

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the standing committee on Finance was held on Monday May 20, 2024 at 7:00PM in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 45 School St., Brockton, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM with eight members present. With Councilor Rodrigues presiding, Councilors Asack, Nicastro, and Tavares absent.

President Rodrigues stated that Councilor Nicastro was under the weather and couldn't make it tonight.

1. Acceptance of the minutes of the May 6, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting.

*Accepted and placed on file.

2. Appointment of the following retired officers as Special Police Officers:

Charles J. Cassiani, Jr.
Andrew Cesarini
Hermer E. Cole
William Healy
Thomas Keating
Kenneth Lofstrom
Donald J. Mills, Jr.
Callie H. Royster, Jr.
Robert Smith
Scott D. Uhlman

Invited: Retired Brockton Police Officers:

Charles J. Cassiani, Jr.
Andrew Cesarini
Hermer E. Cole
William Healy
Thomas Keating
Kenneth Lofstrom
Donald J. Mills, Jr.
Callie H. Royster, Jr.
Robert Smith
Scott D. Uhlman

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

3. Reappointment of Mr. Steve Lainas, of 5 Rock Meadow Drive, Brockton, MA 02301, to the Brockton Zoning Board of Appeals for a three (3) year term, ending May 2027.

Invited: Mr. Steve Lainas

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

*President Rodrigues thanked Mr. Lainas for his services.

4. Reappointment of Mr. Matthew Stanton, of 160 Tribou Street, Brockton, MA 02301, as a member of the Brockton Beautification Committee for a three (3) year term, ending May 2027.

Invited: Mr. Matthew Stanton

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

* Councilor Thompson on the motion stated that Mr. Stanton is doing a great job as chairman on the committee and Saturday was keep Brockton Beautiful Day and it was a success over 200 people volunteered and it was a great day.

*Mr. Stanton stated it is his pleasure and he was happy to be part of it, and wants to continued to keep this going.

Motion carried by a hand vote.

5. Appointment of Mr. Matthew Gallagher, of 15 Vinedale Road, Brockton, MA 02301, to the Brockton Planning Board for a five (5) year term, ending May 2029.

Invited: Mr. Matthew Gallagher

* Councilor Thompson asked if he could hear about his background and experience on Planning Board.

*Mr. Gallagher stated he worked in Stoughton on planning and he became passionate and resides in Brockton and decided to apply to the Brockton Planning Board.

*Councilor Derenoncourt ask if this is his first appointment?

*Mr. Gallagher stated yes.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Thompson 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:

Transfer of: \$337,500

FROM: CABLE REVOLVING FUND \$337,500

TO: MAYOR- CABLE ACCESS \$337,500

This transfer will be used restore funds to cover city obligated expenses.

Invited: Mr. Joseph Miranda
Mr. Scott Mercer
Mayor Robert Sullivan
CFO Troy Clarkson

* Clerk Cruise stated Officer Miranda is working tonight and unable to attend.

* Councilor Farwell stated he was the one who motioned to reduce BCA payment, we do have a 10-year agreement that was signed 2019, and understands technology changes and the City changes. People would be surprised to know how many people actually watch City Government meetings. What he would like from BCA is to have a commitment to our meeting schedules and have a person assigned to the meetings. Also, have a full communication with BCA on technical issues. Stated he is in favor of this but would like to discuss with Law department and the CFO, and BCA from now until budget on what they expect from BCA.

*Councilor Thompson piggybacking from Councilor Farwell Leandra is always in the booth and does an amazing job. His question is do they have a City Council manager?

*Mr. Mercer stated to clear things up that Leandra is the City Government access producer and Mike Simmons is the contact. The technical issues that were in the pass were internal from the City Council Chambers. Which have been resolved.

* President Rodrigues explained we have the easiest schedule; Finance Meetings are usually the first and third week of the month and City Council meetings are the second and fourth week.

* Clerk Cruise stated that BCA is notified by Diane who post all meetings and emails BCA members as well to notify them of upcoming meetings.

* Councilor Farwell stated that Mr. Mercer wasn't around at this time but during the City Primary of 2021 there wasn't any BCA coverage at all. If they could also get an updated graphic design on updating the total numbers during elections. His interest is improving what they provide to the residents.

*Mr. Mercer stated he wasn't around it was before his time but he was made aware of the situation. Every election since then has been covered and they have to wait till they get accurate numbers before posting. They will do anything to help improve.

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

7. Ordered: That the City Council re-authorize the Comcast Revolving Fund for FY25, from all cash receipts from Comcast franchise fees, in excess of six hundred and seventy-five thousand (\$675,000), pursuant to the cable license contract, and that further, that the expenditure from this fund shall not exceed seven hundred and fifty (\$750,000) without further appropriation, during Fiscal Year 2025.

Invited: Mr. Joseph Miranda
Mr. Scott Mercer
Mayor Robert Sullivan
CFO Troy Clarkson

*CFO Clarkson stated every year they are asked to renew the Revolving funds. An annual vote is needed to make these funds available. As right now that account has \$1,244,755.00 available but is constantly changing they will be taking the \$337,000 to BCA. Any money other than that would have to come in front of City Council. Is available to answer any questions.

