



Finance Committee Report

City of Newton In City Council

Monday, December 18, 2017

Present: Councilors Gentile (Chair), Ciccone, Norton, Rice, Blazar, Fuller, and Lappin

Absent: Councilor Brousal-Glaser

City staff present: Sue Dzikowski (Comptroller), Lisa Dady (Director of the Jackson Homestead), and Jim McGonagle (Commissioner of Public Works)

#398-17 Reappointment of the Comptroller

COUNCILORS LENNON AND LAPPIN, pursuant to Section 2-7 of the City Charter, recommending that the City Council reappoint Susan Dzikowski as Comptroller; said term will begin on January 1, 2018 for a term of two years or until a successor is duly qualified.

Action: Approved 6-0 (Norton not voting)

Note: Comptroller Sue Dzikowski joined the Committee for the discussion of her reappointment as Comptroller. The President and Vice-President of the City Council are recommending reappointment of Ms. Dzikowski because she has been doing a good job since her appoint last January as Comptroller. The Committee concurred and a Committee member noted that Ms. Dzikowski has really risen to the occasion of filling a job with great responsibilities. The Chair echoed the comments and commended Ms. Dzikowski on her first year as Comptroller. He would like to see the staff of the Comptroller's Office, including Ms. Dzikowski, take advantage of professional development opportunities in the upcoming year. With that, Councilor Lappin moved approval, which carried unanimously.

#399-17 Accept a grant from Mass Preservation Project for East Parish Burying Ground

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to accept a grant in the amount of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from the Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund to be used by Historic Newton for preservation work at the East Parish Burying Ground. NOTE: The Mayor accepted the grant in August 2015 but the request for authorization was not docketed.

Action: Approved 7-0

Note Director of the Newton History Museum Lisa Dady explained that this is a request to authorize a grant received in 2015 for \$50,000 for preservation work to gravestones and tombs at the East Parish Burying Ground. Unfortunately, the authorization to accept the grant did not get docketed with the City Council before the grant funds were expended. This docket request will authorize the grant after the fact. Ms. Dady assured the Committee that she will make sure future grants are docketed for acceptance before expenditure. Councilor Rice moved approval, which carried unanimously.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#171-17 Ordinance Amendment Sec 29-80 Sewer Use Charge

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an amendment to Section 29-80 Sewer Use Charge of the City of Newton Ordinances by adding the following sentence at the end of Paragraph (a): Notwithstanding the foregoing, seasonal water takers not eligible for an outdoor meter under said Section 29-24, shall pay a charge for the use of sewerage works in proportion to water consumption. [05/30/17@ 3:21 PM]

Public Facilities Approved 6-0 on 12/06/17

Action: Approved 7-0

Note: Commissioner of Public Works Jim McGonagle presented the proposed ordinance amendment to the Committee. It is an amendment to clarify the City's current practice of billing commercial properties a sewer use fee even if they are not connected to the City's sewer system, which is a longstanding policy. It is expected that the City Council will look further at this policy when the second water meter ordinance is revisited. The Public Facilities Committee reviewed the draft ordinance and unanimously supported the proposed amendment. Councilor Ciccone moved approval, which carried unanimously.

#400-17 Authorization to settle a claim for \$10,000

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to settle a claim of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) from the School Department budget as full and final settlement of a claim against the Newton Public Schools and the City of Newton.

Note: A motion for Executive Session may be entertained when this item is discussed in Committee.

Action: Held 7-0

Note: The Committee voted unanimously to hold the above item without discussion, as there was no one available from the Law Department to present the item to the Committee.

Respectfully submitted;

Leonard J. Gentile, Chair