has the biggest buildings and does not pay?
- Do all businesses pay?

Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

- Stated it was not a tax so they all pay.

Councilor D'Agostino

- Asked how was the previous standard being maintained? What changed and what are the specific costs and can businesses apply for payment plans.

Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

- Other communities have a combined fee.

Councilor Farwell

- Asked how much do we need for civil engineers? We can say that Marty needs more money because his department sends bills.

Troy Clarkson, CFO

- Enterprise funds paid for a portion to the general fund.

Councilor Farwell

- Asked to postpone.