

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the standing committee on Finance was held on Monday March 4, 2024 at 7:00PM in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 45 School St., Brockton, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM with nine members present. With Councilor Rodrigues presiding, Councilors Asack and Minichiello absent.

1. Acceptance of the minutes of the February 5, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting.

*Accepted and placed on file.

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

Appropriation of \$76,181.00

The funds will be used for the purchase of departmental equipment.

FROM: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE \$76,181

TO: THE BROCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT \$76,181

Invited: Brenda Perez, Chief of Police or Designee
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

Motion by Councilor Thompson to amend the order so that the language reads as follows: “that the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$76,181.

From: United States Department of Justice \$76,181

To: The Brockton Police Department. \$76,181

The funds will be used for the purchase of departmental equipment” and was properly seconded. Motion carried by a hand vote.

*Grant Coordinator, Lugenia Lopes, presented on behalf of Chief Perez and explained the grant to the Councilors.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Farwell to report FAVORABLE AS AMENDED and was properly seconded. 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: \$2,500

FROM: CITY COUNCIL- PART TIME SALARIES \$2,500

TO: CITY COUNCIL- PERSONAL SERVICES OVERTIME \$2,500

In order to cover unanticipated expenses for the remainder of the Fiscal Year.

Invited: Timothy J. Cruise, City Clerk
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

*Clerk Cruise introduced and explained the transfer and was available to answer any questions that anyone may have had.

*Councilor Asack stepped in.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Lally to report FAVORABLE and was properly seconded. Motion carried by a hand vote.

4. 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: \$5,200

FROM: CITY CLERK- TEMP SEASONAL \$1,200
CITY CLERK- OUT OF GRADE \$4,000

TO: CITY CLERK – PERSONAL SERVICES OVERTIME \$5,200

In order to cover unanticipated expenses for the remainder of the Fiscal Year.

Invited: Timothy J. Cruise, City Clerk
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

*Clerk Cruise introduced and explained the transfer and was available to answer any questions that anyone may have had.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Farwell to report FAVORABLE and was properly seconded. Motion carried by a hand vote.

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: \$ 450,000

FROM: STORMWATER CERTIFIED RETAINED EARNINGS \$450,000

TO: STORMWATER- PERSONAL SERVICE NON-OT \$226,251
STORMWATER- PURCHASE OF SERVICE \$223,434

STORMWATER- GOODS AND SUPPLIES

\$315

In order to cover unanticipated expenses for the remainder of the Fiscal Year.

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

*CFO Clarkson introduced and explained the transfer and was available to answer any questions that anyone may have had.

*Councilor Minichiello stepped in.

*Questions and comments from Councilors Farwell, Derenoncourt and Thompson answered by Commissioner Hill and Mayor Sullivan.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Lally to report FAVORABLE and was properly seconded. Motion carried by a hand vote.

- 6. Ordered: That the following named sum be and the same is hereby transferred as the same was submitted by the Mayor as follows:

Appropriation of \$30,447.62

FROM: COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF

FIRE SERVICES \$30,447.62

TO: THE FIRE DEPARTMENT \$30,447.62

This is a non-matching grant with no cost to the city.

The funds will be used for the purchase of four sets of gear for the newest recruits and partially cover the cost of a secondary set of gear for the sixteen recruits hired last year.

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

Motion by Councilor Thompson to amend the order so that the language reads as follows: “that the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of 30,447.62.

From: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Fire Services \$30,447.62

To: The Fire Department. \$30,447.62

This is a non-matching grant with no cost to the city.

The funds will be used for the purchase of four sets of gear for the newest recruits and partially cover the cost of a secondary set of gear for the sixteen recruits hired last year” and was properly seconded. Motion carried by a hand vote.

*Chief Nardelli introduced and explained the transfer and was available to answer any questions that anyone may have had.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Asack to report FAVORABLE AS AMENDED and was properly seconded.

*Questions and comments on the motion from Councilor Thompson answered by Chief Nardelli.

Motion carried by a hand vote.

7. Resolve: WHEREAS, The city council has responsibility for approving annual appropriations for the operation of city departments as submitted by the mayor, and,

WHEREAS, The appropriations for the Brockton Public Schools are the largest amounts to be reviewed, and,

WHEREAS, For the current Fiscal Year 2024, the following amounts were approved: Net School Spending \$219,868,010; Non-Net School Spending \$11,245,147, or more than \$230 million, and,

WHEREAS, It is critically important the city provides sufficient funding for classroom teachers, educational programs, and related services for our students at all grade levels.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The mayor and chief financial officer be invited to a meeting of the council to discuss the feasibility of an independent, objective review of the entire administrative structure of the Brockton Public Schools. Provided further, if funding is approved for this study, the data generated would provide the city council with valuable information when annual budget reviews for school appropriations are conducted in June, 2024.

Invited: Mayor Robert Sullivan
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
TJ Plante, Open Architects Consultant

*Mayor Sullivan told the Council that Mr. Plante wouldn't be in attendance.

*Questions and comment from Councilors Farwell, Thompson, Minichiello and Nicastro answered by CFO Clarkson and Mayor Sullivan.

*City Council President Rodrigues stepped down to question and comment on the resolve.

*Questions and comments from Councilors Asack, Griffin and Derenoncourt.

*Point of Information by Councilor Farwell.

*Questions and comments from Councilors Tavares and Teixeira.

*In a second round of comments from the Council, questions and comments from Councilors Thompson, Rodrigues, Farwell and Minichiello.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Farwell to report FAVORABLE and was properly seconded. Motion carried by a hand vote.

*Clerk Cruise announced that this Finance Committee meeting would be the last meeting that the aide to the Finance Committee, Tayla Bennett, would be attending as she accepted a position with the Town of Middleborough as the Assistant Clerk. The Clerk and Councilors congratulated her and wished her luck in her future endeavors.

8. RESOLVE: Be it resolved, to have City Solicitor Megan Bridges or her designee appear before the Finance Committee of the Brockton City Council to give an update on the status of the City of Brockton's audit/investigation of the Brockton School Department's overspending of their FY23 budget and any information concerning any other fiscal years that may include pertinent information.

Invited: Megan Bridges, City Solicitor or Designee

*Councilor Rodrigues stated that the reason for going into executive session is that discussions may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the public body considering that this is still an ongoing investigation. He states that the Council would not be returning to open session.

Motion by Councilor Asack to enter executive session and was properly seconded.
Motion carried by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”; eleven members present and all voting in the affirmative.

Adjourned: 10:26PM