

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

SPECIAL MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2012

7:15 PM PLEASE NOTE LATER START TIME

Room 222

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #401-12 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer the sum of one hundred twenty-one thousand sixty-three dollars from the Storm Water Management Fund Surplus for the sediment removal and maintenance of the City Hall ponds. [11/13/12 @ 5:12 PM]

ITEMS NOT SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #311-10(A) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of three million three hundred thirty-five thousand dollars (\$3,035,000) from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding the FY 2011 Capital Improvement Plan projects as follows: [11/29/ 10 @ 3:23 PM]
Architectural Design and Engineering/ Next Scheduled Fire Station \$400,000
A-2 - HELD 6-0 \$270,000 for final design bidding and construction admin on 12/08/10

Public Hearing to be assigned for December 3, 2012:

- #397-12 DIRECTOR OF ASSESSMENT ADMINISTRATION submitting for Board of Aldermen review and approval the FY13 Municipal Property Tax Levy Distribution Percentages among residential, open space, commercial and industrial classes of Real Property.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #400-12 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding plumbing and bathroom renovations at the Gath Pool facility. [11/13/12 @ 5:13 PM]

The location of this meeting is handicap accessible, and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons requiring assistance. If you have a special accommodation need, please contact the Newton ADA Coordinator Trisha Guditiz, 617-796-1156, via email at TGuditiz@newtonma.gov or via TDD/TTY at (617) 796-1089 at least two days in advance of the meeting date.



SETTI D. WARREN
MAYOR

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

#401-12

Telephone
(617) 796-1100

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(617) 796-1113

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(617) 796-1089

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swarrs@newtonma.gov

November 13, 2012

Honorable Board of Aldermen
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Ladies and Gentlemen:

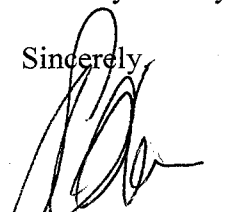
I write to request that your Honorable Board transfer the sum of \$121,063 from the Storm Water Management Fund Surplus for the Sediment Removal and Maintenance of City Hall Ponds. Funds in the amount of \$322,887 were encumbered in last year's storm water operating budget. This project was recently bid out, and prices came back somewhat higher than anticipated.

The goals of this project include: restoring the hydraulic capacity, mitigating storm drainage impacts, and improving the recreational aesthetics of the historic City Hall Ponds. These improvements are intended to be accomplished by performing maintenance sediment removal from the pond, as well as portions of the Hammond Brook and Cold Springs Brook culverts, which convey flow to the ponds. A total of about 3,800 CY of sediment is estimated to be removed from the City Hall Ponds and upgradient culverts. Extensive testing of the sediment material was completed to fully characterize the material and to evaluate the most cost-effective means for disposal of the material. Although this material is not free of contaminants, it is suitable for re-use as daily cover or grading material at MA DEP approved landfills.

As you may know, approximately 1,700 acres of land drain to the City Hall Ponds including the land occupied by the main library parking lot and a portion of Homer Street. These areas are subject to occasional flooding and are mapped as such by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The ponds have not been dredged since 1992 and the consequences of not dredging the City Hall Ponds could exacerbate flooding in the immediate vicinity, increase sediment loading downstream and allow for the proliferation of invasive plant species.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,


Setti D. Warren
Mayor

1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

www.newtonma.gov



DEDICATED TO COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE

RECEIVED
Newton City Clerk
2012 NOV 13 PM 5:12
David A. Olson, CMC
Newton, MA 02459

#399-12 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer the sum of twenty-one thousand six hundred thirty five dollars (\$21,635) to replace a police cruiser that was damaged beyond repair in an automobile accident as follows:

From: Budget Reserve	
0110498-5790	\$11,081
P.S. Supplies	
0120112-5580	\$5,554
Cty Asses Forfeitures	
13C201C	5,000
To: Automobiles	
0120108-58501	\$21,635

#398-12 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate the sum of one hundred seventy-nine thousand one hundred thirty-nine dollars and thirty cents (\$179,139.30) from the November 9, 2012 Declaration of Overlay Surplus as declared by the Chairman of the Board of Assessors to pay the 8% statutory interest from the time Verizon New England, Inc. paid its FY 2009 tax bill until the day the Treasurer/Collector issued a refund check for an abatement given by the Board of Assessors on October 30, 2012. [11/13/12 @ 5:12 PM]

#323-12 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting local acceptance of the following sections of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59 related to tax exemptions:

- The provisions of Chapter 59 section 5 added by Chapter 181 of the Acts of 1995, which authorizes an annual increase in the amount of the exemption granted to senior citizens, surviving spouses and surviving minors under General Laws Chapter 49, Section 5, Clause 17D by up to 100% of the percentage increase in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous year as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, and to fix that annual increase at 100% of the CPI: to be effective for exemptions granted any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2013.
- Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 17E, which authorizes an annual increase in the asset (the whole estate) limit for exemptions granted to senior citizens, surviving spouses, and surviving minors by the percentage increase in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index for the previous year as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, to be effective for exemptions granted any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2013.
- Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41D, which authorizes an annual increase in the income (gross receipts) and asset (whole estate) limits for exemptions granted to senior citizens by the percentage increase in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index for the previous year as

determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, to be effective for exemptions granted any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2013.

