FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the standing committee on Finance was held on Monday December 1st, 2025 at 7:00PM in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 45 School St., Brockton, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with eight members present and President Thompson presiding. Councilors Derenonocourt, Farwell, Rodrigues, Tavares, and Teixeira absent.

1. Appointment of Faye Slayton of 116 Norwood Street, Brockton MA 02302, as an alternate on the Board of the Brockton Council on Aging, for a three-year term ending in November 2028.

   Invited: Faye Slayton

   Ms. Slayton: have lived in Brockton for several years and have done community volunteer work work at the BCOA for a few years. I realize the excellent work they do in the community and for the senior residents of Brockton. I would like to learn and experience other ways to help in my community. I believe serving on the board of directors or even as an alternate would give me another outlook and opportunities to serve our community. I've been doing volunteer work for over 30 years and I believe in giving back the blessings that we are so fortunate to have.

   Councilor Nicastro: Miss Slayton is my constituent and we've been talking today and I wholeheartedly support her appointment. I think she will be an asset to the Council on Aging. Who knows, she may eventually be a regular member as opposed to just an alternate. I'm supporting this and I hope all of you will too.

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

2. Appointment of: F. Peter Gaskins Jr of 101 Country Club Lane, Brockton MA 02301 to the Cemetery Board of Trustees for a 5-year term ending in November 2029. (POSTPONED FROM FINANCE MEETING NOVEMBER 17, 2025)

Invited: F. Peter Gaskins Jr

Mayor Sullivan: proudly support this endeavor. I know Mr. Gaskins unfortunately wasn't able to come to the last Fincom, so I do appreciate you all passing it on and postponing until this evening. Cemetery board has been short for some time now. The fact that he is a true dedicated W4 resident on country club and he wants to give back to the community is something that we should all applaud him for. So, I strongly and respectfully ask you to approve this tonight favorably.

Mr. Gaskins: my background is actually like the family history, cemeteries, Civil War, lived in Virginia. So this is definitely up my alley and I'd love to give back to community and, I look forward to working with other committee members.

Councilor Nicastro: is a ward four resident and my constituent. We've talked on the phone. We spoke this evening. I wholeheartedly support his appointment and I hope all of you will vote favorably.

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

Councilor Lally made a motion to take item #10 out of order and was properly seconded. The motion carried by a hand vote.

3. Ordered: That the following named sum be and the same hereby transfer as the same

was submitted by the Mayor as follows:

Appropriation of: $100,000.00

FROM: HUMAN RESOURCES – BENEFITS	$100,000.00
TO: FIRE – PERSONAL SERVICES NON OT	$100,000.00

Invited: Fire Chief Brian Nardelli and/or Designee

Mayor Sullivan: would humbly ask you to support this endeavor. As the mayor for almost six years, I've had the honor and privilege to negotiate quite a few collective bargaining with our firefighters, our brave men and women that are represented by the president of 144 Bill Hill. We have always negotiated in good faith. We've always come to uh an understanding that we really respect the bravery of the men and women. I

think when we did the ribbon cutting for the public safety building, I expressed my sincere thanks to each and every one of them. They could work in any part of the Commonwealth or beyond and they choose to represent the city of Brockton and they do it with distinction, with honor and they put their lives at risk each and every day. I would respectfully and humbly ask you to support this endeavor. Dr. Clarkson can express the financial endeavors, but I feel very confident as the CEO of the city of Brockton that this is a really, really good contract for both parties.

CFO Dr. Clarkson: I concur with the sentiments expressed by the mayor. As someone who participates, on behalf of the mayor and all of the collective bargaining sessions, this was, as it always is, collaborative and respectful. the amount that's requested of $100,000 is because most of the items in this as you saw the MOA was provided in your packet. A lot of the aspects of this won't take place until January 1st. We do have money within the fire budget because of the vacancies that can mostly fund the results of this collective bigrading agreement. It is a one-year contract, so we'll be back at the table fairly soon. The wage increase was negotiated at 1.5%. So, the union gets credit for really coming to the table and negotiating agreement, an agreement that's financially sustainable so that we can, as you know, we're in a period where we're going to do some long-range financial planning. and taking a one-year contract will give us that time to pause and do some planning and really be able to take a look at the long-term health of the city. So, the the union and the negotiating team, I think, deserve some credit for really working out something that was good for the union but also good for the city.

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

4. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of $175,000.00.

FROM: BARR FOUNDATION	$175,000.00
TO: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - COMMISSIONER	$175,000.00

Invited: DPW Commissioner Pat Hill
CFO Troy Clarkson

CFO Dr. Clarkson: I did send a detailed note to you on Friday with some of the details on tonight's agenda, for this item. As I mentioned, this is a grant from the Bar Foundation to assist the city with transportation planning. So, it's a three-year grant that will allow us to bring on a transportation planner to help us with many of the transportation related grants and projects that we have ongoing. I'll certainly defer to Pat to talk about the specific plans he has for this person as it will work both with the planning department and

with Pat. But as the quarterback of most of our implementation projects, Pat will be the primary person who will interface with this grant funded employee.

DPW Commissioner Hill: I think this is a, you know, this is something that's been kind of long talked about with, Troy and myself, and even with Rob May, the former planner. There is a lot of, I don't want to call them issues, but there is a lot of sometimes disconnect between the DPW who ends up managing most of these projects and the planning department. Having somebody from the planning department on my staff will be very helpful. We we're about to get, involved in a $7.8 $8 million grant award for the raise grant which will be transitioning the downtown into two-way. This planner will I mean there's enough work in that in that one grant to keep this planner busy for the entire three years.

Mayor Sullivan: members of the committee, what's also really unique about this, because it is a grand funded position, as the mayor, I chair the BAT bus corporation, Brockton Transit, and so we're talking about transportation planning. Mike Lambert and his team would be engaged in this as well. So, this would be a city employee working on the optics of PAT working with planning as well but also, I'm proud to say that Mike and his team at BAT would like to also utilize and work with this person because transportation runs the gamut including BAT. Just wanted you to know that.

Councilor Nicastro: So, Commissioner Hill, this is $175,000 in in a 40month grant. Will that only cover a transportation planner? What else will it cover? And just give me a sense of what a transportation planner does. I understand the Warren Avenue example going from one way to two ways.

DPW Commissioner Hill: I mean, the biggest project that I can envision this person being involved in is the raise grant. It's no, it's not something that this planner will take on their own. It'll be something it'll be more of like a middle person to coordinate with city personnel and with consultants because probably 90% of that work that will be done through that raise grant will be done on the engineering side. There'll be probably $2 million worth of planning stuff that is involved, but that will be part of the total RFP. So, the RFP will be cut up into two separate sections where there's planning and then there's um there's um design money. So, we figure that $2 million of that will be in the planning stage assistance assisted by a consultant with a with a planning consultant on board. So, there'll be a design consulting a planning consultant and this person will kind of coordinate between all those parties.

Councilor Nicastro: And this is new for the city of Brockton. What other communities to your knowledge employ transportation planners?

DPW Commissioner Hill: So, transportation planners I think are common in in cities. I don't necessarily know that it it's common in a public work setting. But a lot of public work engineers that either lead those organizations or sit as a city engineer are oftentimes plan planning engineers.

Councilor Nicastro: So, okay. And we also have headquartered in Brockton Old Colony Regional Planning, right? And they do a lot of transportation related work for us. So, what do they do that this person won't do and vice versa?

DPW Commissioner Hill: The central role of the old Colony Planning Council is to kind of be like a uh a mid-person I guess or mid based organization to make sure that the mass does properly recognizes the communities that are represented by that region. So OCPC is actually paid for out of state funding. They oversee all the large scale projects and they make sure that there's equity to all the communities that they represent and they do studies

Councilor Nicastro: they do a lot of studies.

DPW Commissioner Hill: Yes.

Councilor Nicastro: At least in Brockton, they do.

DPW Commissioner Hill: They've done a lot of they do a lot of study. They they'll do pretty much whatever you ask them to do with limitations obviously. They're not they're not engineers. They make they do a lot of traffic studies. They do a lot of transportation studies, just baseline stuff to get a project moving

Councilor Nicastro: they will work with our transportation planner. Yes, Mr. Clarkson.

CFO Dr. Clarkson: Yeah, I can just supplement what Pat is sharing. He everything he said is absolutely correct. Another major responsibility of the OCPC and those regional planning agencies throughout the Commonwealth is that they actually determine and distribute the transport the large-scale transportation funding. You might have heard of the phrase the tip before, uh, the transportation improvement plan. And so those funds flow to those regional planning agencies and they're responsible for multiple communities and they actually distribute those funds. So I we anticipate that this planner will work closely with those folks at the OCPC.

