

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the standing committee on Finance was held on Monday June 10, 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 eight members present. With Councilor Rodrigues presiding, Councilors Asack, and Tavares absent.

- 1.) Acceptance of the minutes of the May 20, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting.

Accepted and placed on file.

Councilor Nicastro motioned to amend from three (3) year term to one (1) year term and was properly seconded. The motion carried by a hand vote.

- 2.) Reappointment of Ms. Kelly M. Hanlon, of 96 Westfield Drive, Brockton, MA, 02301, to the Brockton Beautification Committee for a three (3) year term, ending in June 2027.

Invited: Ms. Kelly M. Hanlon

President Rodrigues received notification that Ms. Hanlon was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

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

Councilor Nicastro motioned to amend from three (3) year term to one (1) year term and was properly seconded. The motion carried by a hand vote.

- 3.) Reappointment of Ms. Linda Pietrantonio, of 55 John Berman Drive, Brockton, MA, 02302, to the Brockton Beautification Committee for a three (3) year term, ending in June 2027.

Invited: Ms. Linda Pietrantonio

Councilor Nicastro stated that Ms. Pietrantonio is an amazing volunteer in the City of Brockton – deserving to be reappointed to the Beautification Committee.

Ms. Pietrantonio thanked everybody.

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

Councilor Nicastro motioned to amend from three (3) year term to one (1) year term and was properly seconded. The motion carried by a hand vote.

- 4.) Reappointment of Ms. Margaret “Peg” Kearney, of 200 Country Club Lane, Brockton, MA, 02301, to the Brockton Beautification Committee for a three (3) year term, ending in May 2027.

Invited: Ms. Margaret “Peg” Kearney

Clerk Cruise stated they received an email that Ms. Kearney would not be able to attend tonight’s meeting.

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

- 5.) Reappointment of Ms. Shareefah K. Mapp, of 45 Hillberg Avenue, Brockton, MA, 02301, to the Brockton Beautification Committee for a one (1) year term, ending in May 2025.

Invited: Ms. Shareefah K. Mapp

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 of a gift from Suffolk Construction of 250-foot sections of scrim with a value of one thousand dollars to the Department of Public Works.

Invited: DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill
Chief Financial Officer Troy Clarkson

Commissioner Hill stated this was used in left field of Campanelli Stadium to shield the fence.

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

President Rodrigues stated that Chief Financial Officer Troy Clarkson could not attend the meeting due to a prior engagement.

7.) 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: \$3,000,000

FROM: WATER REVENUES – RAISE AND APPROPRIATE \$3,000,000

TO: DPW WATER – DESAL FIXED CHARGED \$2,100,000

DPW WATER – CAPITAL \$900,000

Invited: DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill
Chief Financial Officer Troy Clarkson

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

Commissioner Hill stated this was done due to a cut in the budget hearings last year. Two Million dollars was cut from the Desal budget. Total Desal budget is 8.9 million dollars and this is need to cover the costs from the cut. The nine hundred thousand will be used to get equipment for the water department. They need new vehicles and equipment.

Councilor Farwell stated that he was the one who made that cut on last year's budget. He is not in support of this as a favorable recommendation tonight. The reason why is a couple of years ago they notified Aquaria of a breach in contract and he does not know the resolution of that. He would prefer some one from the Law department to come here and discuss what prompt that notification and if it was ever resolved. Also, since we have such a large amount of money in this contract with them he would like them to come here and ask if they find themselves in compliance.? Have they update the equipment and the investments in the plant? Have they been able to pump the number of gallons of water per day that's required? This was a defected contract from the beginning there has been some improvements. So many unanswered questions. He would support the \$900,000 DPW water capital but not the \$2,100,000 for DPW Water Desal Fixed Charge until further information.

President Rodrigues stated that he agrees with Councilor Farwell and would be in support in his amending the order. He asked Councilor Derenoncourt to rescind his motion.

Councilor Derenoncourt would not rescind his motion.

Motion failed by hand vote.

Councilor Farwell motioned to divide order and only vote on the DPW Water capital \$900,000 and was properly seconded.

Clerk Cruise stated that you cannot divide order and that he would have to make motion to amend the appropriation amount to \$900,000.

Councilor Farwell motioned to amend the appropriate to \$900,000 and was properly seconded.

Councilor Thompson on the motion asked Commissioner Hill to explain the information that CFO Clarkson provided the Councilors. What if the Councilors don't appropriate the \$3,000,000? When did you request the 2 million gallons? When are the fix payments due? So, you need that \$2,100,000 for June payment? So, they are retroactive payments?

