

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2008

7:45 p.m.
Room 222
City Hall

NEW BUSINESS:

FIRST CALL ITEMS (ATTACHED REPORT FROM COMPTROLLER):

#9-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$8,650 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the heating oil budget in the Department of Senior Services. [01-02-08 @ 4:53 P.M.]

#51-08 COMPTROLLER, in accordance with MGL Ch.30B, Sec.12, requesting authorization for the City to solicit competitive proposals for three and five year terms for actuarial valuation services for the contributory retirement system, workers' compensation and post-employment health liabilities. [01-03-08 @ 12:23 PM]

#52-08 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$58,861.68 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund's general reserve, to pay for issuance costs incurred in November of 2007 and interest due in May, 2008 for bonds used to finance the acquisition of 20 Rogers Street as land for recreational use. [01-25-08 @ 10:58 AM]

#53-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$4,000 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the advertising budget for the Clerk of the Board FY08 budget. [01-29-08 @ 6:12 PM]

#56-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the sum of \$46,100, received as grant funds from the American Library Association and the FINRA Investor Education Foundation. Said grant funds are to be used over the next two years to serve the investor education needs of library patrons. [01-29-08 @ 6:12 PM]

******ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:***

#22-08 PRES. BAKER, ALD. LENNON AND COLETTI, pursuant to Sec. 2-7 of the City Charter, recommending re-appointment of David C. Wilkinson as Comptroller of Accounts; said term will be two years or until a successor is duly qualified. [01-15-08 @ 11:00 AM]

- #27-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$14,574 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of repairing the Building Department bucket truck. [01-15-08 @ 5:19 PM]

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #35-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$143,932 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the FY08 Building Department budget, to cover the cost of unanticipated repairs. [01-15-08 @ 5:19 PM]

PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 7-0 ON 1/23/08

- #25-08 ALD. COLETTI requesting discussion regarding Comptroller's report identifying over \$8.5 million surplus in the Tufts Health Trust Fund and the Mayor's plan to institute a Health Insurance Holiday for City Employees. [01-15-08 @ 11:15 a.m.]

REFERRED TO PUB. SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #59-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$450,000 from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of purchasing a fire engine for the Fire Department; said purchase will allow the Department to place in reserve a first line pumper. [01-29-08 @ 6:12 PM]

PS&T APPROVED 6-0 ON 2/6/08

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #59-08 (2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, pursuant to Sec.2-9 of the Newton City Charter, declaring the purchase of a new fire engine for the Fire Department as an *emergency measure*, necessary to protect the health and safety of the people and property of the City of Newton. [01-29-08 @ 6:12 PM]

PS&T APPROVED 6-0 ON 2/6/08

******ITEMS NOT YET SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:***

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #36-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$367,500 from Free Cash for the purpose of replacing two underground gasoline tanks at the Elliot Street DPW Yard. [01-15-08 @ 5:19 PM]

PUBLIC FACILITIES HELD ON 1/23/08

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #60-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$600,000 from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of purchasing heavy equipment and heavy duty trucks for the Department of Public Works. [01-29-08 @ 6:12 PM]
PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 8-0 ON 2/6/08

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #29-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$100,000 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the law Department legal assistance account for legal services for collective bargaining, labor disputes and arbitrations. [01-15-08 @ 5:20 PM]
- #23-08 ALD. COLETTI requesting that a modified financing plan totaling \$185 million be developed and submitted to the Finance Committee within six (6) weeks of January 14, 2008. [01-15-08 @ 11:15 AM]
- #24-08 ALD. COLETTI requesting an update of the Mayor's proposal for an override ballot question prior to submittal of the proposed FY09 Operating Budget to the Board of Aldermen for review. [01-15-08 @ 11:15 AM]

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #23-08(2) ALD. COLETTI requesting that a non-binding ballot question regarding the city's expenditure of over \$185 million in bond appropriations to construct a new Newton North High School be placed on the proposed override ballot for voter reaction in Spring of 2008. [01-15-08 @ 11:15 AM]
PROG. & SERV. HELD 7-0 ON 2/6/08

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #57-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting to present the following levy limit override ballot question to the voters in accordance with the procedure prescribed by G.L. c. 59 §21C(g):

Shall the City of Newton be allowed to assess an additional \$23,900,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding operating expenses for the Public Schools and the Municipal Government for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008. . [01-29-08 @ 6:12]

PROG. & SERV. HELD 7-0 ON 2/6/08

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #58-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$88,000 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of funding the costs of a special election to present the levy limit override ballot question to the voters. [01-29-08 @ 6:12]
PROG. & SERV. HELD 7-0 ON 2/6/08