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

*Councilor Thompson on the motion Was there any money they spent other then that, that came before city council for the school? He recalls an item that may have been tabled not sure? Can we get an update?

* CFO Clarkson stated that he can get that info for them, but general speaking they had a big project on the auditorium at the school.

Motion carried by a hand vote.

8. Ordered: That the City Council re-authorize the Demolition Revolving Fund for the purpose of helping to fund costs in connection with demolition of buildings in the City of Brockton. The fund shall receive the receipts of payments of all demolition charges of the City of Brockton. Expenditures from the Demolition Revolving fund shall be made on the authority and direction of the Building Superintendent, with the written approval of the Mayor, provided that no more than one hundred and ten thousand (\$110,000) may be so expended without further appropriation from the Demolition Revolving Fund during FY25. The Building Superintendent shall comply with the reporting requirements of M.G.L., Ch 44. Section 53E ½.

Invited: Building Commissioner James Plouffe
Mayor Robert Sullivan
CFO Troy Clarkson

*Building Commissioner James Plouffe stated that the order speaks for its self and they didn't have to do any demolitions this year.

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

9. Ordered: That the City Council re-authorize the Vacant and Abandoned Buildings Revolving Fund for the purpose of maintaining the Abandoned Building Registry, as well as the closing, boarding up and care of vacant and abandoned buildings. The Vacant and Abandoned Building Revolving Fund shall receive the receipts of payments of fines and fees for the registration of vacant and abandoned buildings. Expenditures from the Vacant and Abandoned Buildings Revolving Fund shall be made on the authority and direction of the Building Superintendent, provided that no more than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) may be so expended without further appropriation from the Vacant and Abandoned Building Revolving Fund during the FY25. The Building Superintendent shall comply with the reporting requirements of M.G.L., Ch 44. Section 53E ½.

Invited: Building Commissioner James Plouffe
Mayor Robert Sullivan
CFO Troy Clarkson

* Councilor Asack stepped in.

*Building Commissioner James Plouffe stated that we have had this revolving account for years. There are 160 vacant and abandoned buildings on registry.

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

*Councilor Thompson on the motion knows they go through a lot of work to keep this list updated how accurate is that number?

*Building Commissioner James Plouffe stated that that number is accurate he has a building inspector go around and monitor these locations.

*Councilor Thompson how much in account and what have you use it for?

*Building Commissioner James Plouffe \$1.2 million. They used to take down a building on Montello street and take down the buildings for new public safety building and on Court street. Correction \$180,000 in account.

Motion carried by a hand vote

10. Ordered: That the City Council re-authorize the Economic Development Revolving Fund for FY25, for the purpose of maintaining said fund. The Economic Development Revolving Fund shall receive the receipts of payments of fines and fees for the engineering, design, construction and paving of projects. Expenditures from the Economic Development Revolving Fund shall be made on the authority and direction of the Chief Financial Officer, provided that no more than five hundred thousand (\$500,000) may be so expended without further appropriation from the Economic Development Revolving Fund during FY25. The Brockton Chief Financial Officer shall comply with the reporting requirements of M.G.L., Ch 44. Section 53E ½.

Invited: Director of Planning and Economic Development Rob May
Mayor Robert Sullivan
CFO Troy Clarkson

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

11. Ordered: That the City Council re-authorize the Roadway Design and Construction Revolving Fund for the purpose of maintaining said fund. The fund shall receive the receipts of payments of fines and fees for engineering, design, construction and paving of projects. Expenditures from the Roadway Design and Construction Revolving fund shall be made on the authority and direction of the Brockton Department of Public Works Commissioner, provided that no more than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) may be so expended without further appropriation from the Roadway Design and Construction Revolving Fund during FY25. The Brockton Department of Public Works Commissioner shall comply with the reporting requirements of M.G.L., Ch 44. Section 53E ½.

Invited: DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill
Mayor Robert Sullivan
CFO Troy Clarkson

*DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill stated that this revolving fund has been around since Eversource bought Colombia Gas. Rather than duplicate paving streets, started taking money from Eversource and put it in this account. Haven't taken any money yet, but will be expecting to do Warren Ave. and North Main St.

*Councilor Farwell stated he is uncomfortable with a million dollars. Paving streets is important but he would feel more comfortable with \$250,000 in this account. One million dollars without the Council knowing where and how it's being spent. He will be making a motion to amend this order if the Commissioner and CFO would like to come back and explain how the one million would be spend then he would be ok to approve the one million. No other department in the City has one million.

*Councilor Thompson stated this revolving fund was establish in Ordinance. Would the amendment have to be done through Ordinance?

*Clerk Cruise stated he will have to discuss this with Legislative Council Attorney Resnick. We could put the amendment through and then have that answer before the final vote.

*Councilor Thompson when will paving for Warren Ave and North Main ST. occur? Also, Eversource still has the 3-foot temp gas pipe on some streets located in Ward 5 do you know when those will be repaved?

