



# Finance Committee Report

## City of Newton In City Council

**Monday, June 26, 2023**

Present: Councilors Grossman (Chair), Malakie, Humphrey, Norton, Gentile, Oliver, Kalis and Noel

City staff present: Public Buildings Commissioner Josh Morse, Deputy City Solicitor Jonah Temple, Assistant City Solicitor Jenn Kelly, Recreation & Culture Nicole Banks, Comptroller Steve Curley, Manager of Financial Planning and Analysis Perry Rosenfield, Deputy City Clerk Cassidy Flynn, Committee Clerk Evan Cudmore

**#238-23      Appointment to the Financial Audit Advisory Committee**

PRESIDENT ALBRIGHT appointing Alexander B. Jablon, 114 Pearl St, Newton, as a member of the FINANCIAL AUDIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE for a term to expire on June 20, 2026. (60 days: 08/19/23)

**Action:**      Finance Approved 8-0

**Notes:** Alexander B. Jablon has applied to serve on the Financial Audit Advisory. Mr. Jablon has been working for RTX in internal auditing for 3 years. A councilor noted he believed Jablon would make an excellent addition to the Committee with his extensive experience.

Councilor Kalis motioned to approve which passed 8-0.

**Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees**

**#217-23      Appropriate \$1,000,000 for Wash Bay Project at the Crafts Street yard**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) from both the Sewer and Water funds to complete the Wash Bay Project at the Crafts Street yard. The total project cost will be \$1,500,000 which includes the \$500,000 that the City Council approved in 2018.

**Public Facilities Approved 5-0 (Councilors Kelley and Norton not voting) on 06/21/23**

**Action:**      Finance Approved 8-0

**Notes:** Josh Morse, Commissioner of Public Buildings gave the council background on how City Council approved to appropriate five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to complete the Wash Bay Project back in 2018 (#536-18). Commissioner Morse explained that in 2019, the department concluded that more funding would be needed to replace the water and sewer system and the electrical mains feeding the building. Covid derailed the project and halted previous progress in 2018. Public Buildings is anticipating a 50/50 split of the funds being appropriated between Sewer and Water. Commissioner Morse mentioned that the building at Craft Streets yard is solid and the systems within the building are the only things that need to be replaced. It was also noted that if the funds are not fully spent on the Wash Bay Project, then the money will stay in the Water and Sewer Accounts.

Councilor Norton motioned to approve which passed 8-0.

**#212-23      Appropriate \$11,847.54 for the full and final settlement of Eastern Bus Company Inc. v. City of Newton**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of eleven thousand eight hundred forty-seven dollars and fifty-four cents (\$11,847.54) from the Stormwater Operating Fund for the full and final settlement Eastern Bus Company Inc. v. City of Newton.

**Action:**      **Finance Approved 8-0**

**Notes:**      Assistant City Solicitor Jenn Kelly joined the committee to discuss the appropriation and expenditure of eleven thousand eight hundred forty-seven dollars and fifty-four cents (\$11,847.54) from the Stormwater Operating Fund for the full and final settlement Eastern Bus Company Inc. v. City of Newton. The incident occurred in May 2022. Atty. Kelly mentioned that the street sweeper had hit the bus on the passenger side which caused damage to the vehicle. No one involved in the crash was injured. Eastern Bus Company Inc and the City of Newton have both agreed to split the cost of this crash 50/50.

Councilor Oliver motioned to approve which passed 8-0.

**Referred to Programs & Services and Finance Committees**

**#155-23      Appropriate \$90,000 to a Parks, Recreation & Culture Account**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000) from acct # 5503R602-590001 B.A.A. Marathon to a Parks, Recreation & Culture Account to fund playground improvements.

**Programs & Services Approved 7-1 (Councilor Noel Opposed) on 06/21/23**

**Action:**      **Finance Approved 7-0-1 (Councilor Kalis abstaining)**

**Notes:**      Commissioner of Parks, Recreation & Culture Nicole Banks joined the committee to discuss the request for authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000) from acct # 5503R602-590001 B.A.A. Marathon to a Parks, Recreation & Culture Account to fund playground improvements. Commissioner Banks specifically mentioned Williams School Playground as a frequently requested park to be worked on. A councilor voiced concern on the allocation of funds from acct # 5503R602-590001. Concerns were also raised regarding how the funds are framed as a surplus from the Marathon, when the City does allocate funds to the marathon every year and this should be seen as a reimbursement for the Police and DPW costs.

Councilor Gentile motioned to approve the item, which passed 7-0-1, with Councilor Kalis abstaining.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Rebecca Walker Grossman**

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chair Rebecca Walker Grossman to appropriate and expend the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) from both the Sewer Fund Undesignated Fund Balance and Water Fund Undesignated Fund Balance to complete the Wash Bay Project at the Crafts Street yard. The total project cost will be \$1,500,000 which includes the \$500,000 that the City Council approved in 2018 be and is hereby approved as follows:

FROM:	Water Fund Undesignated Fund Balance (6000-3599).....	\$500,000
	Sewer Fund Undesignated Fund Balance (6100-3599).....	\$500,000
TO:	Crafts St Wash Bay Construction Supplies (7121L401-553000).....	\$1,000,000

Under Suspension of Rules  
Readings Waived and Approved  
DRAFT

(SGD) CAROL MOORE  
City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER  
Mayor

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chair Rebecca Walker Grossman to transfer and expend the sum of eleven thousand eight hundred forty-seven dollars and fifty-four cents (\$11,847.54) from the Stormwater Budgeted Reserves Fund (62A10498-579000) to Stormwater Legal Claims & Settlements (62A10841-572500) for the full and final settlement of Eastern Bus Company Inc. v. City of Newton (City Claim No. 22-255) be and is hereby approved as follows:

FROM:	Stormwater Budgeted Reserves (62A10498-579000) .....	\$11,847.54
TO:	Stormwater Legal Claims and Settlements (62A10841-572500) .....	\$11,847.54

Under Suspension of Rules  
Readings Waived and Approved  
DRAFT

(SGD) CAROL MOORE  
City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER  
Mayor

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chair Rebecca Walker Grossman and Programs & Services Committee through its Chair Joshua Krintzman to appropriate and expend the sum of ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000) from acct # 5503R602-590001 B.A.A. Marathon to a Parks, Recreation & Culture Account to fund playground improvements to be and is hereby approved as follows:

FROM:	BAA Marathon Funds (5503R602-590001) .....	\$90,000
TO:	BAA Playground Improvements (01C60217-585241) .....	\$90,000

Under Suspension of Rules  
Readings Waived and Approved  
DRAFT

(SGD) CAROL MOORE  
City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER  
Mayor