Commissioner Hill stated that the revenues projected versus revenues anticipated are different. The budget had projected 2.5 million and they anticipated 23 million this year. They would be in default of a contract. He can explain a little about the default of the contract they had requested 2 million gallons per a day and were only receiving 1 million gallons which was a couple of years ago. They were having issues with the membranes of the infiltration could not with stand the pressure. They actually had to shut the plant down a few times. Since then all of the membranes have been replaced. They needed to be replaced but do to Covid the membranes were back ordered for almost a year. No issues now getting the 2 million gallons. The payments are due monthly. The \$2,100,000 would be for April, May and June payment. That is correct.

Councilor Farwell stated that it is more complicated than that, the permit Aquaria is limited what they can withdraw from the Taunton river. Has this changed? Have they inspected the pipeline? Has the PH been tested? Doesn't want to throw money out. Until that plant is operating precisely the way it supposed to operate under federal and state regulation using our money. Just wants to make sure he knows what they are paying for.

Councilor Minichiello on the motion to Commissioner Hill without the obligation to provide the 2 million gallons of water was there any accommodation of notifications to the city of credit.

Commissioner Hill stated that there were correspondents that went back and forth with the Law department and the company and they did receive some credit. He's not sure exactly. What he does know is the \$2,100,000 is to pay the following April, May and June. Its \$720,000 a month is there contractual agreement.

President Rodrigues when is the last time you had any conversations with Aquaria Management?

Commissioner Hill stated last winter he spoke with the management when the membranes have been replaced and they were confident they could supply the contractual amount of water.

The motion carried by a hand vote.

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

8.) 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: \$1,606,805

FROM: SEWER RETAINED EARNINGS	\$778,059
PERSONAL SERVICES NON-OT	\$141,146
GOODS AND SUPPLIES	\$383,000
DEBT SERVICE	\$154,600
TRTMT R & M PER K	\$150,000
TO: SEWER- PURCHASE OF SERVICE	\$1,606,805

Invited: DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill
Chief Financial Officer Troy Clarkson

Commissioner hill stated this amount is to balance out the Fiscal year 2024.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Derenoncourt to report FAVORABLE and was properly seconded. The 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: \$400,000

FROM: REFUSE RETAINED EARNINGS	\$400,000
TO: DPW REFUSE – PURCHASE OF SERVICE	\$400,000

Invited: DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill
Chief Financial Officer Troy Clarkson

Commissioner hill stated this is just a transfer from retained earnings to balance out the Fiscal year 2024.

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

On the motion Councilor Thompson inquired about the remaining Refuse Retained Earnings balance after the \$400,000 transfer what is the balance?

DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill stated that the \$400,000 is currently the remaining balance.

Motion carried by a hand vote.

10.) 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 U.S Bank Equipment Finance. Said lease agreement 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: Acting Superintendent Dr. James Cobbs or his Designee
Chief Financial Officer Troy Clarkson

Clerk Cruise stated that he received a phone call late this afternoon from the interim business manager that she needs more time to collect information.

Having considered the same, motion by Councilor Minichiello to postpone and was properly seconded due to no one being present to speak on the matter.

President Rodrigues stated that due to summer sessions, with a postponement this item will not be heard until July.

Motion to postpone item was carried by a hand vote.

- 10.) Resolve: WHEREAS, Fiscal Year 2025 budget review meetings will occur within several weeks, and,
WHEREAS, The Fiscal Year 2025 city appropriation for the operation of the school department will likely be in excess of two hundred and thirty million dollars (\$230,000,000) with financial issues carrying over from Fiscal Year 2024;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Chief Financial Officer Troy Clarkson and Mr. T. J. Plante from the Open Architects Group be invited to a meeting of the City Council to provide information and commentary on the status of the Fiscal Year 2024 school budget and financial projections for the Fiscal Year 2025 school appropriations and budget requirements.

Invited: Chief Financial Officer Troy Clarkson
Mr. T. J. Plante from the Open Architects Group

Clerk cruise stated that as we stated earlier CFO Clarkson isn't here and he received no communication from Mr. Plante.