- Chapter 59, Section 5N to establish a Veteran's Tax Work-Off Program that will authorize a qualifying veteran or a proxy, if the qualifying veteran is physically unable to perform the work, to work-off up to the maximum reduction of the real property⁷ tax bill based on 125 volunteer service hours in a given tax year. .
- Chapter 59, Section 5K, (Senior Tax Work-Off Program) and the amendment to Section 27-20 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Newton 2012 to allow the maximum reduction to be based on 125 hours of service, rather than \$1,000, as well as discussion of adopting a provision to allow a proxy to perform the work on behalf of a qualifying senior who is physically unable to perform the volunteer service.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#324-12 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting the following:

- (1) To present the following levy limit override and debt exclusion ballot questions to the voters in accordance with the procedure prescribed by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, Section 21C(g) and (k):
 - Shall the City of Newton be allowed to assess an additional \$8,400,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding municipal and school operating and capital expenses to support increased student enrollment, fund street and sidewalk paving, fund public safety personnel, address the condition and capacity of Zervas Elementary School, fund the relocation of the fire Department Wires Division, and fund the replacement of Fire Headquarters and Fire Station 3 in Newton Centre for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013?
Yes _____ No _____
 - Shall the City of Newton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2 1/2, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to renovate or replace the A.E. Angier Elementary School?
Yes _____ No _____
 - Shall the City of Newton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2 1/2, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to renovate or replace the Cabot Elementary School?
Yes _____ No _____
- (2) A request to call a special election to present the levy limit override and debt exclusion ballot questions to the voters and set a date of March 12 2013, for such special election.

- (3) A Request to appropriate from Budget Reserve the sum of eighty-five thousand dollars (\$85,000) for the purpose of funding the costs of a special election to present the levy limit override and debt exclusion ballot questions to the voters.

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

- #322-12 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY14-FY18 Capital Improvement Program pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter. [10/09/12 @ 2:38 PM]
- #317-12 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY14 - FY18 Five-Year Financial Forecast for Board of Aldermen review/acceptance. [10/09/12 @ 2:38 PM]

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANSPORTATION & FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #281-12 HARRY SANDERS requesting creation of an ordinance to allow pawnbrokers in the City of Newton pursuant to G.L. c. 140 section 70 with potential for non-fixed location of business. Secured property storage would not entail retail walk-in; model would entail possible satellite locations enabling the possibility of integrating Newton students. [08-31-12 @ 12:25 PM]
- #280-12 ALD. CROSSLEY, ALBRIGHT, JOHNSON & MERRILL requesting that (A) the City accept G.L. c. 59 section 5N of the Acts of 2012 and (B) create an ordinance establishing a program to allow veterans to volunteer to provide services in exchange for a reduction in real property tax obligation. [09-10-12 @ 6:44 PM]

REFERRED TO ZONING & PLANNING, LAND USE & FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #273-12 ALD. CROSSLEY & HESS-MAHAN requesting a restructuring and increase in fees for permits charged by the Inspectional Services Department and fees charged by the Planning Department and City Clerk to assure that fees are both sufficient to fund related services provided and simple to administer. [09-10-12 @ 1:17 PM]

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

- #257-12 RECODIFICATION COMMITTEE recommending (1) review of the Fees, Civil Fines/Non-Criminal Disposition contained in Chapter 17 LICENSING AND PERMITS GENERALLY and Chapter 20 CIVIL FINES/NON-CRIMINAL DISPOSITION CIVIL FINES to ensure they are in accordance with what is being charged and (2) review of the acceptance of G.L. c. 40 §22F, accepted on July 9, 2001, which allows certain municipal boards and officers to fix reasonable fees for the issuance of certain licenses, permits, or certificates.

REFERRED TO PROG & SERV, PUB. FAC., ZAP, AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #256-12 ALD. HESS-MAHAN, SANGIOLO & SWISTON proposing an ordinance promoting economic development and the mobile food truck industry in the City of Newton. [08/06/12 @ 4:46 PM]

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #254-12 ALD. HESS-MAHAN, SANGIOLO, DANBERG, KALIS, CROSSLEY proposing an ordinance relating to plastic bag reduction that would add a fee to single-use plastic and paper bags that are not at least 40% post-consumer recycled content, at certain retail establishments in Newton. [07/18/12 @4:34 PM]
- #248-12 RECODIFICATION COMMITTEE recommending that **ARTICLE IV. PURCHASES AND CONTRACTS, Secs. 2-182 through 2-205**, be amended to make it consistent with state law.
- #247-12 RECODIFICATION COMMITTEE recommending that Chapter 18 MEMORIAL FUNDS AND TRUSTS be reviewed relative to the consequences and practices of special legislation passed by the General Court in 2007, Chapter 75 of the Acts of 2007, in which the City sought and was granted an exemption from G.L. Chapter 44 §54, which intent was to allow the City greater flexibility in terms of investments.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #185-12 ALD. BAKER, BLAZAR, SANGIOLO, LINSKY, ALBRIGHT & DANBERG requesting that the Board of Aldermen adopt a RESOLUTION to His Honor the Mayor asking that, when the Mayor seeks future Board approval for bonding the cost of additional capital facilities or equipment for the schools, he include in that funding request, as well as in the city-wide Capital Improvement Plan, the estimated costs needed for funding the capital technology needs of the Newton Schools, including the appropriate portions of the estimated project costs of the School Committee's three-year district-wide technology plan not anticipated to be funded by the Information Technology Department budget; the anticipated technology grants from Boston College for the elementary schools; and/or estimated revenue from the E-rate Technology Reimbursement Program. [06/11/12 @ 11:23 PM]
- #102-12 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) from cable contract receipts for the purpose of constructing Phase I of III to connect all city facilities with high-speed fiber infrastructure for continued reliance on the IT network. [04-09-12 @ 3:40 PM]

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #54-12(2) PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE proposing that Chapter 26, Section 71 (b)(1) & (2) and Section 73(c)(2) of the City of Newton Ordinances be amended by increasing the assessment minimum from five hundred dollars (\$500) to no more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000). [10/17/12]

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #41-10(2) COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE requesting authorization to appropriate the sum of one hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$180,000) from the Community Preservation Fund for the purpose of providing supplemental funding for the Newton Community Farm Barn Rehabilitation Project.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #39-12 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to establish a revolving account with an annual expenditure limit of \$2,000,000 for the purpose of receiving funds collected by the Newton Schools Foundation in connection with the sale of naming rights for Newton Public School buildings and facilities and to be distributed for the sole purpose of public school education technology and curriculum purposes. [01/30/12 @ 4:18 PM]

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #383-11(4) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR recommending that Section 29-80 (b)(1) of the City of Newton Revised Ordinances, 2007 be amended by revising the stormwater rates as follows: single-family residences \$25 per year, two-family residences \$37.50 per year, and multi-family (3 units or more), commercial, industrial, and institutional properties (to include non-profits) would be charged at a rate of \$25 per Equivalent Residential Unit of 2,600 square feet of impervious surface on the property to take effect on July 1, 2012. [04-09-12 @ 2:39 PM]

- #140-11 ALD. HESS-MAHAN requesting acceptance of MGL Chapter 59 §5c which allows communities to shift the tax burden away from homeowners who live in lower than average valued single and multi-family homes to owners of higher valued homes, second homes, and most apartment buildings. {04-15-11 @ 3:07 PM]

REFERRED TO PROG & SERV, PUB FACIL. & FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #130-11 PAUL COLETTI, ALD. SANGIOLO, DANBERG, & JOHNSON requesting Home Rule Legislation to create a Capital Preservation Fund for the City of Newton modeled on the Community Preservation Fund to address the capital needs of the City. [04/11/11 @9:42 PM]
PUBLIC FACILITIES NO ACTION NECESSARY 6-0 (Lennon not voting) on 10/18/11
PROGRAMS & SERVICES APPROVED 5-0-3 (Fischman, Baker, Blazar abstaining) on 03/21/12
- #130-11(A) PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting the Finance Committee review alternate proposed Home Rule Legislation language related to the creation of a Capital Preservation Fund.
PROGRAMS & SERVICES APPROVED & REFERRED TO FINANCE 7-0-1 (Blazar abstaining) on 03/21/12

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY&TRANS & FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #363-10(2) ALD. ALBRIGHT proposing a trial of parking meter free Saturdays between Thanksgiving and New Year for the shopping areas to support shopping at local businesses in Newton. [02-10-12 @9:13 AM]

REFERRED TO LAND USE & FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #276-10 ALD. FULLER, CROSSLEY, DANBERG, LINSKY requesting a review of guidelines for mitigation fund provisions to maximize the use of such funds on behalf of the city together with mechanisms by which the city can better track such funds to ensure they are used in a timely fashion.

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEES

- #245-06 ALD. JOHNSON AND HESS-MAHAN requesting an amendment to the City Charter to require the Mayor annually to prepare and submit to the Board of Aldermen a long-term financial forecast of anticipated revenue, expenditures and the general financial condition of the City, including, but not limited to identification of any factors which will affect the financial condition of the City; projected revenue and expenditure trends; potential sources of new or expanded revenues; anticipated municipal needs likely to require major expenditures; and a strategic plan for meeting anticipated municipal needs, to include, but not be limited to, any long or short-term actions that may be taken to enhance the financial condition of the City.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard J. Gentile, Chairman