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

- #54-08 ALD. MANSFIELD, JOHNSON, HARNEY, SANGIOLO, PARKER, SWISTON AND FREEDMAN, offering a RESOLUTION to His Honor the Mayor that the concrete foundations for the new Newton North High School not be installed until (1) the Mayor has submitted to the Board of Aldermen and the Board has approved a financing plan for a confirmed Guaranteed Maximum Price; and (2) the Mayor has requested and received from the Massachusetts State Treasurer a review of the project's plans, including the financing plan, and said review has been submitted to the Board of Aldermen. [01-29-08 @ 7:01 PM]
PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 5-1-1 (Ald. Baker opposed; Ald. Hess-Mahan abstaining) on 2/6/08
PUBLIC FACILITIES TO MEET

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

- #55-08 ALD. SANGIOLO, HARNEY AND PARKER proposing that the Board of Aldermen request the assistance of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) and State Treasurer Tim Cahill in managing the Newton North High School construction project, including assistance with controlling project costs. [01-22-08 @ 11:05 PM]

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #30-08 ALD. COLETTI requesting a list of current vacancies in the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments, with specific discussion in Committee relative to Police Department vacancies. [01-15-08 @ 11:15 AM]

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #31-08 ALD. COLETTI proposing a RESOLUTION to His Honor the Mayor expressing a no confidence vote pertaining to the current status of the Newton North High School Construction Project and related Financing Plan. [01-15-08 @ 11:14 AM]

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #32-08 ALD. COLETTI requesting discussion of Architect Services Contract and additional \$8 million revision to the Dorr Whittier Contract for additional services. [01-15-08 @ 11:14 a.m.]

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #33-08 ALD. COLETTI requesting review of the scope of work and performance of Turner Construction and review of proposed 18-month extension of the Turner Construction contract. Included in discussion will be the process for review of future invoices of Dimeo and other vendor invoices by Turner. [01-15-08 @ 11:14 AM]

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #34-08 ALD. COLETTI requesting that His Honor the Mayor immediately provide the latest "estimate" of the minimum price as per the Dimeo and Turner companies (for the Newton North High School Construction Project) to the Board of Aldermen with a date certain for the filing of a supplemental funding request. [01-15-08 @ 11:14AM]

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

******ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:***

- #93-06(2) ROBERT E. & ANNE M. SULLIVAN, 391 Dedham Street, applying for abatement of a street betterment assessment in the amount of \$15,880 levied by the Board of Aldermen in Board Order #93-06 which improved Countryside Road by the laying out, grading and acceptance of it as a public way.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #10-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$73,000 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the transportation budget in the Department of Senior Services for FY08. [01-02-08 @ 4:53 P.M.]
PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 5-0-1 (Ald. Freedman abstaining; Ald. Baker not voting) on 1/23/08

REFERRED TO CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #399-07 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE requesting the sum of \$26,000 be reallocated from the potential subsidies for accessory apartments to program administration for the Accessory Apartment Incentive Program. The Board originally appropriated \$320,550 for this program via Board Order #466-05 on March 6, 2006. No new appropriation is requested. This reallocation will allow the program to run for an additional year beyond its original expiration date of December 31, 2007, offering homeowners slightly modified terms as outlined in the CPC's revised recommendation to the Board. [12-07-07 @ 2:19 PM]
CMTE.ON COMM.PRES. APPROVED 7-0-1 (Ald. Sangiolo abstaining) on 1/29/08

*****ITEMS NOT YET SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:**

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #382-07 BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS requesting that Sec.17-11(2) of the Revised Ordinances be amended to increase the fee for Common Victualler License from \$50 to \$100, effective January 1, 2008. [11-06-07 @ 11:17 A.M.]
PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 6-0 ON 1/9/08

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

- #309-01 ALD. PARKER requesting increase in the income eligibility level of the 30% water/sewer discount for low-income senior citizens.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES & FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #55-02 ALD. YATES requesting that the water/sewer discount rate be made available to homeowners who receive Fuel Assistance, Supplementary Security Income, Food Stamps, Supplementary Disability Income, General Relief, Low Income Sewer and Water Assistance, School Breakfast and Lunch and other income based State and Federal programs.
PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 6-0 on 6/16/04

REFERRED TO ZONING & PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #168-02 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the Board of Aldermen establish new civil fines under Section 20-21 of the City of Newton Ordinances for the violation of various environmental provisions enforced by the Conservation Commission.
ZONING & PLANNING APPROVED 6-0 ON 12/13/04

REFERRED TO PROG. & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #264-03(3) ALD. JOHNSON AND BAKER requesting update on the work of the Taxation Aid Committee established by the Board of Aldermen in March 2004 in administering aid to the elderly taxation fund.
- #209-05 ALD. STEWART requesting that the Mayor provide the Board of Aldermen with a list of all salaried City employees who receive additional compensation (other than overtime) along with an explanation of the exact reasons for said additional payments.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #397-07 ALD. JOHNSON AND COLETTI requesting to increase the fee for dogs being off-leash except where dogs are legally able to be off-leash. [12-04-07 @ 12:22 AM]