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

5. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of $68,000.00.

FROM: MassDEP	$68,000.00
TO: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - REFUSE	$68,000.00

Invited: DPW Commissioner Pat Hill

CFO Troy Clarkson

DPW Commissioner Hill: This is a grant we get every year based on our performance. Its performance based from the recycling dividends program. So, there's a system of grading based on the size of your community, you know, the size of your recycling center, how often you pick up trash, what your tonnage is, how you collect things, how you maintain your refuge infrastructure in in the community.

Councilor Asack: what will this be used for?

DPW Commissioner Hill: oftentimes this money is used to replace barrels. Lately we've been using it to upgrade our CCTV cameras out to try to catch illegal dumping. It's used for recycling pamphlets. It's used for community programs where we provide trash pickers or some sometimes t-shirts. We use the money to also sponsor the the trash to keep Brockton and Beautiful day.

Councilor Asack: how is this compared to we've received this in the past?

DPW Commissioner Hill: this is it's pretty much the same award every year. We we're really in a tough spot where we do so well that it's very difficult to score higher. One of the things that we do not have is a like a composting facility. Composting facility gives you a few extra points. If we had a larger population or more people participating in the program, once you hit a certain threshold, you get more points. So we're right where right where we should be.

Councilor Nicastro: reading the materials that were sent to us to support the approval of this grant, I understand that our points were calculated big on our compliance with curbside recycling regulations and solid waste reduction.

DPW Commissioner Hill: Correct.

Councilor Nicastro: why are we so much better at that than others?

DPW Commissioner Hill: well, I think the small barrel is a reflection as to why we're better. We buy the large-scale barrels which encourages recycling. Our trash tonnage for a community to this side is pretty low. It's about right about 25,000 tons. Other communities may have 28,000, 29,000 tons.

Councilor Nicastro: So, that's an annual in number.

DPW Commissioner Hill: That's an annual number.

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

6. Ordered: In accordance with the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 44, recommending that the City Council approve the expenditure of $293,453.44.

FROM: DPW REFUSE - PURCHASE OF SERVICE	$277,891.92
DPW STORMWATER - PURCHASE OF SERVICE	$15,258.00
DPW HIGHWAY – PURCHASE OF SERVICE	$228.52
DPW HIGHWAY – GOODS AND SUPPLIES	$75.00
TO: REPUBLIC SERVICES	$277,891.92
APEX ENGINEERING	$15,258.00
SPRAGUE	$228.52
STEPHEN GOGAN	$75.00

Invited: DPW Commissioner Pat Hill
CFO Troy Clarkson

CFO Dr. Clarkson: I noted in my memo, this is the first of three items before you tonight for unpaid prior year bills. Commissioner Hill and the DPW business manager Maeghan McKee have compiled spreadsheets and Pat can speak in detail to the specific bills, but this is similar to other similar items that we've had before you in recent weeks and months. I would say the one difference here is that Maeghan is a new hire in the DPW. as you all know, she worked on my team for a few years and then was able to receive this promotion to be the DPW business manager. She has a particular skill with data and with organization and so it really has been able to dig in. I think Pat and I were discussing before this meeting there are, did you say approximately 7,000?

DPW Commissioner Hill: So, in total, I had Maeghan, run these numbers, but the DPW in total pays $2,746 invoices per year to the tune of 57,191,000. So, it's a very its large department broken into eight different budgets. We've been short staffed for a couple of years. The staff that I have on now currently in a couple of my divisions, these people have been there less than a year. They're doing the work of four people. So, there's two people doing the work of four people. They're in charge of payroll. Payroll can be very complex when it comes to water and sewer with differentials, night shifts, and all the other things that go with that on top of paying these invoices. I'm certainly not making excuses. This is something that seems to happen with us every year. But you know when I look back and that's why I had Maeghan run these numbers. You know we wait this long because we want to be sure we wait this long to file this because we want to be sure that there isn't anything laying out there. So, we went through each and every bill tried to figure out what had transpired. Some of some of them are pretty reasonable explanations where we had comp you know contracts that were in routing that we could not pay until they were signed even though they were in routing prior to some of that work had already taken place. Some of them are as simple as we you know we don't really have an answer but you know Megan's working very hard right now to try to keep track of this stuff more

closely and I hope as my staff gets more familiar with the process that this doesn't happen in the future.

Councilor Nicastro: the lion's share of the funding that is requested under this order is for Republic Services. I noticed that the bill that was submitted to us to substantiate that claim, it was due as of June 30th, it was due July 31st. So, I wondered is interest and penalty being charged on that bill?

DPW Commissioner Hill: No. And I can to be honest with you, councilor, that was this that portion or this piece of the of the bill. The contract was not in effect until July 1st. This was part of the contract negotiation was to pay the prevailing wages from the prior year. I was under the assumption that we could pay that with this fiscal year's money because the contract wasn't valid until July 1. However, I was told that is not possible. So we're going to have to pay it with this year's bills, but there is no penalty.

Councilor Nicastro: okay. The amounts that are included in your FY26 budget.
I mean, are you now over because of this funding or did you take that into account when you created your numbers that came before us in June?

DPW Commissioner Hill: We we sat in front of the ordinance committee last week, councilor, and there isn't enough money in the refugee's enterprise currently to cover this fiscal year's bills. So, that's something that we're working to bring back to the ordinance committee to try to raise fees other than raising the trash fee itself to come back and try to raise fees on mattresses, raise fees on other things, maybe change some things around so we don't have to go up on the actual fee. So, the way things are right now, we're not going to be able to make it till the end of the year. I can tell you that for sure. We're hopeful that we can come up with some kind of compromise with the ordinance committee that would that will be able to sustain most of the blow. I think.

Councilor Nicastro: I know for a fact people are dumping mattresses all over Ward 4.

DPW Commissioner Hill: they're dumping them everywhere. And you know that the city of Brockton charges $20 for a mattress to pick it up at your house where no other community does that. I think we presented that to the ordinance committee the other night. Most people charge $50. It cost more than $20 to get rid of the mattress. So, um, those are fees we're going to look at. I don't know that it's going to get us to the point where we'll be comfortable with the budget. But certainly, you know, we'll look at historical data from last year and try to evaluate that and try to come up with some compromises that should offset some of the trash fee increases.

Councilor Nicastro: you'll need some higher penalties.

Mayor Sullivan: just to piggyback what you said. Green Mattress is a company based here in Brockton up in the village. Pat, myself, and Troy are going to be meeting with the CEO. I met them through the Northeast Coalition Renewable Energy. They want to talk to us because that's their whole business proposition. They work with Republic but it

might be more reasonable to work directly with them. So, we have a meeting. Troy and I were supposed to be in Cabo Verde this week with Bridgewater State, but we chose not to go so we could be here tonight. I will report back on what that meeting will be with the CEO.

Councilor Nicastro: If there's some way you could incentivize doing the right thing with the mattress, either that or get some better cameras.

DPW Commissioner Hill: yeah, I mean we're continually investing in new cameras. We've been working with the IT department and with the police department to come up with solutions that better capture the data that we need. Oftentimes we will find we can catch people dumping. We just can't get license plates. So, I think we've kind of crossed that hurdle. We've been successful the past month and a half catching people. We've issued this year to date like $19,000 in in fines that have been paid. So, there are that have been paid. There are still probably around $10,000 worth of bills that are still outstanding. So, you know, it's working. I know that if we make too rash decisions on the on the trash end and we increase the rates of those things too much, you know, there's concern that that will encourage dumping as well. I think we just need to find a balance to bring back to the ordinance committee that kind of works for everybody. You know the Maeghan and I have been working on that the past couple days and we hope to have something because we won't make it this year but in the new year with the new ordinance committee we hopefully we'll have something for them sometime early January.

President Thompson: just had a quick question. The money going to republic now that's for out that's for outstanding bill of fiscal year 25.

DPW Commissioner Hill: So, the way that the contract the amendment was written part of that was to capture the prevailing wage increase that they experienced from July of 24 to July of 25 because those I guess increases happened in that fiscal year. My impression was the contract would over rule or would rule in that case because it wasn't in effect until July 1st. So, my impression was that I could pay that out of this fiscal year's money which I could not.

President Thompson: Now it's coming from the DPW refuse purchase of services. That's out of that enterprise fund.

DPW Commissioner Hill: Correct

President Thompson: So, we're taking money from the enterprise fund to help pay this bill.

DPW Commissioner Hill: Correct

CFO Dr. Clarkson: it's a legitimate bill of the Enterprise Fund.