Councilor Farwell stated that he would prefer the item to be postponed but wants to offer some comments on this because we are preparing for budget hearings next week.
Councilor Farwell stated that since last August the City has been in financial paralysis

because of deficits in the school department budget. There is still an ongoing investigation and hopefully that report will come out. He highlights some information on school spending from documents provided by the CFO's Office. Some important information for the other councilors and public to know. As of June 7, 2024, we are at 93.72% of the Fiscal year. In the FY24 School Budget:

Other Salaries they are at 153.06% - \$831,784.18 in deficit

Part Time salaries they are at 111.96% - \$701,278.53 in deficit

Bus Drivers they are at 312.77% - \$4,437,743.95 in deficit

Unemployment Insurance they are at 154.64% - \$437,121.58 in deficit

Athletic Teacher they are at 118.93% - \$29,235 in deficit

Custodial Overtime they are at 106.97% - \$69,688.35 in deficit

Department Head of Guidance they are at 137.77% - \$74,105.78 in deficit

Councilor Farwell stated his confusion between going from an \$18,000,000 deficit to having a \$2,000,000 surplus after rearranging funds. When the School Budget comes in they have to go over it carefully, because the City could be in more financial difficult. We have to have a team effort and he hopes that some changes are made.

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

President Rodrigues stated we are one week away from Budget Hearing and they still have not receive the School Budget Books. He will be on top of this because it's getting to close to Budget hearings and they have a lot of work to do.

Councilor Farwell apologies for a message he had sent out if it offend anyone.

11.) Resolve: WHEREAS, Signature Healthcare, Brockton Hospital provides a critical link between medical care for city residents and those in other communities, and,

WHEREAS, it's important to receive an update on the progress toward reopening of the hospital, especially given the financial challenges reported by Steward Health Group;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That Fire Chief Brian Nardelli and other staff whom he may designate, a representative from the Administrator's Office of Signature Healthcare - Brockton Hospital and Building Commissioner James Plouffe appear at a meeting of the City Council to discuss progress and issues pertaining to restoration of full hospital services.

Invited: Fire Chief Brian Nardelli
Building Commissioner James Plouffe
Representative from the Administrator's Office of

Signature Healthcare

Clerk Cruise stated Signature Healthcare could not send a representative.

Fire Chief Brian Nardelli explained how significant the closing of Brockton Hospital is to not only to the city itself but neighboring communities as well.

Building Commissioner James Plouffe states that as Brockton Hospital is being worked on there are more and more issues being uncovered, but still timely progress is being made.

DC Williams stated that the building will be completely sprinkled once hospital is completed and the hospital will have a tier opening. Phase one Main Support where ER is, OR, ICU, CCU, and Radiology on one side other side Lab, Pharmacy and IT. Phase two BC building cardiac, catheter, dialysis, case management and Maternity. Phase Three Kitchen and Cafeteria. By fall something should be open.

Councilor Farwell expressed his desire for the public to have some sort of update regarding Brockton Hospital's reopening time table. Thanks all for the work they are doing and to please keep them informed.

Deputy Forte stated that they are doing inspections on a regular basis there and they have been given code updates to the hospital and he is very confident in them and they are moving as fast as they can. They do have a triple layer of approvals before opening. They first need approval from the local inspectors, then the state inspectors and finally the department of public health.

President Rodrigues agrees with Councilor Farwell and Chief Nardelli that It defiantly makes an impact on the community not having the hospital open and no one wants to travel to Boston for health care.

Councilor Thompson stated that he is happy to hear that there is progress being made. He knows its not going to be easy to staff the hospital and that could also be a delay.

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

Councilor Recognition: President Rodrigues reminder everyone next week is Budget week. Monday will start at 5:30PM for public hearings they have 2 minutes to speak then Budget Hearings start at 6PM with the mayor and other departments. Tuesday and Thursday start at 6PM and Tuesday will be the School budget and Thursday will be the rest of the departments. Lets also stay focus and not repeat questions. It's a long budget in a short amount of time. We would have

to have a special meeting if we don't get it done by next week. You can do cuts on Monday evening at City Council before final vote.

Councilor Teixeira stated what about Friday?

President Rodrigues stated we would have to have it posted 48hrs before so its impossible to do Friday. That's why its import to have it done by Thursday.

Councilor Thompson 6PM start everyday but Monday?

President Rodrigues said yes, the public hearings start at 5:30PM on Monday then we start the Budget hearings at 6PM.

Councilor Derenoncourt asked half an hour only for Public hearings? Will the public be able to speak if it goes over the half an hour?

Clerk Cruise stated if there are more people they will have an opportunity to speak. If they are here before 6PM and sign up. When they come in to speak they can only talk about the Budget that's what the hearing is for.

Councilor Farwell stated that the public should understand we can not add to an appropriation we can only cut or approve.

President Rodrigues stated any questions please call the Clerk.

Adjourned: 8:08PM