

Notice is hereby given that the regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council was held on Monday evening March 10, 2025 at 7:00PM in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 45 School St., Brockton, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:01PM with 9 members present. Councilors Minichiello and Tavares absent.

838. Acceptance of the Minutes of the February 3, 2025 Special City Council Meeting.

Accepted and placed on file.

839. Acceptance of the Minutes of the February 10, 2025 City Council Meeting.

Accepted and placed on file.

840. Acceptance of the Minutes of the February 24, 2025 City Council Meeting.

Accepted and placed on file.

APPOINTMENTS:

841. Appointment of the following retired officer as a Special Police Officer: Brian Kirby

Referred to Finance

HEARINGS:

Councilor Tavares stepped in.

Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid to install 1 SO pole on Minot Ave. National Grid petitions to install one new NG pole (6) 35' +/- from pole (5) in order to provide support to the infrastructure on Minot Ave. Install new pole to pole guy 35' +/- from pole 5 to pole 6. Brockton, MA.

President Thompson opened the Hearing.

Muhammad Jamous from National Grid appeared in favor of the petition and was there to answer any questions.

No one was in opposition.

President Thompson closed the hearing.

Granted by a hand vote. Councilors Minichiello absent.

REPORTS:

842. Of the Finance Committee for its meeting of February 18, 2025.

Accepted and placed on file.

843. Of the Finance Committee for its meeting of March 3, 2025.

Accepted and placed on file.

COMMUNICATIONS:

844. From the Chief of Police requesting the appointment of the following retired officer as a Special Police Officer: Brian Kirby

314. (COMMUNICATIONS CONT.)

Accepted and placed on file.

845.From the Mayor appointing the following retired officer as a Special Police Officer:
Brian Kirby

Accepted and placed on file.

846.From the Mayor in accordance with the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 44, recommending that the City Council authorize the transfer of \$200,000.00. These funds will be used to purchase real property revaluation services.

Accepted and placed on file.

847.From the CFO in accordance with Section 5 of Chapter 324 of the Acts of 1990, certifying that the financial resources and revenues of the City of Brockton are and will continue to be adequate to support the total proposed transfer of \$200,000.00, without a detrimental impact on the continuous provision of the existing level of municipal services. These funds will be used to purchase real property revaluation services.

Accepted and placed on file.

848.From the Mayor in accordance with the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 44, recommending that the City Council authorize the acceptance and expenditure of the grant award in the amount of \$3,500.00 from the Department of Industrial Accidents to the City of Brockton. These funds are in addition to the original \$5,000 that was awarded to the City in November 2024 as part of the Workplace Safety and Education Grant.

Accepted and placed on file.

849.From the CFO in accordance with Section 5 of Chapter 324 of the Acts of 1990, certifying that the financial resources and revenues of the City of Brockton are and will continue to be adequate to support the acceptance and expenditure of the grant award in the amount of \$3,500.00 from the Department of Industrial Accidents to the City of Brockton, without detrimental impact on the continuous provision of the existing level of municipal services. These funds are in addition to the original \$5,000 that was awarded to the City in November 2024 as part of the Workplace Safety and Education Grant.

Accepted and placed on file.

850.From the Chief of Police requesting authorization to expend grant monies related to the Massachusetts Unwanted Opioid & Benzodiazepine Product Stewardship Program of \$1,300.00 from the Med-Project.

Accepted and placed on file.

851.From the BPD Grant Writer requesting grant award documents be processed to allow Brockton Police Department to expend \$1,300.0 for the Massachusetts Unwanted Opioid & Benzodiazepine Product Stewardship, the MED-Project. The MED-project provides funding to support the collection of unwanted household medications for disposal. There is no match required.

Accepted and placed on file.

852.From the Mayor in accordance with the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 44, recommending that the City Council authorize the acceptance and expenditure of the grant award in the amount of \$1,300.00 from the Med- Project to the Brockton Police Department. These funds are related to the Massachusetts Unwanted Opioid & Benzodiazepine Product Stewardship Program. There is no match required.

315. (COMMUNICATIONS CONT.)

Accepted and placed on file.

853.From the CFO in accordance with Section 5 of Chapter 324 of the Acts of 1990, certifying the financial resources and revenues of the City of Brockton are and will continue to be adequate to support the acceptance and expenditure of the grant award in the amount of \$1,300.00 from the Med- Project to the Brockton Police Department, without detrimental impact on the continuous provision of the existing level of municipal services. These funds are related to the Massachusetts Unwanted Opioid & Benzodiazepine Product Stewardship Program. There is no match required.

Accepted and placed on file.

854.From the Superintendent of Parks requesting acceptance and expenditure of the state appropriation received through Department of Conservation and Recreation in the amount of \$15,000. These funds will be used to make upgrades to the fields at the Gilmore School. There is no required match for this appropriation.

Accepted and placed on file.

855.From the Mayor in accordance with the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 44, recommending that the City Council authorize the acceptance and expenditure of the grant award in the amount of \$15,000.00 from the Department of Conservation and Recreation to the Parks and Recreation Department. These funds will be used to make upgrades to the fields at the Gilmore School.

Accepted and placed on file.

856.From the CFO in accordance with Section 5 of Chapter 324 of the Acts of 1990, certifying that the financial resources and revenues of the City of Brockton are and will continue to be adequate to support the acceptance and expenditure of the grant award in the amount of \$15,000.00 from the Department of Conservation and Recreation to the Parks and Recreation Department, without detrimental impact on the continuous provision of the existing level of municipal services. These funds will be used to make upgrades to the fields at the Gilmore School.

Accepted and placed on file.

857.From the Chief of Police requesting authorization to expend grant monies related to the FY 2024 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant (JAG) from the U.S. Office of Justice Programs in the amount of \$62,461.00.

Accepted and placed on file.

858.From the BPD Grant Writer requesting grant award documents be processed to allow the City of Brockton to expend funds authorized under the FY 2024 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) for \$62,461.00. Grant funds will be utilized for the purchase for Departmental equipment.

Accepted and placed on file.

859.From the Mayor in accordance with the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 44, recommending that the City Council authorize the acceptance and expenditure of the grant award in the amount of \$62,461.00 from the Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Assistance to the Brockton Police Department. These funds are part of the FY24 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant and will be used to purchase departmental equipment.

Accepted and placed on file.

316. (COMMUNICATIONS CONT.)

860.From the CFO in accordance with Section 5 of Chapter 324 of the Acts of 1990, certifying that the financial resources and revenues of the City of Brockton are and will continue to be adequate to support the acceptance and expenditure of the grant award in the amount of \$62,461.00 from the Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance to the Brockton Police Department, without detrimental impact on the continuous provision of the existing level of municipal services. These funds are part of the FY24 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant and will be used to purchase departmental equipment.

Accepted and placed on file.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

825.Appointment of Dr. Eliza J. Wilson of 126 Edson Street, Brockton, MA 02302 to the Brockton Redevelopment Authority for a five-year term, ending in February 2030. (FAVORABLE)

Councilor Farwell stated he doesn't have a problem with the appointment but wants to talk about his concerns with the Brockton Redevelopment Authority. On 2023 they brought in a new Executive Director Natalie Jean she worked hard to correct many problems that existed in that organization. HUD did a financial review and found some issues, what wasn't done was some of the conduct of the employees from the years 2020-2023. He had in hand a report of information change on paychecks in May 2023 without authority from the Executive Director three salaries were increase. Also reports of data being scrubbed from database and emails being discarded. In his opinion that agency should have a top to bottom review by the U.S. Attorney. They should file a request to have the U.S. Attorney's assign someone to go back on the records so this organization has a firm foundation going forward. Doesn't seem fair to appoint someone while there are issues in this organization and have them splash over on them and not to spoil their good name and reputation. Stated he will vote No on this.

Councilor Rodrigues stated in light of the information that Councilor Farwell shared that he motions to postpone this item for two weeks to next City Council Meeting until they get further information. The motion was properly seconded.

Councilor Nicastro on the motion Dr. Eliza Wilson the candidate is a constitute in her ward and she is very excited to serve and she doesn't think she knows the whole story. She doesn't know if this information will make her less likely to want to serve on this board. She supports postponing and will speak to Dr. Wilson about it as well as the City Solicitor.

Councilor Asack on the motion she appreciates the information Councilor Farwell brought to them. She is just a little confused and concerned there's only one person being appointed and they need people and who are the other members. She was under the impression the Mayor's office was reconstructing this board. She hopes this doesn't discourage people from volunteering on boards.

President Thompson stated there is only two members of the board currently, Dr. Wilson would be the third member making them have a quorum. The BRA has been operating without a quorum. The next meeting of the BRA is march 19th and they would have a quorum to deal with some of the issues by postponing this vote will be postponing these issues as well.

Councilor Farwell point of information during the time of Mayor Harrington there was no BRA. He doesn't want to impede progress whatever issues have to be resolved can be resolved through City solicitor's office and Mr. May doesn't think it necessarily has to be through the BRA. If we operated once without them we can still get important work that has to be done. He is concerned on financial accounting and what property we own. Wants a foundation which these appointees can build.

317. (UNFINISHED BUSINESS CONT.)

Councilor Derenoncourt stepped out.

President Thompson stated keeping this board on pause if there's any ability to investigate or rehabilitate on these issues we are hamstringing them from doing so.

Councilor Lally on the motion so we can submit a request to the U.S. Attorney to look into the last years of operation of the BRA would that be through a couple of letters from Councilors or a resolution from the body. Postponing this matter for two weeks may not be long enough they would be voting on a resolve as well. What would you envision the U.S. Attorney involvement to be like?

Councilor Farwell his concern is not the nominee, this community receives community development block grants if anything is out of the ordinary to respect with compliance to laws, his interest is protecting the residents of this City. He would envision to file an order with the council send a written request to the U. S. Attorney to come down and go through all the issues.

They will then know if something was or wasn't in violation of federal laws.

Councilor Nicastro stated anyone on this board had nothing to do with actions of the employees and she also confirmed with Clerk's office that the two existing members of this board one is the Governor's appointment and her appointment ends March 31st. They are trying to get this done tonight so they can have their votes. She thinks the investigation is a separate issue from this and this board wouldn't be impacted by it.

Councilor Rodrigues he stated that with that appointee term ending March 31st they will again be without a quorum. With that being the case pausing it for a couple of weeks won't hurt anybody.

Clerk Cruise stated that even if though that term ends on the 31st outside of a resignation letter from that appointee they stay on the board as a hold over until the Govern appoints a replacement. So that person is still active as a hold over.

Councilor Rodrigues point is he doesn't want to discourage people from volunteering and a No vote would do so.

Councilor Derenoncourt stepped back in.

Councilor Farwell this is important they are just making sure that can move forward in the BRA to their work.

The motion to Postpone for two weeks carried by a hand vote. Councilor Minichiello absent.

826. Appointment of Patrick Hill of 39 Patterson Avenue, Brockton, MA 02301 to the position of Commissioner of Public Works for the City of Brockton for a three-year term ending February 2028. (FAVORABLE)

Confirmed by a roll call vote taken by "yeas" and "nays", ten members present and all voting in the affirmative. Councilor Minichiello absent.

827. Appointment of Sandra A. Knight of 153 Boylston Street, Brockton, MA 02301 to the position of Human Resources Director for the City of Brockton for a three-year term ending, February 2028. (FAVORABLE)

Confirmed by a roll call vote taken by "yeas" and "nays", ten members present and all voting in the affirmative. Councilor Minichiello absent.

Councilor Lally motioned to take items #26 & #27 collectively and file for reconsideration with the wish that it does not prevail and was properly seconded. Reconsideration Fails by a hand vote.

318. (UNFINISHED BUSINESS CONT.)

781.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. (FAVORABLE)

On February 12, 2025 Councilor Lally filed for reconsideration on this order.

At the February 24 City Council Meeting Councilor Lally motioned reconsideration and postponement to next City Council meeting taken collectively by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”; ten members present and all voting in the affirmative. Councilor Tavares absent.

Councilor Lally motioned an Amendment and was properly seconded.

Councilor Asack stepped out.

Amendment: Ordered: In accordance with General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 44, that the City Council authorizes the Superintendent of Schools, with the approval of the Mayor, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding Every Student Succeeds Act Transportation Claiming Under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act (“MOU”) or contract to authorize the City to receive partial reimbursements for foster care transportation.

The MOU is attached and incorporated with this order.

Amendment carries by a hand vote. Councilor Minichiello absent.

Adopted as Amended by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”, ten members present and eight voting in the affirmative. Councilor Deroncourt in the negative. Councilor Asack not present. Councilor Minichiello absent.

Councilor Asack stepped back in.

814.Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$49,986.00.

FROM: EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY	\$49,986.00
TO: BROCKTON FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$49,986.00

(FAVORABLE)

Adopted by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”, ten members present and all voting in the affirmative. Councilor Minichiello absent.

820.Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$775,475.14.

FROM: EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY	\$775,475.14
TO: BROCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$775,475.14

(FAVORABLE)

Adopted by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”, ten members present and all voting in the affirmative. Councilor Minichiello absent.

319. (UNFINISHED BUSINESS CONT.)

815.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: \$1,098,593.00

FROM: CERTIFIED FREE CASH	\$1,098,593.00
TO: OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND (FAVORABLE)	\$1,098,593.00

Adopted by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”, ten members present and all voting in the affirmative. Councilor Minichiello absent.

816.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: \$8,106,226.00

FROM: CERTIFIED FREE CASH	\$8,106,226.00
TO: CHAPTER 324 SUPPLEMENTAL RESERVE (FAVORABLE)	\$8,106,226.00

Adopted by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”, ten members present and all voting in the affirmative. Councilor Minichiello absent.

817.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: \$50,000.00

FROM: AUDITOR – FULL TIME SALARIES	\$50,000.00
TO: AUDITOR - POSTAGE (FAVORABLE)	\$50,000.00

Adopted by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”, ten members present and all voting in the affirmative. Councilor Minichiello absent.

818.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: \$750,000.00

FROM: DPW HIGHWAY – SNOW REMOVAL	\$500,000.00
DPW HIGHWAY – PAVING	\$50,000.00
FINANCE – FULL TIME SALARIES	\$100,000.00
MAYOR – PURCHASE OF SERVICE	\$100,000.00
TO: LAW – PROPERTY INSURANCE	\$650,000.00
LAW - COURT JUDGEMENTS (FAVORABLE)	\$100,000.00

Adopted by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”, ten members present and all voting in the affirmative. Councilor Minichiello absent.

320. (UNFINISHED BUSINESS CONT.)

819.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: \$268,000.00

FROM: PARKS AND RECREATION - RETAINED EARNINGS	\$268,000.00
TO: PARKS AND RECREATION – PURCHASE OF SERVICE	\$160,000.00
PARKS AND RECREATION – GOODS AND SUPPLIES	\$68,000.00
PARKS AND RECREATION – PARK PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMNTS	\$15,000.00
PARKS AND RECREATION – SUMMER PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS	\$25,000.00

(FAVORABLE)

Adopted by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”, ten members present and all voting in the affirmative. Councilor Minichiello absent.

821.Resolve: Be it resolved by the Brockton City Council to invite Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer, Mayor Robert Sullivan, and Irene Giannopoulos, City Auditor, to appear before the Finance Committee to discuss and provide an update on the current status of the FY25 budget. (FAVORABLE)

Adopted by a hand vote. Councilor Minichiello absent.

783.Resolve: To invite Ward 2 City Councilor Maria Tavares, as she is also an appointed Special Representative of the International Diplomatic Alliance (“IDA”), a Missouri nonprofit corporation, and any IDA representative she wishes, to appear before the Finance Committee of the Brockton City Council to discuss and present concrete examples of the work of IDA as a non-governmental organization focused on humanitarian activities with a mission to preserve and address worldwide basic needs including healthcare, education, social services, citizen support, food distribution, and combatting homelessness. (FAVORABLE)

Adopted by a hand vote. Councilor Minichiello absent.

784.Resolve: Be it resolve by the Brockton City Council to invite Brenda Perez, Chief of Police, or her designee, to appear before the Finance Committee to discuss the Brockton Police Department’s strategy and planning for enforcement and implementation of the Ordinance Prohibiting Camping on Public Property and the Ordinance Prohibiting Loitering in Public Places. (FAVORABLE)

Adopted by a hand vote. Councilor Minichiello absent.

ORDERS:

861.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: \$200,000.00

FROM: TREASURER - DEBT SERVICE	\$150,000.00
ASSESSOR – PERSONAL SERVICES NON-OT	\$50,000.00
TO: ASSESSOR – PURCHASE OF SERVICE	\$200,000.00

Referred to Finance

321. (ORDERS CONT.)

862.Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$3,500.

FROM: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS \$3,500.00
TO: CITY OF BROCKTON \$3,500.00

863.Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$1,300.00.

FROM: THE MED- PROJECT \$1,300.00
TO: BROCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT \$1,300.00

Councilor Farwell motioned to take items # 40 & #41 collectively suspend the rules and act on it this evening and was properly seconded. The motion carried by a hand vote.

Adopted by a roll call vote taken by “yeas” and “nays”, ten members present and all voting in the affirmative. Councilor Minichiello absent.

864.Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$15,000.00.

FROM: DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION \$15,000.00
TO: PARKS AND RECREATION \$15,000.00

Referred to Finance

865.Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$62,461.00.

FROM: OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS’ BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE \$62,461.00
TO: BROCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT \$62,461.00

Referred to Finance

RESOLVES:

866.Resolve: Whereas: Prostate Cancer occurs in approximately 250,000 new cases every year.

Whereas: According to the American Cancer Society approximately 1 in 41 men will die from the effects of prostate cancer.

Whereas: Prostate cancer disproportionately affects African-American men.

Whereas: African-American men are more than twice as likely to die from prostate cancer than others.

Be it Resolved: To have Steven Bernard of the Brockton Area Branch of the NAACP appear before a committee of this Council to make a presentation on the efforts of the organization to spread awareness of the efforts to educate the public on the need for early diagnosis and treatment options via the Prostate Cancer Awareness campaign.

322. (RESOLVES CONT.)

Referred to Finance

867.Resolve: Be it resolved by the Brockton City Council to invite Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer and Priya Tahiliani, Superintendent of the Brockton School Department, to appear before the Finance Committee to discuss and provide an update on the current status of the transportation budget and general update for the transportation department.

Referred to Finance

868.Resolve: WHEREAS, The recruitment of qualified candidates to become members of the Brockton Police Department is an annual priority;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved:

Chief Brenda Perez and any other appropriate staff member she may determine be invited to a meeting of the City Council to discuss current recruitment efforts and to provide any recommendations to enhance the city's ability to attract and recruit candidates for appointment to the police department.

Referred to Finance

LATE FILES

Councilor Asack motioned to accept a late file and was properly second. The motion carried by a hand vote. Councilor Minichiello absent.

869.Resolve: **A RESOLUTION WELCOMING CAPE VERDEAN VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF FROM THE CAPE VERDEAN ASSOCIATION FIGHT AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

WHEREAS, the City of Brockton (hereafter "City") is a municipal corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Massachusetts;

WHEREAS, the City Council is the legislative body of the City;

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the increasing number of domestic violence cases in the City of Brockton within the Cape Verdean Community, the City desires to welcome each individual and provide learning experiences in the battle to end intimate partner violence both here and in Cape Verde

WHEREAS, Family and Community Resources, Inc. works collaboratively with the Brockton Police Dept. to assist child, adolescent and adult survivors of intimate partner violence, and hold offenders accountable

WHEREAS, Family and Community Resources, Inc. will provide supervision, shadowing opportunities, community engagement and state-wide learning experiences relative to local, state and federal laws relating to intimate partner violence and human trafficking for three months

323. (LATE FILES CONT.)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Brockton, Massachusetts, that:

The City extends a warm welcome to Indira Virginia Semedo Mendonca and Isalda Maria De Barros Dos Santos from Praia, Santiago, Cape Verde. To assist them in ending gender-based violence in their country, the city will provide learning opportunities that they may take back to Cape Verde.

Referred to Finance

Councilor's Recognition

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45 PM

All council business as listed on the agenda have been emailed to the City Council members in their complete form, with exception of oversized material, such as maps, photos, etc. Recommendations are based on reports from committees.