

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the standing committee on Finance was held on Monday March 18, 2024 at 7:00PM in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 45 School St., Brockton, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with nine members present. With Councilor Rodrigues presiding, Councilors Asack and Tavares absent.

Councilor Minichiello had a moment of silence for Michael “Mickey” Campbell who passed away today.

1. Acceptance of the minutes of the March 4, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting.

\*Accepted and placed on file.

2. Appointment of Ms. Chrislane Bonny, of 320 Prospect Street, Brockton MA, 02301, to serve on the Elections Commission for a four (4) year term, ending February 2028.

Invited: Ms. Chrislane Bonny

\*Ms. Bonny addressed the Council and thanked them for this opportunity to serve.

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

Councilor Lally motioned to move item #3 at the end of the agenda and was properly seconded. The motion carried by a hand vote.

3. Ordered: That the City of Brockton appropriates the amount of Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000.00) to pay costs of a feasibility study related to options for reconstructing the existing Brockton High School, and/or construction of a new Brockton High School, at 470 Forest Avenue, in Brockton, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, and for which the City may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), said amount to be expended under the direction of School Building Committee. To meet this appropriation the City Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The City acknowledges that the MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the City incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City, and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this order shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Feasibility Study Agreement that may be executed between the City and the MSBA. Further Ordered: That the City Treasurer is authorized to file an application with The Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ Municipal Finance Oversight Board to qualify under M.G.L. c. 44A any and all bonds or notes of the City authorized by this vote, and to provide such information and execute such documents as the Municipal Finance Oversight Board of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts may require.

Invited: Mayor Robert Sullivan  
Martin Brophy, City Treasurer  
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer  
Dr. James Cobbs, Acting Superintendent

\*Councilor Asack stepped in.

4. Ordered: That the following petition be approved and submitted to the Great and General Court for approval under Clause (1) of Section 8 of Article 2, as amended, of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and to the end that legislation be adopted precisely as follows, except for clerical or editorial changes of form only.

**AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ELECTION OF THE MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN THE CITY OF BROCKTON.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

SECTION 1. Every mayor, city councilor and school committee member who is elected to represent an individual ward, or at-large, as the case may be, shall have been an inhabitant of a place within the ward, or for the positions of mayor or councilor-at-large shall have been an inhabitant of a place within the city of Brockton, for which he is chosen for election for at least one year immediately preceding his election, and shall cease to represent such ward or city for the positions of mayor or councilor-at-large when he shall cease to be an inhabitant thereof.

SECTION 2- This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Invited: Cynthia Hogan, Elections Commission Executive Director  
City Solicitor Megan Bridges or designee(s)

\*Ms. Hogan and Solicitor Bridges introduced and explained the order and was available to answer any questions that anyone may have had.

\*Questions and comments from Councilors Nicastro, Thompson, Asack, and Derenoncourt.

\* Comments from Clerk Cruise and President Rodrigues.

Councilor Thompson motioned to postpone to next finance meeting and was properly seconded. The motion carried by a hand vote.

5. Ordered: WHEREAS, Chapter 324 of the Acts of 1990 was specifically enacted by the Legislature relative to the finances of the City of Brockton; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 324 of the Acts of 1990 provides in part “The city council by majority vote may request such assessment, analysis or other financial

information, without otherwise limiting its authority to request such, at any time it receives formal or informal notice of: (i) an expenditure which is or may be in excess of an appropriation; (ii) a condition where an allotment is or may be exceeded;”.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED:

(A) The city council affirms that provisions of Chapter 324 of the Acts of 1990 apply to the city and its departments, including the school department.

(B) Pursuant to Section 5 (d) of the Act, the chief financial officer be invited to a meeting of the council in March, 2024, to provide a detailed report on the current Fiscal Year 2024 expenditures and remaining balances in accounts for all city departments.

(C) Pursuant to Section 7 of the Act, all city departments shall immediately comply with the provisions requiring periodic reports on the allotments provided to departments for their operation as enumerated in the following language from the Act:

***“...the amounts to be expended by such department or unit for such purposes during each of the five following allotment periods: July first through September thirtieth, October first through December thirty-first, January first through the last day of February, March first through April thirtieth, and May first through June thirtieth.”***

(D) Notwithstanding the provisions of section “C” above, the chief financial officer shall provide a monthly report of allotments provided for the operation of the public schools and the remaining balances in all accounts, including funds received through grants.

(E) Reports generated pursuant to Section 7 of the Act shall be filed with the City Clerk for dissemination to the members of the city council.

(F) The provisions of Section 7 relative to the joint responsibility of the city auditor and the chief financial officer shall be followed, as contained in the following provision of the Act:

***“Whenever the chief financial officer or the city auditor determines that any department, board, commission, agency or other unit of city government, including the school department, will exhaust or has exhausted its time period allotment and any amounts unexpended in previous periods before the end of such time period, he shall give notice in writing to such effect to the department head or officer in charge thereof, the mayor, the city solicitor, the chief financial officer or the city auditor as appropriate, and to the city clerk who shall forthwith transmit the same to the city council and finance control board, if such board remains in existence at the time. Upon such a determination and notice thereof, the chief financial officer shall provide the foregoing officials additional***

*reports on at least a monthly basis indicating the status of each of such accounts.”*

(G) This Order shall remain in full force and effect until amended or rescinded by vote of the city council.

Invited: Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer  
Irene Giannopoulos, Interim City Auditor

Councilor Farwell motioned to postpone to the April 15 finance Meeting and was properly seconded. The motion carried by a hand vote.

6. Ordered: That the City Council votes to adopt and accept the provisions of M.G.L. ch. 40 §32A relative to publication of ordinances. Adoption of M.G.L. ch. 40 §32A will allow for publication of ordinances by the city council in a municipal bulletin or printed pamphlet, except for zoning ordinances or amendment thereto, which will require a summary published at least two times in a newspaper of general circulation in the City.

Invited: Shannon Resnick, Legislative Counsel  
Timothy J. Cruise, City Clerk

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

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Lally to report FAVORABLE and was properly seconded. 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 DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
\$50,000

TO: THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT \$50,000

Invited: Timothy Carpenter, Superintendent of Parks  
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

\*Mr. Carpenter introduced and explained the order and was available to answer any questions that anyone may have had.

\* Questions and comments from Councilor Thompson.

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

8. Ordered: That the City Council votes to adopt and accept the provisions of M.G.L. ch. 60 §3F relative to voluntary donation(s) to the City's veterans' funds. Adoption of

M.G.L. ch. 60 §3F will allow for the City to designate a place on its municipal property tax bills or motor vehicle excise bills or mail with such bills a separate form whereby taxpayers of the City may voluntarily check off, donate and pledge an amount of money above the amount due on their tax/motor vehicle excise bill to contribute to the City's veterans' assistance funds. The veterans' assistance funds shall be under the supervision of the City's Veterans' Service Department.

Invited: Kelly Young, Director of Veterans' Services  
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

\*Ms. Young introduced and explained the order and was available to answer any questions that anyone may have had.

\*On the motion questions and comments from Councilors Farwell, Asack, Derenoncourt, Thompson, and Nicastro.

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

9. 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: \$1,250,000

FROM: OVERLAY SURPLUS	\$1,200,000
POLICE DEPARTMENT- FULL TIME SALARIES NON-OT	\$50,000
TO: LAW DEPARTMENT- COURT JUDGEMENTS	\$1,250,000

This transfer will be to fund a court settlement for a recently settled lawsuit.

Invited: John O'Donnell, Chair-Board of Assessors or designee(s)  
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer  
City Solicitor Megan Bridges or designee(s)

\*CFO Clarkson and Solicitor Bridges introduced and explained the order and was available to answer any questions that anyone may have had.

\*President Rodrigues stated that Mr. O'Donnell did email him and wouldn't be able to make it to tonight's meeting.

\*On the motion questions and comments from Councilors Nicastro, Derenoncourt, and Tavares.

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

10. Resolve: WHEREAS, The traffic pattern for Warren Avenue between Spring Street and Belmont Street will eventually be modified as part of the new Public Safety Campus at Warren Avenue and West Elm Streets.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill be invited to a meeting of the council to discuss the details and work necessary to accomplish the project objectives.

Invited: Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

Captain Mark Porcaro, Traffic Commissioner

\*Commissioner Hill and Captain Porcaro introduced and explained the order and was available to answer any questions that anyone may have had.

\* Questions and comments from Councilor Asack, Thompson, Lally, Farwell, and Griffin.

\*Comments from CFO Clarkson, Mayor Sullivan, and Solicitor Bridges.

\*On the motion questions and comments from Councilor Farwell.

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

11. Resolve: WHEREAS, The recruitment of professional, competent candidates for appointment to the police department is of critical importance for the public safety of the city;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Police Chief Brenda Perez and other appropriate staff be invited to a meeting of the City Council to discuss issues relating to the recruitment and retention of police candidates.

Invited: Chief Brenda Perez or designee(s)

Sandi Charton, HR Director

\*Chief Perez, Sergeant Amaral, and Mr. Shipps introduced and explained the order and was available to answer any questions that anyone may have had.

\* Questions and comments from Councilors Farwell, Derenoncourt, Asack, Thompson, Griffin, Lally and Nicastro.

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

Ordered: That the City of Brockton appropriates the amount of Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000.00) to pay costs of a feasibility study related to options for reconstructing the existing Brockton High School, and/or construction of a new Brockton High School, at 470 Forest Avenue, in Brockton, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, and for which the City may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), said amount to be expended under the direction of School Building Committee. To meet this appropriation the City Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The City acknowledges that the MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the City incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City, and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this order shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Feasibility Study Agreement that may be executed between the City and the MSBA. Further Ordered: That the City Treasurer is authorized to file an application with The Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ Municipal Finance Oversight Board to qualify under M.G.L. c. 44A any and all bonds or notes of the City authorized by this vote, and to provide such information and execute such documents as the Municipal Finance Oversight Board of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts may require.

Invited: Mayor Robert Sullivan  
Martin Brophy, City Treasurer  
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer  
Dr. James Cobbs, Acting Superintendent

\*Mayor Sullivan, Treasurer Brophy, and CFO Clarkson, and Dr. Cobbs introduced and explained the order and was available to answer any questions that anyone may have had.

\* Questions and comments from Councilors Asack, Thompson, farwell, Derenoncourt,, Griffin, Minichiello, Nicastro, Lally, and Tavares.

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

Councilor Recognition: Councilor Nicastro attended a Alcohol License Holders Meeting at Massasoit Community Collage to review the City and State Laws and wanted to thank all the business owners and managers that attended.

Adjourned: 10:06PM