

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2007

**6:30 p.m. – NOTE EARLY START**

Room 222

City Hall

**NEW BUSINESS:**

***\*\*\*items to be discussed:***

#456-06(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$1,500 from Free Cash for the purpose of purchasing a network card and software for the new photocopier recently purchased for the City Clerk/Clerk of the Board office.

[03-13-07 @ 7:04 PM]

#85-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting appropriation of and authorization to expend the sum of \$90,087 (received as a premium on the sale of general obligation bonds in February of 2007) from Free Cash, in order to pay the costs associated with the February bond sale, with the remainder of the balance of these funds to be added to the debt reserve fund within the Capital Stabilization Fund for later appropriation.

[03-13-07 @ 7:05 PM]

**REFERRED TO PS&T AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#87-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$43,800 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the Fire Department FY07 fuel accounts.

[03-13-07 @ 7:04 PM]

**PS&T APPROVED 7-0 ON 3/21/07**

***\*\*\*items not yet scheduled for discussion:***

**ITEM RECOMMITTED TO PF AND FINANCE BY FULL BOARD ON 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]

**PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 6-0-1 (Ald. Gentile abstaining) on 3/7/07**

**FINANCE MOTION TO APPROVE FAILS TO CARRY 2-4-1 (Ald. Lennon, Salvucci, Gentile and Coletti opposed; Ald. Linsky abstaining) ON MARCH 12, 2007**

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #86-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$2,300,000 from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding the construction of a new synthetic turf recreation complex at Newton South High School.  
[03-13-07 @ 7:04 PM]

**REFERRED TO COMTE. ON COMM. PRESERV. & FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #88-07 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$2,300,000 be appropriated, by issuance of ten-year-bonds, from the Community Preservation Fund for purposes of acquiring title to 20 Rogers Street, whether by purchase or eminent domain, for recreational use. [03-13-07 @ 10:20AM]

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

***\*\*\*items to be discussed:***

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

- #56-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$131,883,000 for the purpose of paying costs of engineering, designing, constructing, originally equipping and furnishing a new NNHS, demolishing the old NNHS structure, and all other associated costs with these projects. The funding source is to be a combination of long-term debt, MSBA low-interest loans, and grant funds. [02-13-07 @ 5:29 PM]  
**PROGRAMS & SERVICES APPROVED 5-0 (Ald. Lipof not voting)  
ON 3/21/07  
PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 3-0-4 (Albright, Mansfield,  
Salvucci, Weisbuch abstaining)**

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #74-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$104,215 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of funding current and future snow and ice and tree emergency expenses in the Parks and Recreation Department. [02-27-07 @ 4:17 PM]  
**PROGRAMS & SERVICES APPROVED AS AMENDED @  
\$178,355 4-0 (Ald. Sangiolo and Baker not voting) ON 3/21/07**

***\*\*\*items not yet scheduled for discussion:***

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

- #34-07 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$74,770 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for purposes of funding the *City Archive Preservation* project. [01-25-07 @4:06PM]

**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%.
- #91-06 COMPTROLLER providing interim reports on the financial condition of various City funds and account groups.

**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.

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES**

- #459-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY08-FY12 Capital Improvement Program pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter which requires Board of Aldermen approval of a plan to finance \$74,304,723 of new local projects over the next several years:

**SUMMARY**

PUBLIC WORKS	\$ 37,630,557
PUBLIC SAFETY.	\$ 5,256,874
PUBLIC BUILDINGS	\$ 2,889,498
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	\$ 10,035,826
PARKS AND RECREATION	\$ 2,390,713
OTHER	\$ 6,874,938
CPA – Historic	\$ 615,500
CPA – Open Space	\$ 6,515,418
CPA - Recreation	\$ 2,185,399
TOTAL	\$ 74,304,723

[11-20-06@8:52 P.M.]

***NOTE: The President asks that the following jointly referred item be discussed at the same time by the three Committees involved, since state officials would be invited and such a meeting would also depend on when such officials could attend:***

**REFERRED TO PROG&SERVICES, PUBLIC FAC & FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #357-06 ALD. COLETTI, PARKER, ALBRIGHT, LINSKY, JOHNSON, MANSFIELD, SANGIOLO, & HARNEY requesting discussion with School Building Assistance Bureau representatives regarding factors affecting state reimbursement for Newton school projects, including Newton North High School.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES NO ACTION NECESSARY 7-0 (Ald. Weisbuch not voting) ON 3/21/07**

*NOTE: The President asks that the following jointly referred item be discussed at the same time by the three Committees involved to avoid duplication of effort:*

**REFERRED TO PROG&SERVICES, PUBLIC FACILITIES & FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#379-06 ALD. BAKER, SCHNIPPER, HESS-MAHAN & Vance requesting a report from the Executive Department and City Comptroller on state reimbursement and loan subsidies available for Newton School projects, including Newton North High School, as well as how best to ask for further clarification, as desired, from staff of the Massachusetts School Building Authority as to such issues as timing, amount and conditions of such funding.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES NO ACTION NECESSARY 7-0 (Ald. Weisbuch not voting) ON 3/21/07**

#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]

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

#276-06(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$1,800,000 from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding the construction of a new synthetic turf recreation complex at Newton South High School (these funds will supplement the requested CPA funds for this project under item #276-06).

**PROG. AND SERV. HELD AWAITING CCP ACTION ON #276-06 ON 10/18/06**

**PUBLIC FACILITIES TO MEET**

**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 PUB. SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #455-05 (21-05.2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$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)

**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.

**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**

- #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 ZONING & PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #364-04 ALD. SANGIOLO & HARNEY requesting a RESOLUTION to His Honor the Mayor to ask that the City acquire, whether by eminent domain or by purchase, the two parking lots associated with the St. Bernard's property for the purpose of providing commuter parking.

**ZONING & PLANNING APPROVED AS AMENDED 8-0 ON 9/13/04**

**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 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.
- #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 & 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.  
**PROG. & SERV. HELD 5-0 (Sangiolo not voting) ON 3/2/06**

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #160-05 ALD. HARNEY, SANGIOLO, PARKER AND HESS-MAHAN requesting an independent audit and possible appointment of an independent commission to investigate the Newton South construction project.  
**PF AND FINCOM HELD IN COMMITTEE ON FLOOR OF THE BOARD ON 11/21/05**

**REFERRED TO CMTE. ON COMM. PRESERV. AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- #276-06 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$2,253,000 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for purposes of funding the *Newton South High School Synthetic Turf* recreation project.

**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**

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman