REPORT – ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
November 25, 2025

The Standing Committee on Ordinances and Rules to which was referred the following reports as follows:

1. Ordinance: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 8 Section 8-9 of the Revised Ordinances to increase the Trash Disposal fee to $440 annually, billed in quarterly increments of $110.00.

having considered the same, report TABLED by Motion of Councilor Rodrigues, 2nd by Councilor Farwell.

2. Ordinance: An Ordinance Amending Article III, Div. 2, Sec. 2-137 "Vacation Leave" to amend vacation leave and personal days.

having considered the same, report FAVORABLE AS AMENDED by Motion of Councilor Farwell, 2nd by Councilor Teixeira.

MINUTES – ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
November 25, 2025

Held in City Council Chambers at Brockton City Hall. The Standing Committee on Ordinances and Rules was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Councilor Asack, Farwell, Griffin, Teixeira, and Rodrigues present.

Agenda read into the record.

The Committee first considered the following:

#1 on agenda

Comments by Dr. Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
(filed back in the spring, data shared on refuse operation, multi-year contract with provider, expensive but competitive, need to make adjustment in rates to run the operation, enterprise fund and if insufficient the general fund covers, will need to take a transfer from free cash to cover last year's enterprise fund, not the purpose of the general fund, challenging to increase any fee, try to keep them as low as possible, for this year and the next, effective back to July 1 of this year, surplus needed for unforeseen expenses, $20 a quarter is responsible and conservative)

Comments by Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner
(nothing changes in the contract, spoke with trash companies, doing better than most communities)

Comments by Councilor Rodrigues
(other communities, rate comparison)

Comments by Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner
(difficult to compare, New Bedford similar style, bids were so high they had to go al la carte for a fee comparable to Brockton, more services have to pay for them)

Comments by Dr. Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
(how communities treat solid waste, we take furniture and mattress)

Comments by Councilor Rodrigues
(fixed or smaller income, reduce trash to those who don't use the other services, need to look into this, not fair)

Comments by Councilor Asack
(changed fees a few years ago for these items)

Comments by Councilor Rodrigues

(I don't think this is going to pass, look into splitting it up)

Comments by Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

(rates are negotiated, lower than anyone is able to go out and negotiate, nearly impossible to monitor, 41(c) qualifies for free trash service, 5%, picks up fridges with the doors off)

Comments by Councilor Farwell

(cost is more expensive, concerned with process behind this, knew when contract was ending, stayed with vendor even knowing it was going to be more expensive, why enter into contract before funding is in place, difficult to defend, Chapter 324 language, funding piece in place, like to see that process change, ask Council how to fund it before we sign the contract)

Comments by Dr. Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

(we did not enter into a contract without the funds, the general fund subsidizes the enterprise fund, exempt from procurement, but we did negotiate with several companies, believes this resulted in a lower contract with Republic, perhaps millions of dollars over the course of the contract, skyrocket in industry, costs contained by Commissioner, we came in May)

Comments by Councilor Farwell

(went forward even knowing the Enterprise was insufficient, contract ends in 2027, funding piece in place, everything is going up, someone from Republic to come in, respects the work but has to speak for people getting squeezed)

Comments by Councilor Teixeira

(last time they went up was 2023, 2022)

Comments by Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

(cost increases, driver increases, asked for this in 2023 but was given $20 but we needed more knowing these costs were coming up)

Comments by Dr. Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

(impact of strike in Boston)

Comments by Councilor Teixeira

(will be hard, any other options)

Comments by Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner

(either through rate increase or general fund, service conversation, mandated to have a trash service, can go private)

Comments by Dr. Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer

(means tested reduction)

Comments by Councilor Griffin

(other vendors? Increase the individual items, a lot to ask the residents)

Comments by Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner
(Republic was the lowest bid, agrees items to go up but not consistent, illegal dumpin)

Comments by Dr. Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
(mid-Plymouth County price discussion on mattress disposal)

Comments by Councilor Griffin
(would it be enough if we just increased the items, size of a receptacle)

Comments by Dr. Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
(can take a look and can institute a fee for items being picked up for free, but probably not enough, happy to come back but as we get closer to July 1 we are more likely to need to subsidize)

Comments by Patrick Hill, DPW Commissioner
(per ton, would have to ask for more tonnage, other communities between $130-$150 a quarter but just for trash and recycling)

Comments by Councilor Asack
(procedurally, can re-file in January)

Comments by Councilor Farwell
(free cash certification)

Motion to Table by Councilor Rodrigues, 2nd by Councilor Farwell. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, the Committee considered the following:

#2 on agenda

Comments by Dr. Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
(updated spreadsheet, this was filed in the Spring, 1 year contracts for the new mayor to negotiate new 3 year contracts, accrual for ordinance position, need to work a year before you get any vacation time, compare standard in local government, vacation time accrued as you work, talent attraction, personal days is 3-5, average of 4, but ordinance positions have none, know of instances when recruiting and positions were declined)

Comments by Councilor Farwell
(item(k) for prior experience

Motion to Strike Section (k) in its entirety by Councilor Farwell, 2nd by Councilor Teixeira. Motion passed 4-1 with Councilor Griffin voting in opposition.

Motion by Councilor Farwell to insert "grant additional credit for prior city of Brockton employee in another position." Motion did not receive a second and the Motion was withdrawn.

Comments by Councilor Farwell
(came from police department, then took ordinance position? They get the credit)

Comments by Councilor Rodrigues
(re section (a), want it to be so it is spread out, adding something like after 6 month you get 1 week and then after 12 months you get 2 weeks, concerned for taking more time)

Comments by Dr. Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer
(many unions have a threshold of 30 weeks, you get the 2 weeks)

Comments by Councilor Rodrigues
(fair for 30 weeks across the board, same for everybody)

Motion to Amend by Councilor Rodrigues to strike "ninety (90)" days and insert in its place "thirty (30) weeks" to section (a), 2nd by Councilor Teixeira. Motion passed 4-1 with Councilor Griffin voting in opposition.

Motion to report FAVORABLE AS AMENDED by Councilor Farwell, 2nd by Councilor Teixeira. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:07pm.

Documents: Refuse projected Revenue Chart, Union Personal Day Chart