

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the standing committee on Finance was held on Monday April 1, 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 ten members present. With Councilor Rodrigues presiding, Councilor Asack absent.

1. Acceptance of the minutes of the March 18, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting.

*Accepted and placed on file.

2. Reappointment of Ms. Jeanne Fuller-Jones, of 54 Cushing Avenue, Brockton, MA 02301, to serve on the Council on Aging as a member for a three (3) year term, expiring April 2027.

Invited: Ms. Jeanne Fuller-Jones

*Ms. Fuller-Jones addressed the Council and thanked them for this opportunity to serve.

*Questions and comments from Councilors Minichiello and Nicastro.

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

3. Reappointment of Ms. Joyce Forand-Voorhis, of 1366 Pleasant Street, Brockton, MA 02301, to the Conservation Commission as a member for a three (3) year term, ending March 2027.

Invited: Ms. Joyce Forand-Voorhis

*Ms. Forand-Voorhis addressed the Council and thanked them for this opportunity to serve.

*Questions and comments from Councilors Minichiello, Nicastro, Farwell, and Derenoncourt.

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 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)
Attorney Shannon Resnick, Legislative Council

* Clerk Cruise stated that Ms. Hogan was ill and won't be able to make it tonight.

*President Rodrigues stated that Solicitor Bridges had a prior engagement and couldn't make it tonight.

*Attorney Resnick 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 Thompson to report FAVORABLE and was properly seconded. Motion carried by a hand vote.

*Councilor Asack stepped in

5. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the Earmark in the amount of \$100,000.00.

From: Massachusetts Department of Public Health

To: The City of Brockton

(The earmark funds will be used to fund substance use and harm reduction services.
There is no matched required.)

Invited: Mayor Robert Sullivan
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

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

* Questions and comments from Councilor Nicastro.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Nicastro to report FAVORABLE and was properly seconded. 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 \$31,000

FROM: THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY \$31,000
FY2024 COMMONWEALTH CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM

TO: THE POLICE DEPARTMENT \$31,000

Invited: Lugenia Lopes, Grant Coordinator, BPD
Brenda Perez, Chief of Police or Designee
Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

*Ms. Lopes 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 a donation in the amount of \$25.00

From: Tanea DeAndrade

To: The Brockton Police Department

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

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

* Questions and comments from Councilor Thompson on the motion.

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

8. RESOLVE: WHEREAS, on March 8, 2024, Brockton Public Schools (“BPS”)released to the public the findings of a third party audit of the District dated February 2024 which was commissioned by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (“DESE”); and

WHEREAS, said findings disclosed, in part, deficiencies in the BPS FY23 budget in that the District spent in excess of its FY23 budgeted amount; and

WHEREAS, said findings also disclosed, in part, expected deficiencies in the BPS FY24 budget, and projected deficiencies in the BPS FY25 budget.

NOW THEREFORE, Be It Resolved,

to invite Acting Superintendent Dr. James Cobbs to appear before the Finance Committee of the Brockton City Council to discuss his concerns and planned actions to address said deficiencies, in light of his March 8, 2024 comments, “What this report makes clear is that, while there are numerous significant and growing costs associated with providing students with a holistic education, we have not done a good enough job to plan for and mitigate those costs, nor have we taken enough care to adhere to budgeting best practices,” Acting Superintendent Cobbs said. “We owe it to the Brockton community to do better, and we are steadfast in our commitment to work with our city and state partners to ensure that our budget and spending processes are rebuilt from the ground up in a way that’s sustainable and – most importantly – keeps us moving toward our goal of providing Brockton’s students with the best possible education.”

Invited: Dr. James Cobbs, Acting Superintendent

*Brief Recess

*Back in session

*Dr. Cobbs introduced and explained the order and was available to answer any questions that anyone may have had.

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

* Questions and comments from Councilors Nicastro and Minichiello on the motion.

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

Councilor Recognition: Councilor Griffin stated that he was approached by Father Bills and they will be having a meeting for ward 3 residents on Tuesday April 30 at 7PM at the Administrative Building on Belmont St. Councilor Lally thanked Superintendent Michael Thomas for being in attendance of tonight's meeting. President Rodrigues reminded everyone that we have two meetings next week Monday City Council and Thursday and a Joint Convention to elect a new Ward One School Committee any interested parties please send your resume no later than April 5 at 4:30PM. Councilor Minichiello stated that economic Development Committee meeting will be rescheduled.

Adjourned: 10:20PM