President Thompson: Okay. And then we have another line item coming up regarding transferring free cash over to the DPW refuge enterprise for the retained earnings.

DPW Commissioner Hill: Correct

President Thompson: is that and that's also to satisfy a fiscal 20 that was budget.

DPW Commissioner Hill: yes, that was we raised trash rates. it did not we did not have enough retained earnings to pull forward to balance the budget. So, we were in the red I guess about 130 something $134,000. So, that case the general fund offsets that cost so that the enterprises in the green moving forward.

President Thompson: So, these two transfers are to satisfy the last fiscal year's services.

DPW Commissioner Hill: Well, one of them is not really a transfer. It's just authorization to pay a fiscal bill in this fiscal year or a bill in this fiscal year. The other one is to transfer to close out the books.

President Thompson: okay. But and that's for the previous fiscal year.

DPW Commissioner Hill: Correct

President Thompson: Understood

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

7. Ordered: In accordance with the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 44, recommending that the City Council approve the expenditure of $72,842.93.

FROM: SEWER – GOODS AND SUPPLIES	$6,432.51
SEWER – PURCHASE OF SERVICE	$66,410.42
TO: EASTERN SLING AND SUPPLY	$1,247.51
CUES INC.	$5,185.00
EQUIPMENT EAST	$4,550.00
BERTARELLI BROTHER LLC	$5,700.00
FEDEX	$41.49
BROCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT	$1,730.68
CORE & MAIN	$33,035.18
ALTUS POWER	$20,078.07
HOLBROOK POLICE DEPARTMENT	$715.00
PLYMPTON POLICE	$560.00

Invited: DPW Commissioner Pat Hill

CFO Troy Clarkson

CFO Dr. Clarkson: So, this is unpaid bills from the sewer enterprise.

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

8. Ordered: That the following named sum be and the same hereby transfer as the same was submitted by the Mayor as follows:
Appropriation of: $13,760.20

FROM:	HUMAN RESOURCES – BENEFITS	$13,760.20
TO:	PUBLIC PROPERTY – PERSONAL SERVICES NON-OT	$13,760.20

Invited: Interim Commissioner of Buildings
William Forte
CFO Troy Clarkson

CFO Dr. Clarkson: this is as I noted in my memo for the settlement of the building and trades contract. It's a very small union with skilled trades people, carpenters, plumbers, and hence the relatively small amount of the transfer. This is similar to the fire contract to settle a one-year contract that was negotiated and approved by the mayor with the same 1 and a .5% wage increase as was received by the firefighter. All contracts, by the way, that have been settled all of them that you've seen and all that you will see that are nearing completion are at that one and a half. So, it was a very successful round of contract negotiations.

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

9. Ordered: In accordance with the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 44, recommending that the City Council approve the expenditure of $72,275.48.

FROM: WATER – GOODS AND SUPPLIES	$12,321.88
WATER – PURCHASE OF SERVICE	$59,953.60
TO: CORE & MAIN	$33,035.19
ALTUS POWER	$20,078.07
JOHN HOADLEY & SONS	$1,129.26
TI SALES	$5,562.63

WOODWARD AUTO PARTS	$5,599.99
BROCKTON POLICE	$3,680.34
PLYMPTON POLICE	$560.00
EVERETT'S AUTO PARTS	$30.00
EQUIPMENT EAST	$2600.00

Invited: DPW Commissioner Pat Hill
CFO Troy Clarkson

CFO Dr. Clarkson: this is the final of the three requests to pay unpaid bills. And as it is noted, the this is for the unpaid bills from the water enterprise council.

Councilor Nicastro: So, from our email back and forth, Commissioner Hill, I know that the first two entries for core and main and Alta's power, they're actually split between this one, which is for water and the earlier one we discussed for sewer.

DPW Commissioner Hill: Correct

Councilor Nicastro: Right, those were large bills. Now, not all of these are for last year's fiscal year. Brockton Police, you've got two bills in here for August 27th and July 31st. But I do have a question about Equipment East because yes, it was June 2nd, so that was last year's fiscal year, and they charged you for renting a mini wheeled excavator, but they didn't charge for a digging bucket or a tilting bucket. They have a long entry for each of them on the invoice, but they didn't charge for you to use those. Is that typical

DPW Commissioner Hill: That's typically when we go to rent a specific piece of equipment, we rent it with the specific apparatus that we need. So, this there's certain buckets that we need to do certain jobs, which is why we rent equipment that we don't have. But yes, it is typical.

Councilor Nicastro: they also called it a reoccurring rental invoice because we rent those a lot.

DPW Commissioner Hill: So, we between the all of the departments in DPW you know the sewer department oftentimes will you think use equipment that we don't have that requires a longer reach to dig to dig deeper holes sometimes the highway department has some work to do around a retention basin that requires a longer reach machine. So, it's an open contract with them. It's done through the state contract actually. We use the state contract prices to rent that stuff. So, they call it an open contract. We call them when we need stuff and it because it's under the state contract, it falls under procurement.

Councilor Nicastro: Okay. And hopefully your department will do better next year at paying the bills before June 30th.

DPW Commissioner Hill: Yeah. I mean, you know, some of these things and Troy and I and Maeghan and I had talked about this quite a bit. You know, sometimes you get into a position where you know, you're in May, you're unsure like the alt power stuff. You know, we don't know what those bills are going to be. So, it's difficult to move money within the budget that time of year because there aren't enough council meetings to do that. So, all this power, we had the money within the budgets, we could have transferred from one to another.
However, that would have required three meetings. We did not know that until mid-June. So, you know, we do the best we can with trying to keep an eye on that stuff, but like solar power depends on the weather, right? So, I don't know what the solar power bill is going to be until we get it.

Councilor Nicastro: I understand.

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

10. 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: $134,735.00

FROM: CERTIFIED FREE CASH	$134,735.00
TO: DPW REFUSE – RETAINED EARNINGS	$134,735.00

Invited: DPW Commissioner Pat Hill
CFO Troy Clarkson

CFO Dr. Clarkson: so, at for those of you that either attended or watched the ordinance committee meeting, we did have an extensive discussion as Pat mentioned. So, some of what I'll say is a bit repetitive, but I think it bears repeating because we had a very substantive discussion, I think, at the ordinance committee meeting with some good suggestions by the counselors who were members of that committee, about how to address the issue of significantly rising solid waste disposal costs, which are true not just for Brockton, but for all communities in Massachusetts, and balancing that with how we charge fees to the residents and users. So, we had recommended increasing the fee. The committee recommended going back and being a little more creative and taking a look at maybe some of the fees for other items as we've discussed tonight like mattresses and bulky items and refrigerators and things like that. So, we're going to come back right after the start of the new legislative session with some updated recommendations for you. But we did anticipate this deficit and when we came to you in the spring and asked for the the fee increase. So, this is the way to balance out that enterprise because we finished the

year at $134,735 in a deficit. But we did know that and we the council and I and Pat had the chance at a couple of different meetings including our budget meeting to discuss that. One other item of interest. This is the first of two items that we'll ask you to transfer from certified free cash. We anticipate that free cash will be certified by the time you take your final vote on this next Monday. As soon as that certification, Juan has been working very closely with the department of revenue. I asked him to be here tonight. If you had any questions on that particular topic but so as soon as that that certification is back I'll provide it to you immediately, but we will ensure that that number is in hand before you're asked to vote that final vote on Monday night. I do anticipate that the free cash number will be in excess of $15 million. So, you will be able to afford this and the other item that we're being asked to transfer tonight.

Councilor Nicastro: just to follow up on that, Mr. Clarkson, if by some chance a week from tonight certified free cash is not certified, we will postpone a vote.

CFO Dr. Clarkson: that is correct. And which is why we worked hard to get this before you tonight. So, if that unlikely eventuality occurs, we still have time in your schedule to get that voted before the end of the month. I remember when we were here last December and we were trying to just tidy a few things up at the very end of the calendar and I listened right you that was at the very end of December and I know it was difficult for you to try to absorb things at the last minute. So, we tried to make time in the schedule to be able to get this through and give you the opportunity to ponder it and also give us the opportunity just in case we didn't have that certification that we'd have time to push that out.

Councilor Nicastro: Okay, Thank you.

Councilor Thompson: I got two quick questions. So, I did watch the ordinance committee meeting and as you stated it was a good discussion a very substantive. One of the suggestions or opinions was instead of raising the individual refuge rates to do something like this again next year where whatever the deficit would be to pay it out of our free cash earnings. could you talk about that? Is that would that be a good idea, bad idea? Is that recommended, not recommended? What are the cost benefits of foregoing any rate increase and then supplementing with free cash at the end of the year?