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

- #453-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$150,000 be appropriated from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding a space needs study for the elementary schools throughout the City.
PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 4-0-1 (Sangiolo abstaining; Baker not voting) ON 3/22/06

REFERRED TO PUB. SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #455-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of (21-05.2) \$6,000 from the Riverside Traffic Mitigation Fund for the purpose of funding the installation of a radar-controlled speed limit sign at the intersection of Concord and Grove Streets. (#65-05)

ITEM RECOMMITTED on 3/5/07 TO FINANCE COMMITTEE ONLY:

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #23-06 ALD PARKER AND LINSKY requesting that the City adopt §19 of MGL Chapter 32B to allow retiree coalition bargaining of health care benefits
Programs & Services voted NO ACTION NECESSARY 4-0-2 (Parker, Merrill abstaining; Sangiolo not voting) on 3/8/06.
FINANCE NO ACTION NECESSARY 5-0-3 (Ald. Lennon, Linsky and Parker abstaining) ON 2/12/07

- #29-06 ALD. JOHNSON AND PARKER requesting creation of a Citizen Financial Advisory Committee to work with city officials and staff to facilitate bench markers, strategic planning and other initiatives to improve the financial operation of the City.
(President's Note: While not formally referred to the Long Range Planning Committee, this item might usefully be discussed there in light of prior discussions of similar issues.)

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- # 35-06 ALD. JOHNSON AND HESS-MAHAN requesting discussion with the School Department and School Committee members regarding the results of the studies addressing compensation for management and executive personnel and organizational structure of central administrative salaries.
- #91-06 COMPTROLLER providing interim reports on the financial condition of various City funds and account groups.

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND PROGRAMS & 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.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #267-06(3) ALD. PARKER, BURG, LINSKY, FISCHMAN, HESS-MAHAN, VANCE, HARNEY, JOHNSON, & DANBERG proposing Home Rule Legislation authorizing the City of Newton to apply the ordinance proposed in item #267-06(2) to assets held by the City's retirement system.
- #453-06 LEON JR. AND MARION D. SEMONIAN, 373 Dedham Street, requesting total abatement of betterment assessment in the amount of \$2,690 (assessed for sidewalk/curbing/road improvements to Countryside Road and Patten Circle). [11-16-06@11:02 AM]

ITEM RECOMMITTED TO PUB. FACIL & FINANCE COMMITTEES 3/19/07:

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #76-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$300,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of conducting a study of the municipal buildings throughout the city. [02-27-07 @ 4:16 PM]
PUB FACILITIES APPROVED 6-0-1 (Ald. Gentile abstaining) on 3/7/07
FINANCE MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED TO CARRY 2-4-1 (Ald. Lennon, Salvucci, Gentile and Coletti opposed; Ald. Linsky abstaining) on 3-12-07

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #11-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$1,200,000 from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding the installation of four modular classrooms. [01-02-08 @ 4:53 P.M.]
NOTE: Letter received from Mayor on 1/4/08 requesting that appropriation amount be amended to \$1.3 million.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #345-06 ALD. SCHNIPPER requesting that the contingency on smaller Public Buildings projects be increased from 5% to at least 8%.

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

- #358-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY09-FY13 Capital Improvement Program pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter which requires Board of Aldermen approval of a plan to finance \$194,907,647 of new local projects over the next several years:

SUMMARY

PUBLIC WORKS (CITY AND GRANT/FEE FUNDED)	\$ 67,632,500
PUBLIC SAFETY	\$ 6,230,535
PUBLIC BUILDINGS	\$ 16,772,295
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	\$ 94,259,767
PARKS AND RECREATION	\$ 7,366,000
OTHER	\$ 2,646,546
TOTAL	\$194,907,647

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #359-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$50,000 be appropriated from Free Cash to conduct a study of the properties along Crystal Lake for the purpose of developing a Master Plan for the redevelopment of these city-owned properties. [10-30-07 @ 5:17 P.M.]
PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 4-2-1 (Ald. Johnson, Brandel opposed; Ald. Freedman abstaining) on 1/23/08

REFERRED TO CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

- #383-07 THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$498,500 be appropriated from the FY08 Community Preservation Fund's community housing and general reserves for development and associated legal costs of a community housing project proposed at 29 Coyne Road, Waban, by CAN-DO (Citizens for Affordable Housing in Newton Development Organization). [11-13-07 @ 5:09 PM]
CMTE.ON COMM.PRES. HELD7-1 (Ald. Hess-Mahan oppoed) on 1/29/08

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman