



City Council Actions

In City Council

Monday, March 1, 2021

Present: Councilors Baker, Bowman, Crossley, Danberg, Downs, Gentile, Greenberg, Grossman, Humphrey, Kalis, Kelley, Krintzman, Laredo, Leary, Lipof, Malakie, Markiewicz, Noel, Norton, Ryan, Wright & Albright.

2 Vacancies

The City Council discussed the following item on Second Call:

Referred to Zoning & Planning and Finance Committees

#458-20 **CPC Recommendation to appropriate \$1,433,000 in CPA funding for Grace Church**
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending the appropriation of one million four hundred and thirty-three thousand dollars (\$1,433,000) in Community Preservation Act historic resource funding to the Grace Episcopal Church Tower Restoration project for the stabilization and preservation of the historically significant ca. 1872 conical stone spire, tower and belfry.

Zoning & Planning Approved 4-3 (Councilors Danberg, Ryan and Leary Opposed) as amended to appropriate \$935,000 in CPA funds on 02/04/2021

Finance Approved 3-2 (Councilors Humphrey and Noel Opposed)

Motion to Postpone to March 1, 2021 and request a formal response from the CPC was approved by Voice Vote on February 16, 2021

Approved 17 Yeas, 5 Nays (Councilors Crossley, Humphrey, Noel, Ryan and Albright), 2 Vacancies

Clerk's Note: Councilor Grossman presented an update to the request for CPA funds for the restoration of the Grace Church tower (#458-20). She noted that the Zoning and Planning and Finance Committees met jointly to discuss the request on January 11 and February 4, 2021. The Committees approved the request for funding, with different appropriation amounts. At the Council meeting on February 16, 2021, the Council voted to reconcile the reports and send the item back to the CPC to amend their recommendation to include a preservation restriction on the project. The CPC met on February 25, 2021 to review their recommendation. At the conclusion of their meeting, the recommendation for the funds was amended to include the following:

1. A new preservation restriction to be held by the City for the exterior of the building and;

2. How the funding will be released for the project and requires that the applicant place a matching amount of each CPC dollar.

Councilors noted that state stature governs how the preservation restrictions are drafted. Additionally, Councilors noted that if a future party wants to lift the preservation restriction, they will have to be granted permission from the City. Councilors deliberated the request. Councilors cited the tower's historic significance, the architectural presence in Newton Corner, the church's commitment to bell concerts and training and the connection to the residents. It was noted that the CPA funds can be used for the preservation of significant, historic architecture and the future use of the church space could change.

The Council expressed some concern relative to approval of the funds, noting that granting funds for one religious project will represent a significant policy change in the use of CPA funding. Additionally, it was suggested that many other religious entities may express interest in funding requests upon approval. It was noted that the proposed request represents 3.5 years of the CPA surcharge and other municipalities have funded church projects at an amount not exceeding \$435,000. Councilors reiterated concern relative to the use of municipal funds for religious uses and how there has been no analysis to determine how the structure can be preserved with less funding.

The Council voted 17 in favor 5 opposed (Councilors Crossley, Humphrey, Noel, Ryan and Albright).

The City Council voted without discussion 22 Yeas, 2 Vacancies to Accept the Committee Recommendations on the following items:

Referred to Land Use Committee

February 23, 2021

- #54-21** **Petition to amend special permit to allow veterinary use at 180 Needham Street**
BANFIELD PET HOSPITAL petition for SPECIAL PERMIT/SITE PLAN APPROVAL to amend Special Permit Board Orders #91-15 and #182-09(2) to allow a veterinary hospital use on the first floor at 180 Needham Street, Ward 8, Newton Upper Falls, on land known as Section 83, Block 28, Lot 01, containing approximately 9036 sq. ft. of land in a district zoned MULTI USE 1. Ref: 7.3, 7.4, 4.4.1, 6.4.36 of the City of Newton Rev Zoning Ord, 2017.
Land Use Approved 5-0 (Councilor Laredo not Voting); Public Hearing Closed 02/23/2021
- #33-21** **Petition to allow a lab and research facility at 275 Grove Street**
ALEXANDRIA REAL ESTATE EQUITIES, INC/ARE-MA REGION NO 76 petition for a SPECIAL PERMIT/SITE PLAN APPROVAL to allow operation of a laboratory and research facility in 62,531 sq. ft. of space within the building at 275 Grove Street, Ward 4, Auburndale, on land known as Section 43 Block 29 Lot 24, containing approximately 487,578 sq. ft. of land in a district zoned BUSINESS USE 4. Ref: Sec. 7.3.3, 7.4, 4.4.1, 6.5.9.A of Chapter 30 of the City of Newton Rev Zoning Ord, 2017.

Land Use Approved 6-0; Public Hearing Closed 02/09/2021

Referred to Zoning & Planning Committee

Monday, February 22, 2021

- #29-20** **Review and possible amendment of Demolition Delay and Landmark Ordinances**
COUNCILORS KELLEY, ALBRIGHT, AUCHINCLOSS, CROSSLEY, GREENBERG, KALIS, KRINTZMAN, LEARY, LIPOF, MARKIEWICZ, BOWMAN, HUMPHREY, RYAN AND NORTON requesting a review and, if appropriate, an update of Chapter 22, Sections 22-50 to 22-76 that relate to demolition delays, historic designation, and landmarking.

Zoning & Planning Held 8-0, Public Hearing to be Assigned

- #88-20** **Discussion and review relative to the draft Zoning Ordinance**
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING requesting review, discussion, and direction relative to the draft Zoning Ordinance.

Zoning & Planning Held 7-0, (Councilor Leary not voting)

Referred to Programs & Services Committee

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

- #247-20** **Request for a review on the City Council rules**
COUNCILORS ALBRIGHT AND KRINTZMAN requesting a complete review and appropriate changes to the Rules and Orders of the City Council.

Programs & Services Approved #247-20(1) 8-0; Programs & Services Held #247-20(2)

Referred to Public Facilities Committee

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

- #62-21** **Appointment of Barbara Lietzke to the Design Review Committee**
PRESIDENT ALBRIGHT appointing Barbara Lietzke, 68 Highland Avenue, Newton, to the DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE as the Community Representative for the duration of the NewCAL project. (60 days: 04/17/21)

Public Facilities Approved 6-0 (Councilor Norton not voting)

- #60-20** **Update on the Climate Action Plan**
PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE requesting updates on the status of the Climate Action Plan.

Public Facilities Held 7-0

- #294-20** **Discussion to require or encourage the use of efficient electric technology**
COUNCILORS CROSSLEY, KELLEY, LEARY, NORTON, ALBRIGHT, GREENBERG, AUCHINCLOSS, MARKIEWICZ, NOEL, DANBERG, KALIS, DOWNS, LAREDO & HUMPHREY requesting a discussion with the Sustainability Team to consider creating an ordinance that may require and/or encourage the use of efficient electric technology for heating,

cooling, hot water, cooking and other appliances in new and substantially renovated buildings.

Public Facilities Held 7-0

Referred to Finance Committee

Monday, February 22, 2021

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#65-21

Approve \$1,000,000 for snow and ice removal

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) from Acct # 0110498-579400 Comptroller’s Reserve for Snow/Ice Removal as follows:

Regular Overtime (0140123-513010).....	\$500,000
Rental Vehicles/Contractors (0140123-527300).....	\$500,000

Public Facilities Approved 6-0 (Councilor Norton not voting) on 02/17/2021
Finance Approved as Amended to \$1,892,500 5-0 (Councilor Noel not voting)

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#66-21

Appropriate \$447,000 for the Sewer Pump Station Rehabilitation CIP Project 1

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of four hundred and forty-seven thousand dollars (\$447,000) from the Sewer Fund Surplus-available for appropriation account to fund the Engineering Design of the Sewer Pump Station Rehabilitation CIP Project 1.

Public Facilities Approved 6-0 (Councilor Norton not voting) on 02/17/2021
Finance Approved 5-0 (Councilor Noel not voting)

#63-21

Authorize \$10,594.80 to settle a claim against the City

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend ten thousand five hundred ninety-four dollars and eighty cents (\$10,594.80) for the full and final settlement of a claim made by Dr. Moulazadeh against the city.

Finance Approved 5-0 (Councilor Noel not voting)

#64-21

Authorize \$9,831.42 to settle a claim against the City

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend nine thousand eight hundred thirty-one dollars and forty-two cents (\$9,831.42) for the full and final settlement of a claim made by Arbella Mutual Insurance Co against the city.

Finance Approved 6-0

Referred to Programs & Services and Finance Committees

#68-21

Appropriate \$100,000 for the March 16, 2021 Special Municipal Election

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from Acct # 0110498-579000 to a project account to be

managed by the City Clerk's Office to fund the city-wide special municipal election on March 16, 2021 to fill two City Council vacancies.

Programs & Services Approved 8-0 on 02/17/2021

Finance Approved 6-0

#395-20

Request for updates on budget and possible reimbursements at Newton Public Schools

The President of the Council, on behalf of the City Council, requesting updates to the Finance Committee from the Chief Financial Officer regarding budget expenditures and possible reimbursements related to school reopening at each meeting this fall.

Finance Held 6-0

Referred to Real Property Reuse Committee

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

#393-20

Reuse of former water tower site on Countryside Road

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT submitting on September 10, 2020 a letter recommending that the former water tower site, a 16,900 sq. ft. parcel of land on Countryside Road, Ward 8, Newton Centre, known as Property ID: 83036 0003A be made available for sale or lease pursuant to Ordinance Section 2-7.

Real Property Reuse Held 6-0

The following item was filed after the close of the docket. A motion was made and Approved by Voice Vote to Accept to the Docket and Refer to Committee:

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#87-21

Appropriate \$68,746 to fund the replacement of the boiler at Crafts Street Stable

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of sixty-eight thousand seven hundred and forty-six dollars (\$68,746) from Acct # 7902C104-337902 Unrestricted Capital Funds to fund the replacement of the boiler at the Crafts Street Stable.