CFO Dr. Clarkson: One of the things that I mentioned at the ordinance committee was that I actually cut my teeth in public finance as the business manager for an enterprise fund back more than 20 years ago for the town of Borne. That enterprise fund is actually still operating and very healthy. So, I would say that it is not a best practice because the whole purpose of an enterprise fund is to have the operation the enterprise supported by its users and the users of an enterprise fund are not necessarily the same body of people as the taxpayers. In many cases they are but not always same with water or sewer. So, the objective and the sort of raison Detra of an enterprise is to be able to pay for the operation within that closed system. So when we we're asking the general fund to support the operation of the enterprise it's taking away general funds from other things that they could be spent on. But also, it it's contrary to why an enterprise fund exists. It's let me

make it very clear it's not illegal. It is perfectly legal but I think it's not financially the best way to run that operation.

Councilor Thompson: Understood. And then just last question let's say those rate increase does not pass for some reason. What would the forecasted deficit be in our enterprise if we continue services to with without an increase in rates.

CFO Dr. Clarkson: for this current fiscal year. we talked about that before the ordinance committee. If we do nothing at all to raise any of the fees, I do anticipate that the FY26 deficit in the refugee's enterprise could exceed a million dollars.

Councilor Thompson: Understood

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

11. 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: $3,388,863.00

FROM: PENSION STABILIZATION FUND	$3,388,863.00
TO: RETIREMENT – CONTRIBUTORY PENSION	$3,388,863.00

Invited: Executive Director Jeanne Martineau
and/or Designees
CFO Troy Clarkson

CFO Dr. Clarkson: have provided to each of you some material to assist in your deliberations tonight. In addition to the lengthy narrative that I provided in your email, I've provided you a very detailed spreadsheet that I'm happy to walk you through that really this is a snapshot not only of how we calculated this figure that's before you tonight, but of the potential benefits of issuing additional pension debt. I wanted to just u talk briefly about this because I know we've been talking a lot about debt lately and it has somehow taken on a negative connotation. I think this is one of the instances where actually taking on additional debt will yield significant savings and when we save dollars those are real dollars in the budget that we can save and then redirect for other purposes. So, I'm happy to go over this in significant detail with anyone either tonight or outside of this meeting, but I would direct your attention to the bottom line that's shaded kind of grayish that on the left-hand column talks about FY26 budget savings and then estimated budget savings from POB which is pension obligation bond and FY27 approximately 3.3

million and FY28 approximately 3.3 million. Then it drops off significantly, but still there's a substantial savings of around $100,000 a year up until fiscal year 2038 where we uh where we anticipate fully funding our pension obligation. So, when we presented this year's budget to you, if you recall, we funded approximately half of our pension obligation to the Brockton Retirement Board in that operating budget. At that time, I discussed with you the reason why we were funding half of it is because we anticipated issuing the remaining approximately $60 million in pension debt that you had authorized. and that would relieve us of the need for paying the other half of the pension debt as the plan unfolded. And as I've told you, we brought in the same team of experts that we did for the first pension round in 2021. And that included our uh our consultants from Stifel and from Hilltop. The folks from Stifel are actually our underwriters. We brought in my predecessor Jay Condon. We brought in Rick Manley, our bond council, the actuary that that the Brockton retirement board lent us and had several meetings with the retirement board themselves. This plan was not put together by me. It was put together by a team of financial professionals who have reached a consensus about the efficacy of this effort. So one of the things as our plan progressed and we looked at other communities the city of Quincy for instance recently had some challenges with their bond rating due to the fact that they actually used bond proceeds to pay what's called the normal costs. So that our pension obligation every year is split into two numbers. The normal costs is the number that we actually right now pay to current pensioners. So those are our current obligations. The accumulated liability is an actuarial figure that calculates what we have to pay to the retirement board to fully fund our obligations moving forward. That's the one that that the retirement board recently said that we can have until 2038 to fully satisfy. So, in looking at putting this package together, one of the recommendations that was made was that we shouldn't pay the remainder of this year's normal costs with bond proceeds. Makes sense because it's nonrecurring money. The good news is we had accumulated, as you can see, $26 million in our pension stabilization fund. And that is exactly why we created that fund. So, what we're asking you to do tonight is to simply transfer that number in the bottom left and corner of this spreadsheet 3,388,863,000 to transfer it from that pension stabilization fund and it's actually going into this year's budget and then we will then use that money to pay the rest of the normal costs to the Brockton Retirement Board, but we'll satisfy the rest of this year's accumulated liability once we issue that additional pension. that probably sometime in late January.

Mayor Sullivan: just one thing that Dr. Clarkson talked about is during the budget, we expressed that we were paying half and I have to thank the chairman of the retirement board and the members because they had asked us if that would make sense and ease a little bit of burden on us, pay now half and then and then pay the additional half at a later date. So, um you know, they took a vote on that. They ratified that. It definitely was greatly appreciated by the city of Brockton. And just to go back in time when we refinanced our debt liability, the city of Brockton now, our POB is considered the example throughout the United States of America. I mean, bond councils and bond meetings talk about what we did here based upon the uh term savings, which is like $90 million over the term. So, it's substantial savings and again, it's thanks to all the members of the legislative body that agreed to do that as well.

CFO Dr. Clarkson: he's absolutely right. So, we've actually been able to speak at more than one forum about the job that we were able to do as a team here. This is a complete aside, but I do need to plug our team. I did send you an email earlier today and thank a couple of you for responding. Our finance team here in Brockton are some real true professionals and for the sixth year in a row they've received the top award nationally for transparency and received the GFOA's distinguished budget award and I'm very proud of the team and thank you for joining me and congratulating them. One of those members of that team, the leader of that team, Elvira Lopes, your budget director, did send us a report so that we showed you that the actual cash on hand in that stabilization fund is $26 million. So, with this transfer to satisfy the rest of this year's normal cost, that fund will still be very healthy and will be at $22,674,000.

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

12. 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: $1,609,443.00

FROM: CERTIFIED FREE CASH	$1,609,443.00
TO: RESERVED FOR APPROPRIATION DEFICITS	$1,609,443.00

Invited: Mayor Robert Sullivan
CFO Troy Clarkson

CFO Dr. Clarkson: I just asked Juan to come up in case there's any specific questions. He's been intimately involved in this. So, we had mentioned this before. This is a result of the operations of the Brockton Redevelopment Authority and the city taking over those funds. So, we also provided to you at your desks a list of steps that have been taken since the city has taken over the responsibility for those funds. I won't read through the list, but I wanted you to see the significant amount of work that's been done to sort of bring that fiscal house in order. This will be the second year in a row that our free cash has been impacted by the operations of the Brockton Redevelopment Authority. The good news is that last year it was a number that was significantly more. It was over 2 million. So, Juan working with his team has been able to bring that number down to about $1.6 million. What we're asking you to do tonight so that this doesn't continue to be a recurring hit on our free cash is to appropriate money to extinguish that deficit. So, this deficit will go away with this appropriation. And now that the city and a team including Juan and several members of my team and you can see other steps that we've taken. We've brought in our external auditor to do an audit of the BRA in concert with the folks at HUD. So, we're working very closely with them. We've had a couple of external consultants. One

did sort of an operational audit of the BRA and is giving us some recommendations on how to improve the staff level performance and yet another um consultant actually writing policies and procedures so that the jobs of the people that are working in the planning and economic development department are clear about what their duties are. And finally, we are working with one of those consultants who's recommending to us a couple of different actually retired CDBG managers from other communities that can come in on an interim basis to help write the ship and lead the team. So, several steps are taken but this is the final step I think that's being requested to extinguish that previous deficit so that we can start fresh and have our fiscal house in order as it relates to those funds. I did ask Juan to be here even though he wasn't invited in case you have any specific questions about those the costs that make up that $ 1.6 million or about how he got that number from 2 million down to 1.6.

Mayor Sullivan: if I could also just elaborate a little bit more. The fact that we brought it back in house is the right thing to do. HUD supports it both Boston and Washington. We had face to face meetings with the Washington folks twice. Some of these bills go back to 1999. So, you know that's a long time. If we didn't bring it in, the 2 million that hit us last year would probably be the same or even higher. So, we've brought it down to 1.2. This will extinguish the debt. We do not but I mean the next mayor may decide differently but I would not recommend having a third party visa the bar handle as EDBG home funds. It needs to be in house. Other cities do it exceptionally well. You know we have the right people in place. I think adding some additional folks such as the suggestions of a retired expert in CDBG is going to help the city. At the end of the day you know this was not overspending by the city. What this was funds being distributed out and then not being and Juan can explain it more. Not tracking it in a manner so the reimbursement would come back. So, this will hit the free cash. But it would be a one-time offset.

Councilor Asack: please forgive me for being confused, but I'm really confused. First of all, Mayor, you just said the bills go back to 1999. How is that possible?

CFO Dr. Clarkson: Yeah. So, the items that make up this deficit do not go back to 1999, but the mayor is correct. What he's talking about is when we looked at the allocations from community development block grant CDBG funding, they have funds that were committed but unspent going back to 1999. So there those actually if we're in the process of trying to reconcile how they allocated those funds, what they committed them to and those funds will likely become available that can be redirected by the new mayor to other projects. And so, we're just trying to unravel all of those obligations going back as far as 1999.

Mayor Sullivan: Just one other point of information. The BRA's documentation, all the paperwork is in storage at Iron Mountain. So, when the BRA ceased to exist, the board still exists, right? But the actual day-to-day operations is now in-house. City of Brockton we designated attorney Stacy Verde. She's been working with Iron Mountain. There's over 100 between 100 and 150 boxes of documentation. We are right now working with Iron Mountain to get all those boxes back to Brockton as opposed to pay for storage. The

thought would be to scan those, PDF those, but some of those documentations may not be even applicable. You know, they could be anything. So, we're going to have to spend some time looking through it. I will not be the mayor when that happens, but the recommendation, and HUD supports this, is that we take everything back. we being the city vet through it, figure out what's what because you know from 1999 I mean we were a lot younger 99 though that that should have been rectified by the year 2000.

Councilor Asack: So, I mean the whole situation of the B.R.A. and I'm glad you brought it in house. I know it's gone through a lot in the last few years. I but I know that right before you know there was a committee that hired the executive director that's no longer there now but you know we had there was hope that everything was going to go well and everything was going to be fixed and rectified but I just thank you Mr. Clarkson for giving us the steps that you're all taking. I just I feel that this has been go for a few years now. It's become a bit of a disaster and I just hope we're doing the right thing. Especially with all the changes that have happened in the planning department and I know this has become you know I know there's a lot of things happening there.

Mayor Sullivan: So, we definitely have done the right thing because HUD has supported wholeheartedly. The initial meeting in my office, I asked if they would feel better if the city took it back and they all said yes. Then we did a Zoom with Washington DC. I'm not going to elaborate on any former employees of the BRA. There is a lawsuit filed. It's a pending matter, so I don't want to talk about it. I can tell you that working with our partners in Boston and Washington, they wholeheartedly supported this. The fact that Juan and his team are working, I wouldn't say on a daily basis with HUD, but now that they're back to work because of the shutdown. For 46 days, we didn't really have anybody. But we're definitely trending in the right direction.

Councilor Asack: so, since Juan’s here, I would like to hear a little bit of what makes up this 609,000.

Auditor Gonzalez: The deficit is made up of three programs, which is the CDBG program, the home program, and the lead program. The reason why we ended up in a deficit was the BRA. At the time, they were given some sort of structure, right, that says, you know, example, you know, you pay full-time salaries, you have to spend this much money for public safety, you have to do this to build, whatever the case may be. They went they spent out of those parameters and then when we went to go to the federal government and say can we get reimbursed for this they said no you cannot because those you know expenditures are not reimbursable so that made up basically the bulk of the deficit that we have originally, I believe the deficit was closer to 2.5 million but my predecessor worked very hard with the HUD folks in Washington to bring that down to the 1.6 six that you have now.

Councilor Asack: this deficit obviously doesn't go back to 1999, but how like how long like what's covered because we've had a lot of people go through the BRA in the last few years, you know, five five years or so. So, how far does this go back?

Auditor Gonzalez: I don't want to butcher anything, but when I looked at the GL, and this was a while ago, so my, you know, mind is here and there. I believe this goes back between 2021 and 2022 where this stuff started happening where we were not getting reimbursed on a timely manner and then we started running this on the red. I can go up and provide you guys later a list of when this stuff started to go wrong because I know that the department of revenue every time that we certify a free cash they give us a list of all of the funds that are in deficit that hit our free cash for the certification. So, I can provide that to you.

Councilor Asack: That would be great, Thank you.

Councilor Nicastro: So, but for the fact that we took over the BRA's function, right? So that we wouldn't lose obtaining CDBG funds from the from HUD. This debt is not ours to pay. Is that that's right?

CFO Dr. Clarkson: I would say it is because technically although the and jump in one if you disagree with anything that I say, but the BRA was the custodian of the funds, but the city was the recipient and ultimately the responsible party for these funds. So I don't want to put words in the mayor's mouth, but I think that's one of the items that raised concern is that we had some reductions in that free cash prior to last year for reimbursements that they were not receiving because of the dynamics that Juan discussed. So, we are ultimately responsible, which is why I think the mayor made the right choice in pulling that back so that the city could take control.

Councilor Nicastro: doesn't the deficiency include a dash and a judgment related?

CFO Dr. Clarkson: No. That so that good point but that no there is a judgment out there but that is a judgment against the Brockton redevelopment authority and not the city of Brockton. So, the BRA has its own responsibilities within it that organization.

Councilor Nicastro: where will that money come from?

Mayor Sullivan: just to make that clear as well. The city of Brockton has no legal basis or obligation and will not pay that debt. It was a debt against the BRA, not the city of Brockton. The money the CFO expressed it the money of HUD goes to the municipality. So, cities and towns throughout the United States. In this case, it had been determined years ago that Brockton's money would be held up by the BRA to be utilized. city like the city of Quincy, Mayor Ko doesn't do that. He brings it in-house. It's been in house. So that's what we're doing. But any judgment or any obligation financially, legally, or otherwise on behalf of the BRA will not come to the city of Brock, and I've met with Megan Bridges and Stacy Verde, our legal counsel on that, and they concur.

Councilor Nicastro: So, I guess this isn't the forum for asking do they have the funds to pay that judgment and if not, what happens next.

Mayor Sullivan: File a resolve and invite the board members in that suggestion.

Councilor Nicastro: Sure, that's a good idea. so, the piece of paper that was at our table tonight recent finance planning initiatives. Who prepared this?

CFO Dr. Clarkson: My Staff did in collaboration with me.

Councilor Nicastro: Okay, and our goal is to continue receiving CDBG Funds, right?

CFO Dr. Clarkson: Yes. I mean, ultimately that would be up to the chief executive, but I have to assume because of the good that it allows us to do in the community that the next mayor would want to continue with that. And is it possible that the malfeasants as case may be that resulted in these deficiencies will be pursued by the individual you know we will pursue the individuals that caused that to happen. So, my role has been to try to work with the planning and economic development staff to account for the funds that we have to put the department in a place where they can continue to use the funds and then work with HUD to make sure we're in good standing with them. I think that decision is certainly outside the scope of my authority. I think that's a certainly a question you can ask the current or future mayor.

Mayor Sullivan: I think it's a good question. I think the city of Brockton is brilliant by having an outside audit firm. What is determined as a result of the audit? Again, I will not be the mayor come January 5th. I think the goal right now is to make sure that the city doesn't jeopardize any money from HUD. We want to get every penny and then some to get the most benefit with our partners in Boston and Washington. Again whatever the determination comes out from the audit the facts will be the facts and then the next mayor will and the next city council will have to make some determinations.

Councilor Nicastro: Okay, we'll leave it there. Thank you.

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

13. Resolve: Be it resolved to invite the Executive Director and the Chairman of the Board of Brockton Community Access to appear before the Finance Committee of the Brockton City Council to discuss the recent inability to cover the Brockton municipal elections as well as the continuing poor coverage of the Brockton municipal government meetings as well as any other coverage deemed appropriate by the City Council.

Invited: Executive Director Scott Mercer
Chairman Joe Miranda

Councilor Asack: as the resolve states there's just I know myself as a city councilor and as a resident and I pay for Comcast and I watch our local channel, not just our meetings,

but you know, all the events that you're supposed to air on there and I'm just overall disappointed. So, that was the reason for this for this resolve. There was a bit of an uproar with the community as well during this last election. First of all, when did you come on? When did you come on as executive director at BCA?

Mr. Mercer: two and a half years ago of March.

Councilor Asack: Exactly. It was right around the time of an election and I remember there was very poor coverage but at the time you were fairly new and you know there was no coverage of the election two years ago and you were new there and we said we wouldn't allow it to happen again but yet this past election there was almost no absolutely no coverage of the election. I had people calling me asking what the results were. Residents that aren't getting the information they need to get from this government channel. This is our local channel. We rely on you for all the information. So I mean there's a lot of things that have happened that I just feel are unacceptable as far as our meetings go. Until recently, you were all airing meetings that were from like from back in October. So, they're not even current. There's a lot of events I attend a lot of your events that they're supposed to be aired on the local channel and they're not. I don't know when they're being aired. The local channels on all the time. So, I know something isn't right. Something isn't working right at at BCA. So, I would like to give you the opportunity to you know to speak on it to see what we can do to you know to make it better. I know you've had employees there. You know many of them are volunteers and I know there's a lot going on at the station but I you know I feel that you're their director and that there's a lack of direction. So, you know I'll give you the opportunity to just speak on that.

Mr. Mercer: Sure. I'll start with the election that didn't get covered. I was not here. I arrived after that. Since I've been here, every election has been covered.

Councilor Asack: Well, we only have local elections every two years. This was our last one.

Mr. Mercer: We had the preliminary, the general, and the one before that. And this last election we covered there were 22 runs on the HD channel, eight runs on the standard deaf channel. for public access. The only thing that happened for the last election was it was live to tape versus live because there was an equipment issue. So we did record a show, we did cover the election results and we aired it at 10:00 p.m. We also aired it at 11:30 p.m. And then the next day, the 5th and the 6th, we ran it 10 times. So, I've not missed an election since I've been here.

Councilor Asack: Okay. So, I mean, what channel were they aired on 10 times? I'm just curious.

Mr. Mercer: No, that's fine. on the HD channel and on the public access channel.

Councilor Asack: What numbers are those, sir?

Mr. Mercer: I don't have them in front of me. 1075 and 1072, I believe.

Councilor Asack: What happened to channel six?

Mr. Mercer: those are the HD channels. So, they ran on those as well. They ran on standard def and the HD channels. They're the same channel. It's just a different signal that goes out. I'm not debating you. I'm just articulating the facts. I haven't missed an election since I've been here. The previous one I was fully aware of it, made aware of it. again, we haven't missed the coverage of an election since I've been here.

Councilor Asack: Sure. So, you see that there was absolutely no problem with this last election that happened at the beginning of November.

Mr. Mercer: We wanted it to be live and when we found out it wasn't going out signal-wise live, we wanted to make sure we had coverage. So, what we did was we continued live to tape and it turned it around soon as we downloaded that. As soon as we uploaded that recording and put it out to the public.

Councilor Asack: Okay. I'm not sure how it was put out to the public, but like I'm just trying to know.

Mr. Mercer: It was put out on the channel. We put it out at 10 p.m.

Councilor Asack: yeah, I had the channel on the whole time. It was just a black screen, but that's fine. I mean, my displeasure in this isn't just my own. It's also an outcry from our community that I heard everywhere. Everybody was very displeased with the lack of coverage. So, I mean I want to see things better. We actually you know your budget I think you know I can't speak for your employees but you as the executive director are fair decently paid I believe. I expect that we have quality public television from our local you know from our local station. From listening to you, I'm understanding that you didn't see that there was an issue with what happened. So, you don't feel there's anything to fix?

Mr. Mercer: I mean as soon as we learned that there was an equipment failure, we delivered the program. I'm only addressing that you're saying we didn't cover the elections and we did as far as a problem we worked very hard. We put all the graphics together. We did everything leading up to the live coverage, which is what we presented two months before in the preliminary. We were very disappointed that it wasn't live. But the next best thing was to make sure, and I'm glad we did, that there was actually a program with the election results that we were able to air no more than an hour later. so as far as disappointment, I can assure you there's nobody more disappointed than me and my staff who worked and prepared for that production and it didn't go out live. But at the same time that happens in television, but most importantly, I'm very proud that we were able to actually record the election, get the cover the results, and put it out on the air an hour later than it was anticipated to be on.

Councilor Asack: besides the night of the election, November election, I mean, we've had problems here constantly just I think was a couple of weeks ago or we had a problem here in council chambers and we've invested a lot of money in the year since I've been on the council for rewiring you know to make sure that we have quality you know so the people at home can be informed, watch our meetings and be informed about what's happening in the city. But there's constantly have problems. So, in seeing those as the executive director, I feel like you know that we should be able to fix these issues so we're not constantly I mean there's constantly issues. We need them taken care of. That's a reason for this resolve. I'm being very plain and direct, but it's just unacceptable and we need to figure out a solution and take care of this for the community.

Mr. Mercer: Sure. I'm more than happy to go through each and every incident and identify what issues there are and resolve them. So, if you have specifics, I'm more than happy. You mentioned one the other day, you said.

Councilor Asack: Sure. There’re issues with wiring here. Many times, the microphones. A few weeks we weren't able to put the power. we had guests here and they couldn't put up their information on the screen. So that's just one incident. But I'm also as a you know as a person who has who pays for Comcast I watch I mean and I mean you were airing old meetings. You weren't even airing the most recent meeting. So, I'm like how does this happens like well what was going on that you were still airing October and near the end of November.

Mr. Mercer: well, that's to fill spots because depending on what time or how many meetings there are, if there's vacation or not vacation, but they're not in session, then we fill them with repeats, which is what we have done for PEG stations, for programming. But as far as any technical, just to be clear, I shared this the last time I was invited here, this is not our equipment. This is the city's equipment. We do operate it, but we we're not the ones who fix it. Last time I was here, when there was an audio issue, it was not BCA who had the audio issue, it was actually in the basement here at city hall. so, we're not responsible for the equipment. We turn it on, we test it so that we can go but if there's an issue, we do try to troubleshoot it, but it's the city's equipment that we run. We don't maintain it. We don't, you know, we make recommendations about it, but we don't maintain this equipment. So, anytime there's an issue with equipment, we do try to troubleshoot. We do try to make the deliverable available to everybody, but BCA is not the one responsible for the equipment. We simply operate it.

Councilor Asack: okay. And in in many years, the annual parade coverage was is always live. Like this year, it wasn't.

Mr. Mercer: So, right. This this year was not live, we didn't have enough staff to cover it. So, what we did was live to tape which is being edited as we speak so that I can go on the air. But we did cover the event. We just are turning it around.

Councilor Asack: Okay. So, I mean I just I don't know if you sense my frustration, but it's we're very frustrated. It's just it hasn't things aren't working smoothly. They're sometimes they're not working at all. I'd like to find a resolution. So, whether it's I mean you're telling me this but have you reached out to our IT department? I'm figuring if it's not you that covers the wiring then it's got to be our IT like do you work together with them?

Mr. Mercer: Yeah, we do. That's how we discovered it was that issue was somebody downstairs moved some equipment around or some cords around and that's why there was no I mean anytime there's a technical issue we're on it but that's what we do. But again, when you go live and when you're producing something, something can happen and that is, you know, going to happen and we try to resolve it. We turn around, if it's necessary, we edit it and we make it ready for air. I can assure you that everybody's doing their due diligence in in preparation as well as execution. That's the best we can do. There's no I'm not hiding. I'm not making excuses. I'm not even defending.
I'm just clarifying what the process is so that everybody's clear on what that process is. If we miss a meeting, it nine times out of 10, it's not because we didn't look to see if there was a meeting. It's that we weren't aware of a meeting. Even when we're made aware, we do everything we can to make sure that we can cover that meeting. mean, we have the Arnone School tomorrow, which is not in the Little Theater, which takes three to four more people to produce. So, we have to make sure we cover that but we also have to cover the other items that are on the agenda or in the production schedule to get it done. So, we are doing the best we can under the circumstances under which we learn of a meeting at the last minute. We try our best which I believe is what happened here. When some two people came over even though I had already checked the website for the meeting I told my staff there is no meeting tonight and then at 5 to 7 I learned there was a meeting. So, it's not like we're just saying, "Oh, we don't have to do anything today." It's we're looking. We're trying to figure it out. Once we learn or see that there's something, we're on it. And if we don't see anything and we don't know about it, there's nothing we can do other than react once we're told there's a meeting. And that's kind of how it's been operating.

Councilor Asack: So, Mr. Mercer, tomorrow's school committee, regular scheduled school committee, right? Just taking place in a different place.

Mr. Mercer: That's correct. Okay.

Yes. So, I mean, I once again I don't mean to be harsh, but this is it's just unacceptable when you say you didn't have coverage for the parade. It’s an annual parade. We have it every year. How do you not have coverage?

Mr. Mercer: well, one, I was sick. And then two, you're saying coverage. So, if I may, just so I have clarification, when you're saying coverage, you're talking live coverage versus recorded coverage, right? So, if we can't cover something live, we do record it and we put it on the air, but if we don't have live coverage, it can be because of a technical issue, it could be a staffing issue, it could be a last minute issue., but overall, we do try

and have covered everything to the best of our ability live. That's the preference. And I'm fully aware of that.

Councilor Asack: So, I'm going to be honest. I just I'm finding it very unacceptable. I get complaints we're not covering our local sports, our youth sports. We're not covering I heard that somebody said if you know, somebody can tape it and send it in, you'll air it. I mean, that's just we've been when I grew up on local our local channel. That's how people find out about what's happening in in our city. you know it's a very good chunk of you have a good budget. I don't know how and like I said I know the majority of your staff are volunteers or part-time. They're not so I just feel like there's it's mismanagement. There's a lack of direction and I feel we need that as a community.

Mr. Mercer: if I may I'm sorry. What sports are not being covered?

Councilor Asack: Local youth sports. I think one of whether it was baseball in the spring or there were some local sports aren't being covered as the youth sports.

Mr. Mercer: Well, I worked very closely with Kevin the director to he tells us what games he would or would not like covered. Would he prefer not to be covered? So, I'm not sure what you're referencing.

Councilor Asack: I know I've gotten complaints that the local sports aren't being covered. I don't have any one specific one right now, but the coverage of our local sports aren't as they used to as they used to be. So, I mean what I'm what I'd like to see is just more maybe communication between yourself and I know you're you know I know Mr. Miranda couldn't be here. He's the chairman of the board. I know that you have some of your employees that have, you know, become unionized. I don't know if that's had any effect on some of the issues, but I really feel like there's lack of communication and we really need to come together and fix this matter because this just it's unacceptable. I don't know what else to say about it, but I I'll leave it at that. And I hope that things get better and you know if you can write send you an email with specific things. Yeah. But I would like to see this really be what it used to be. I mean we've always had a very strong local channel. We've always had the glitches and the you know technical issues but there just seems a lack of direction. So, I'd like that taken care of.

Councilor Nicastro: How many employees does BCA have right now?

Mr. Mercer: seven

Councilor Nicastro: Seven employees. And how many are part-time?

Mr. Mercer: one

Councilor Nicastro: one part-time and six full-time. And a year ago, how many employees did BCA have?

Mr. Mercer: They had eight.

Councilor Nicastro: Eight. And most of them were full-time.

Mr. Mercer: yes, there were two part-time.

Councilor Nicastro: Two part-time, and how many volunteers do you have?

Mr. Mercer: that varies as far as production wise, what I would say two, as far as consistent volunteers, two to three.

Councilor Nicastro: Two to three. And what about a year ago?

Mr. Mercer: About the same. We do have more members that are producing um member producers. So, we have more shows on the air now than we've had in the past since I've been there.

Councilor Nicastro: I echo my colleague, councilor Asack. I'm getting more comments and complaints about BCA than I ever have in the 8 years that I've been sitting here. people say there's not as much coverage as there used to be. And, you know, there's certain expectations like that the parade will be covered live, that the election, especially the local elections will be covered live. I lay it at your feet and you're the executive director. Please take this seriously and do something about it. improve it and let us know how you are going to improve it because a city like ours with not much of a newspaper, we rely on other sources and in large measure we rely on BCA to find out what's going on, what to expect, the timing and the dates of different events. Your service is very important to the city. It really is. you make a difference when you're cooking with gas, as they say. The last thing I wanted to ask is I would like to see, BCA's annual reports. Have you got those?

Mr. Mercer: I don't I can talk to the board for them. Yes.

Councilor Nicastro: I'd like to see the last three years of annual reports because I'm interested to know how is BCA spending the funding that comes from the city every year. that would be a very good snapshot for us to look at. And it's funny, I've made this request over a number of years. And they've never come. We've never seen them to my knowledge. Which is a shame because how do you justify asking for more? Everybody wants more if you don't show us what you're doing now. All right. I'll leave you with that.

City Clerk Cruise: f I could just I don't want to get into it. Just concerning two weeks ago, we realized a there was some communication to break down because of changes that they had and changes that we had. We do communicate literally my office the day of every meeting checks. Again, we were a little spoiled when Mike Simmons was here. He understood. We realize there's a breakdown. effect because what they were looking for city council meetings. For instance, tonight is not posted as a city council meeting. It's

posted as a finance meeting. So, when they went to look, they assumed there was no meeting and it was a Tuesday night also. But when Mike was here, he always understood. He knew. So, there was a little bit of a breakdown and we do, you know, my staff now reaches out to we have everybody's cell phone number. I always had Mike's. They did react that night, but the people that got here at the last minute don't know this equipment. So, it was a problem. We're going to we have talked to them. make sure those other employees besides tonight's cameraman has training on this equipment so that if somebody's out sick or because we can't afford to have that happen anymore. So that's strictly just the meeting two weeks ago though.

Councilor Asack: he loss of Michael Mike Simmons to, you know, that he left BCA was huge because he really, I mean I wish you would have done something to keep him because he was a wealth of knowledge and experience and really um kept a lot going he knew the ins and outs. He's he'd been there for what 17 years I believe. But really that was something that was a big disappointment that we let somebody that's so vest that was so vested in BCA go somewhere else.

Mr. Mercer: I couldn't agree more.

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

Councilor's Recognition:

President Thompson: seeing none, councilors just let you know next week we're having our annual picture. That's going to be done at 6:00 p.m. in council chambers. So, our meeting city council meeting will happen at regular time, 700 p.m. next week. we do have our tax classification, but that'll be held, within our normal city council meeting. And with, uh, no further business before this council, I declare this meeting adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30 PM

CDBG/ HOME FUNDS
Recent Finance/Planning Initiatives

- Retained Clifton, Larson & Allen to audit BRA's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME/LEAD), and Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds; scheduled a meeting with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to confirm the full audit scope.

- Held an in-person meeting with HUD representatives, who provided resources and offered their assistance.

- Engaged CDBG/HOME expertise by meeting with planning consultant Judi Barrett, who produced a report with extensive recommendations.

- In the process of hiring a temporary employee with extensive CDBG and HOME knowledge to support community development funds.

- Collaborated with CDBG staff through several meetings to plan and gain a deeper understanding of projects and funding.

- Reviewed and updated financial policies and procedures in collaboration with Capital Strategic Solutions for implementation.

UAAL Amortization Comparison

	FY26		FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32	FY33	FY34	FY35	FY36	FY37	FY38
PERAC Funding Schedule as of 1/1/2024 actuarial valuation, approved August 2024														
UAAL Amortization	5,268,197	UAAL Amortization	7,869,249	10,962,056	14,632,761	18,934,973	23,994,246	29,920,075						
		% increase year-over-year	*49%*	*39%*	*33%*	*29%*	*27%*	*25%*						
Calculated by KMS Actuaries based on recently adopted Retirement Board changes: 7% Rate, COLA Base increasing $1,000/year through 2031, full funded date of 2038														
UAAL Amortization	5,268,197	UAAL Amortization	5,938,000	6,176,000	6,423,000	6,680,000	6,947,000	7,225,000	7,514,000	7,814,000	8,127,000	8,452,000	8,790,000	9,142,000
		% increase	*13%*	*4%*	*4%*	*4%*	*4%*	*4%*	*4%*	*4%*	*4%*	*4%*	*4%*	*4%*

Budget Impact

	FY26		FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32	FY33	FY34	FY35	FY36	FY37	FY38
Status Quo														
Normal Cost	11,204,909	Normal Cost	11,488,029	11,760,473	12,016,341	12,295,658	12,582,110	12,854,700	13,207,474	13,508,384	13,782,829	14,159,819	14,456,742	14,801,895
Net 3(8)(c) Transfers	818,087	Net 3(8)(c) Transfers	818,087	818,087	818,087	818,087	818,087	818,087	818,087	818,087	818,087	818,087	818,087	818,087
UAAL Amortization	5,268,197	UAAL Amortization	5,938,000	6,176,000	6,423,000	6,680,000	6,947,000	7,225,000	7,514,000	7,814,000	8,127,000	8,452,000	8,790,000	9,142,000
Subtotal: Status Quo	17,291,193	Total Budgetary Obligation	18,244,116	18,754,560	19,257,428	19,793,745	20,347,197	20,897,787	21,539,561	22,140,471	22,727,916	23,429,906	24,064,829	24,761,982
Budgeted Pmt (paid July 2025)	8,634,133													
Remainder due in FY26	8,657,060													
Post-POB														
Normal Cost	11,204,909	Normal Cost	11,488,029	11,760,473	12,016,341	12,295,658	12,582,110	12,854,700	13,207,474	13,508,384	13,782,829	14,159,819	14,456,742	14,801,895
Net 3(8)(c) Transfers	818,087	Net 3(8)(c) Transfers	818,087	818,087	818,087	818,087	818,087	818,087	818,087	818,087	818,087	818,087	818,087	818,087
UAAL Amortization	0	UAAL Amortization	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
POB Debt Service	0	POB Debt Service	2,634,610	2,848,228	6,323,228	6,576,583	6,843,758	7,121,309	7,412,107	7,713,303	8,024,967	8,353,091	8,685,957	9,039,888
Subtotal: Post-POB	12,022,996	Total Budgetary Obligation	14,940,726	15,426,788	19,157,656	19,690,328	20,243,955	20,794,096	21,437,668	22,039,774	22,625,883	23,330,997	23,960,786	24,659,870
MINUS Budgeted Pmt	(8,634,133)													
Remainder due in FY26 *(NOTE: not paid by POB proceeds)*	**3,388,863**													
FY26 Budget Savings	**5,268,197**	**Est. Budget Savings from POB**	**3,303,390**	**3,327,772**	**99,772**	**103,417**	**103,242**	**103,691**	**101,893**	**100,697**	**102,033**	**98,909**	**104,043**	**102,112**

Sources:

Normal Cost and Net 3(8)(c) Transfers	*PERAC Funding Schedule as of 1/1/2024 actuarial valuation, approved August 2024*
Status Quo UAAL Amortization	*Calculated by Retirement Board's actuary, KMS Actuaries, 11/13/2025*
Budgeted Payment (paid July 2025)	*City's adopted FY26 budget*
POB Debt Service	*Calculated by City's bond underwriter, Stifel, 11/17/2025*

Note: POBs carry various risks as discussed in the City's Plan of Finance presented to A&F and as disclosed by Stifel in its materials presented to the City.

Gmail

Troy Clarkson <tclarkson@cobma.us>

Pension Stabilization Fund

1 message

Elvira Lopes <erlopes@cobma.us> Mon, Dec 1, 2025 at 12:57 PM
To: Troy Clarkson <tclarkson@cobma.us>
Cc: Martin Brophy <mbrophy@cobma.us>

Good afternoon Troy,

As requested, the current balance in the Pension Stabilization Fund is $26,063,568.70. Once the $3,388,863 transfer is completed, the remaining balance will be $22,674,705.70. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,
Elvira Lopes
Budget Director
Finance Department
Brockton City Hall
45 School Street
Brockton, Ma 02301
508-897-6851

Click here to see:
Where Better Begins

Pension Stabilization Fund.pdf
229K

G/L ACCOUNT - MASTER INQUIRY

Org code: 72510147 PENSION STABILIZATION FUND Type: B A
Object code: 101000 CASH ON HAND Status: A
Project code: Budgetary: N

FUND	7251	PENSION STABILIZATION FUND
FUNC/RESPONS	09	Pensions & Benefits
DEPT/DOEFUNC	0147	Treasurer/Collector
PROGRAM	27	Treasurer
SUB PROG/GRD	00	Not Used
LOCATION	00	Not Used
ACADEMIC PRO	00	Not Used
CATEGORY	00	Not Used

Full description: CASH ON HAND Short desc: CASH ON HA

CURRENT YEAR MONTHLY AMOUNTS

PER	ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCE	BUD TRANSFER	BUDGET
00	25,259,452.26	.00	.00	.00
01	.00	.00	.00	.00
02	.00	.00	.00	.00
03	546,878.32	.00	.00	.00
04	88,452.17	.00	.00	.00
05	168,785.95	.00	.00	.00
06	.00	.00	.00	.00
07	.00	.00	.00	.00
08	.00	.00	.00	.00
09	.00	.00	.00	.00
10	.00	.00	.00	.00
11	.00	.00	.00	.00
12	.00	.00	.00	.00
13	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tot:	26,063,568.70	.00	.00	.00

CURRENT YEAR TOTAL AMOUNTS

Actual (Memo)	26,063,568.70	Original Budget	.00
Encumbrances	.00	Budget Tranfr In	.00
Requisitions	.00	Budget Tranfr Out	.00
Total	26,063,568.70	Carry Fwd Budget	.00
Available Budget	.00	Carry Fwd Bud Tfr	.00
Percent Used	.00	Revised Budget	.00
Inceptn to SOY	.00	Inceptn Orig Bud	.00
		Inceptn Revsd Bud	.00
Encumb-Last Yr	.00	REQUESTED	.00
Actual-Last Yr	.00	FINANCE	.00
Estim-Actual	.00	REVIEWED	.00
		APPROVED	.00
		FINAL	.00

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Labels

Troy Clarkson <tclarkson@cobma.us>
to City, Robert, Sydné, Timothy, Elvira, Andrew, Erin, Maeghan, John, Juan, Martin, Arthur

Councilors:

I am pleased to inform you that the City of Brockton has today been awarded the Distinguished Budget Award from the Gove transparency, represents continued excellence in our financial reporting and sets the highest standards for our budget.

Our Budget Director Elvira Lopes led a team of dedicated professionals to once again compile and update the hundreds of pa finance professionals scrutinize each page, and only those budgets that pass the strict GFOA criteria receive this award.

Please join me in congratulating our team for their continued commitment to excellence and transparency.

TBGC

--
Troy B.G. Clarkson, PhD
Chief Financial Officer
Finance Office
City Hall
45 School Street
Brockton, MA 02301
508.580.7165
He/Him/His

BROCKTON
WHERE BETTER BEGINS

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Where Better Begins

One attachment • Scanned by Gmail

Government Finance Officers Association
203 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2700
Chicago, Illinois 60601-1210
312.977.9700 *fax:* 312.977.4806

December 01, 2025

Elvira Lopes
Budget Director
City of Brockton, Massachusetts

Dear Elvira:

A panel of independent reviewers have completed their examination of your Annual budget document for the period beginning July 2025. We are pleased to inform you that the panel has voted to award your budget document the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). Please note that the Award has been granted on a qualified basis.

As you know, certain criteria of the Budget Awards Program are mandatory. Normally, failure to satisfy one of the mandatory criteria as determined by two or all three reviewers would preclude an organization from obtaining the award. Our review indicated that your budget document failed to satisfy the following criteria:

Position summary schedule

Because of your organization's past participation in the Budget Awards Program, this deficiency will not disqualify your budget document from receiving the Award this year. However, we encourage your entity to correct this deficiency by your next budget submission, or within two budget cycles at the latest, in order to continue to be eligible to receive the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

Your Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is valid for one year. To continue your participation in the program, it will be necessary to submit your next budget document to GFOA within 90 days of the proposed budget's submission to the legislature or within 90 days of the budget's final adoption.

Your electronic award package contains the following:

- **Scores and Comments**. Each entity submitting a budget to the program is provided with reviewers' scores for each of the categories on which the budget document was judged along with reviewers' confidential comments and suggestions for possible improvements to the budget document. We urge you to carefully consider these suggestions as you prepare your next budget.
- **Budget Award**. A camera-ready reproduction of the Award is included for inclusion in your next budget. If you reproduce the camera-ready image in your next budget, it should be accompanied by a statement indicating continued compliance with program criteria. Please refer to the instructions for reproducing your Award in your next budget (also included in your award package).
- **Certificate of Recognition.** When a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is granted to an entity, a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation is also presented to the individual(s) or department designated as being primarily responsible for its having achieved the award.
- **Sample press release.** Attaining this Award is a significant accomplishment. The sample press release may be used to give appropriate publicity to this notable achievement.

In addition, award recipients will receive via mail either a plaque (if the government is a first-time recipient or has received the Award fifteen times since it received its last plaque) or a brass medallion to affix to the plaque.

We appreciate your participation in this program, and we sincerely hope that your example will encourage others in their efforts to achieve and maintain excellence in governmental budgeting. The most current list of award recipients can be found on GFOA's website at www.gfoa.org. If we can be of further assistance, please contact the Awards Programs staff at (312) 977-9700.

Sincerely,

Michele Mark Levine

Michele Mark Levine
Director, Technical Services Center

GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

PRESENTED TO

City of Brockton
Massachusetts

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

July 01, 2025

Christopher P. Morrill

Executive Director

GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12/1/2025

For more information, contact:
Technical Services Center
Phone: (312) 977-9700
Email: budgetaward@gfoa.org

(Chicago, Illinois)—Government Finance Officers Association is pleased to announce that **City of Brockton, Massachusetts** received GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget.

The award represents a significant achievement by the entity. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the entity had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

- a policy document
- a financial plan
- an operations guide
- a communications device

Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

There are over 1,900 participants in the Budget Awards Program. The most recent Budget Award recipients, along with their corresponding budget documents, are posted quarterly on GFOA's website. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research for more than 25,000 members and the communities they serve.