

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Standing Committee on Finance met on *Monday, February 3rd, 2025 at 7:00 PM* in the *Council Chambers, Brockton City Hall, 45 School Street*, to consider the following:

1. 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: \$30,000.00

FROM: CERTIFIED FREE CASH \$30,000.00

TO: FIRE – PURCHASE OF SERVICE \$30,000.00

Invited: Fire Chief Brian Nardelli
CFO Troy Clarkson

Chief Nardelli began by explaining that this money is to be used to cover the funeral expenses for firefighters who's lives were lost in duty.

Councilor Farwell motioned to recommend favorably. Motion was properly seconded and carried by a hand vote.

2. Ordered: In accordance with General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 44, that the City Council authorizes the Mayor to enter into an Intermunicipal Agreement between the City of Brockton and the Town of Easton for the treatment of wastewater.

Invited: Honorable Mayor Robert F. Sullivan
DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill
City Solicitor Megan Bridges

Mayor Sullivan began by providing a few brief words regarding the Intermunicipal Agreement. Mayor Sullivan then stated his full support for this agreement as it not only benefits the City of Brockton but also the Town of Easton as well.

DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill explained that this is a net-zero transaction and it is very positive for the City.

Councilor Asack asked if the \$900,000 is a one-time thing to which Commissioner Hill stated that it is a one-time thing at a 4:1 ratio at \$3 a gallon.

Councilor Minichiello asked if, in regard to the \$900,000, there is any expenses to which Mr. Hill stated that that money will be used to fund a lining project.

City Solicitor Megan Bridges explained that an “IMA” is a legal contract that provides responsibilities and obligations for both parties involved.

Councilor Derenoncourt asked Mayor Sullivan if he knows of any reason why past administrations did not partake in these types of agreements to which Mayor Sullivan explained that the City’s stance in the past was that if you want to connect to sewer you also have to buy water.

Councilor Derenoncourt then stated how if past administrations took this approach, there must have been a reason and asked about these conversations, to which Connor Reed, Town Administrator of Easton, explained that while those conversations were many years ago but to generally explain them that at the time it was just a differing in what each, the City of Brockton, and the town of Easton were looking for.

Councilor Griffin asked if other municipalities have reached out to which DPW Commissioner Hill stated that yes, but they are not in active ongoing negotiations with them but that there is interest in regard to water and sewer, but stressed there is a premium for sewer currently.

Councilor Asack motioned to recommend favorably and was properly seconded. Motion was carried by a hand vote.

Clerk read Councilor Nicastro’s Email read into record.

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: \$6,000,000

FROM: STABILIZATION FUND \$6,000,000

TO: NON-NET SCHOOL SPENDING \$6,000,000

Invited: CFO Troy Clarkson
Honorable Mayor Robert F. Sullivan
Superintendent of Schools Priya Tahiliani and any staff
members as needed
Tony Rodrigues, Vice Chair of School Committee
TJ Plante of Open Architects

President Thompson stated that Superintendent Priya Tahiliani announced she could not make the meeting due to a prior commitment, as well as Vice Chair Tony Rodrigues.

Mayor Sullivan began by briefly discussing the need for the funds.

CFO Troy Clarkson began by highlighting a packet/memo that was sent to the Councilors to which the CFO explain contains a timeline of how these funds became available.

Mayor Sullivan stated that he has signed 95 Letters of Agreements and 115 Placement Agreements

Councilor Teixeira stepped out.

Councilor Minichiello stepped out.

Councilor Lally stepped out.

CFO Clarkson explained that Transportation costs are a City Responsibility

CFO Clarkson stated that the School's have done a great job in regard to accountability but that there is still work to be done.

Councilor Rodrigues asked TJ Plante what the "x" amount will be needed to finish out the Fiscal Year balancing to which Mr. Plante stated that they are still trying to figure that out.

Councilor Minichiello stepped back in.

Councilor Lally stepped back in.

Councilor Lally mentioned how it was stated that many reforms did not yield the proper savings that were expected and ask Mr. Plante to elaborate on that to which he was answered that a main focus was the start time of school but that they did what they could at the time.

Councilor Lally asked if the outstanding invoices were new invoices or past ones to which he was answered by Mr. Plante that the plan is the begin opening up blanket Purchase Orders to cover those invoices.

Councilor Derenoncourt stepped out.

Councilor Teixeira stepped back in.

Councilor Minichiello asked if there has been any discussion in regards to going to a tier 4 transportation system. CFO Clarkson explained that there is a lot of work being done and that the reason there is no specific number is because of the effort being put in to try and reduce costs.

Councilor Farwell stated that he has spoken to many drivers, who agree with the fact that the transportation contract has provisions that cannot be stomached.

Councilor Derenoncourt stepped back in.

Judy Sullivan, Ward 5 School Committee stated that there is a Safety Security Safety Meeting Subcommittee that meets weekly and discusses all of these topics.

Councilor Derenoncourt stated that while we do have a responsibility in regard to transporting our kids to school, it still has to be done in an efficient way.

President Thompson stated that members of the Council needed to return for them to have a Quorum.

Councilor Derenoncourt highlighted the frustration for the CFO as he can recommend ideas as the Council can as well but that it is dependent on the actions of the school side to implement these things to try and make a difference.

Councilor Asack questioned how Mr. Plante does not have definitive number for the cost to which Mr. Plante explained that unfortunately that is the biggest question that they have right now and it is something they are actively looking to figure out.

Councilor Farwell motioned to recommend favorably. Motion was properly seconded and carried by a hand vote.

4. Ordered: In accordance with General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 44, that the City Council authorizes the collector, treasurer or other department head, with the approval of the Mayor, to enter into contracts to identify and pursue federal government reimbursements for, or other revenues or available resources that may be generated by, programs or activities being carried out by the municipality, and to provide that payments for services under such contracts may be made from the reimbursements or revenues recovered as a result of the services performed without appropriation of such revenues.

Invited: Treasurer & Collector Martin Brophy
Honorable Mayor Robert F. Sullivan
Superintendent of Schools Priya Tahiliani and any staff
members as needed
CFO Troy Clarkson

Mayor Sullivan spoke briefly on the topic but opened it to Treasurer and Collector Martin Brophy.

Councilor Lally motioned to recommend favorably. Motion was properly seconded and carried by a hand vote.

5. Resolve: To invite the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works and the Chief Financial Officer to provide an update on regional solutions to water supply, including the Aquaria water treatment plant in Dighton, MA.

Invited: DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill
CFO Troy Clarkson

CFO Troy Clarkson stated that this is a topic that has been discussed numerous times over the course of his time with the City.

Councilor Asack stepped out.

CFO Clarkson then provided a brief update on the topic.

DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill stated that the reason this resolve was filed was to display the impact that Aquaria has for the City's water enterprise which costs \$8,800,000 dollars which is stated to be 44% of the overall water budget.

Councilor Minichiello asked about going through with the purchase and if it would lead to net gain or not. Commissioner Hill stated that if going through with the purchase there would be an extensively detailed inspection done at the plant.

Councilor Asack stepped back in.

Councilor Farwell stated that there are better options out there than spending the amount of money it would take to acquire Aquaria as well as the cost it would take to maintain it.

CFO Clarkson highlighted the cooperativeness between Councilor Farwell and Commissioner Hill and how although there may be disagreements, the City functions in a respectable and communicative way.

CFO Clarkson explained that there is already a 7-8-million-dollar annual usage regarding these funds.

Councilor Derenoncourt mentioned how the late Mayor Carpenter mentioned his interest in pursuing this. Councilor Derenoncourt also highlighted that it is a large amount of money but also acknowledged that we are already spending a lot of money regardless.

Councilor Derenoncourt stepped out.

Councilor Minichiello stepped out.

Councilor Rodrigues stated that he understands Councilor Farwell about previous practices and while he has been an advocate for Aquaria during his time on the council, he believes now may be a time to take a step back.

Councilor Derenoncourt stepped in.

Councilor Minichiello stepped in.

President Thompson stated he agrees with Councilor Rodrigues statements.

President Thompson then mentioned the 8.8 million hook up fee and asked if that accounts for any water taken additionally.

Councilor Lally motioned to recommend favorably. Motion was properly seconded and carried by a hand vote.

Councilor Recognitions

Councilor Lally mentioned that he had spoken to Chief Perez earlier in the day and stated the missing person resolve project has efficiently been working and they were even able to find one individual in a quick turnaround.

Meeting adjourned 9:45pm.