*Commissioner Pat Hill around mid to late June. Those streets will also be done around June.

*Councilor Derenoncourt stated that Commissioner Pat Hill has been respectful and effective. He always returns and takes his calls. He is in support of this order.

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

12. Ordered: That the City Council re-authorize the Transportation Program Revolving Fund for FY25, for the purpose of maintaining the transportation of residents ages 60 and older in the City of Brockton. The Transportation Program Revolving Fund shall receive the receipts of payments of donations and fees for transportation. Expenditures from the Transportation Revolving Fund shall be made on the authority and direction of the Director of the Council on Aging, provided that no more than five hundred thousand (\$500,000) may be so expended without further appropriation from the Transportation Revolving Fund during the FY25. The Director of the Council on Aging shall comply with the reporting requirements of M.G.L., Ch 44. Section 53E ½.

Invited: Director of COA Janice Fitzgerald
Mayor Robert Sullivan
CFO Troy Clarkson

*Director of COA Ms. Fitzgerald will not be able to attend had a prior engagement to attend.

*Councilor Farwell what payments would we be receiving that would go in that account?

*CFO Clarkson stated this is a newly created fund no balance at moment. This would come from fees from service trips and transportation.

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

13. Ordered: That pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, § 14 and the City of Brockton's Ordinance 2-157, the City of Brockton hereby accepts the Lease Agreement entered into with U.S Bank Equipment Finance. Said lease agreement is for a three-year term July 2024

through June 2027. The Mayor is authorized to execute any and all documents necessary in connection with said Lease Agreement.

Invited: Interim School Business Manager Patricia Boyer
Mayor Robert Sullivan
CFO Troy Clarkson

*Councilor Farwell stated this order is for the lease of 40 copy machines he would like the inventory list of what we have before going over this. Would like to postponed to a future meeting once information has been received.

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

14. 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: \$7,947,925

FROM: CERTIFIED FREE CASH \$7,947,925

TO: THE CHAPTER 324 SUPPLEMENTAL RESERVE \$7,947,925

This transfer will replenish the Chapter 324 Reserve after it was depleted in order to cover the school deficit.

Invited: Mayor Robert Sullivan
CFO Troy Clarkson

*CFO Clarkson stated that last December when they used the funds to cover the deficit from this account with the help from the Commonwealth and DOR they were able to recertify this cash to make it available. This is will be asked to take back out to balance FY25 budget.

*Councilor Farwell this is an accomplishment. This is going to be a huge benefit for the FY25. He gives credit to the Mayor, CFO Clarkson, and DOR, doesn't want it to go unnoticed.

*CFO Clarkson stated they will be seeking state intervention. He wasn't sure if they were going to have a balanced budget a few weeks ago. Glad that the Councilor brought this up because it is a big deal.

*Councilor Thompson what was the total of the Free Cash?

*CFO Clarkson total amount in Free cash was \$4 million. 1 million was used for deficit, 2 million from marijuana receipts, 1 million will be part of the budget, so almost 9 million total other than those receipts.

*Councilor Thompson do they need to replenish this account again in FY25?

*CFO Clarkson those discussions will be on going.

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

15. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$4,932

FROM: THE MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY \$4,932

HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

TO: THE BROCKTON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY \$4,932

Invited: Emergency Management Director Stephan Hooke
CFO Troy Clarkson

*Clerk Cruise stated that Mr. Hooke wouldn't be able to attend.

*CFO Clarkson provided a link to Councilors to answer any questions they may have.

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

16. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$51,480

FROM: THE MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY \$51,480

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT

TO: THE BROCKTON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY \$51,480

Invited: Emergency Management Director Stephan Hooke
CFO Troy Clarkson

*CFO Clarkson stated that he again provided background information to Councilors to answer any questions they may have.

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

17. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$147,500

FROM: THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HOUSING AND LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

\$147,500

TO: THE CITY OF BROCKTON PLANNING DEPARTMENT

\$147,500

Invited: Director of Planning and Economic Development Rob May
CFO Troy Clarkson

*Director of Planning and Economic Development Rob May is here to inform the City Council to and request permission to accept a grant from the Commonwealth to start a master plan in the Montello neighborhood and is working with Councilor Nicastro and Councilor Griffin.

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

18. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$50,000. The funds will be used for the renovation of tennis courts into basketball courts at the Davis Elementary School park area.

FROM: THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION \$50,000

TO: BROCKTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

\$50,000

Invited: Acting Superintendent Dr. James Cobbs or his Designee
CFO Troy Clarkson

*President Rodrigues stated Dr. Cobbs isn't here.

*CFO Clarkson doesn't have a ton of information believes this an Earmark an will be used for the renovation of tennis courts into basketball courts at the Davis Elementary School park area.

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

Councilor Recognition: President Rodrigues reminder that Monday is Memorial Day and encourages all to walk in the Holiday Parade, and City Council Meeting will be on Tuesday.

Adjourned: 8:02PM