

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

MONDAY, MAY 14, 2007

7:00 P.M. – NOTE EARLY START TIME

Room 222

City Hall

**BUDGET REVIEW:
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RETIREMENT BOARD/COMPTROLLER
ASSESSING
TREASURER/COLLECTOR**

NEW BUSINESS:

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

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE LISTED ON THE FIRST CALL
REPORT PREPARED BY THE COMPTROLLER (SEE
ATTACHED):**

- #135-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the sum of \$3,000, received as grant funds from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (through the Cambridge Public Health Commission) to be expended to purchase supplies and materials for the development of the Newton Medical Reserve Corps. [05-01-07 @ 6:14 PM]
- #136-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the sum of \$10,000, received as grant funds from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). Said funds to be used to hire an intern who will assist in the development of a plan to be used by the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). [05-01-07 @ 5:15 PM]
- #137-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the sum of \$15,800, received as grant funds from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety for the purchase of infrared cameras. [05-01-07 @ 6:13 PM]

#138-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$5,744.80 be transferred from the Municipal State Grant Fund to the General Fund, DPW Capital Equipment Account. Said funds are to be expended to purchase an interactive speed limit sign. [05-01-07 @ 6:13 PM]

#139-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the sum of \$2,173, received as additional grant funds (in addition to the \$3,000 approved as part of the FY07 Budget) from the DEP as the annual Sewer Rate Relief Grant. [05-01-07 @ 6:14 PM]

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#142-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend a total of \$35,300, received as grant funds from the Massachusetts Statewide Emergency Telecommunications Board (\$25,300) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (\$10,000), to be used by the Police Department for support for training of dispatchers at SETB courses and for software development to create a better interface between the existing dispatch systems. [05-01-07 @ 6:15 PM]

PUB. SAFETY/TRANS. APPROVED 5-0 ON 5/9/07

AFTER FIRST CALL ITEMS, THE COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING REMAINING ITEMS IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY ARE LISTED:

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#140-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$30,000 from BAA Marathon Receipts for the purpose of funding park improvements and repairs throughout the city. [05-01-07 @ 6:20 PM]

PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 6-0 (Ald. Sangiolo not voting) ON 5/9/07

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#141-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$41,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of renovating the basketball court at the Lower Falls Community Center. [05-01-07@ 6:20 PM]

PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 6-0 (Ald. Sangiolo not voting) ON 5/9/07

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#160-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$35,850 from Free Cash for the purpose of repairing aerial ladder two for damage sustained at a fire on March 29, 2007. [05-01-07 @ 6:15 PM]

PUB. SAFETY/TRANS. APPROVED 5-0 ON 5/9/07

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #143-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$58,275 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding continued environmental clean-up of various 21E sites throughout the City. [05-01-07 @ 6:11 PM]
PUB. FACILITIES APPROVED 6-0 (Ald. Weisbuch not voting) ON 5/9/07

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #144-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$225,000 (\$15,000 from Free Cash and \$210,000 from bonded indebtedness) for the design and replacement costs of replacing the boiler at the Carr School building. [05-01-07 @ 6:19 PM]
PUB. FACILITIES APPROVED 6-0 (Ald. Weisbuch not voting) ON 5/9/07

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #145-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$67,880 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the FY07 Building Department contracted maintenance accounts for unanticipated HVAC repair costs. [05-01-07 @ 6:18 PM]
PUB. FACILITIES APPROVED 6-0 (Ald. Weisbuch not voting) ON 5/9/07

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #146-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$43,385 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the FY07 Building Department utility accounts. [05-01-07 @ 6:17 PM]
PUB. FACILITIES APPROVED 6-0 (Ald. Weisbuch not voting) ON 5/9/07

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #147-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$25,200 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of replacing a portion of the roof at the Crafts Street Garage. [05-01-07 @ 6:20 PM]
PUB. FACILITIES APPROVED 6-0 (Ald. Weisbuch not voting) ON 5/9/07

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #148-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$115,205 (\$52,843 to be transferred from previously appropriated Parks and Recreation snow/ice funds not expended, and \$62,362 from Free Cash) to cover snow and ice expenses to date for the Department of Public Works. [05-01-07 @ 6:13 PM]
PUB. FACILITIES APPROVED 6-0 (Ald. Weisbuch not voting) ON 5/9/07

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #149-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$3,572,000 be appropriated (\$1,964,600 from bonded indebtedness and \$1,607,400 in MWRA interest-free loans) for the purpose of funding inflow in infiltration projects in the City sewer system over the next few years. [05-01-07 @6:12 PM]
PUB. FACILITIES NO ACTION NECESSARY 6-0 (Ald. Weisbuch not voting) ON 5/9/07

****item not yet scheduled for discussion:*

REFERRED TO COMMUNITY PRESERVATION & FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #96-06 CITY SOLICITOR requesting an executive session to discuss status of lawsuit challenging expenditure of CPA funds for phase I of the Stearns/Pellegrini Parks projects. [5-1-07 @4:34 PM]

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

****items to be discussed:*

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

- #119-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, in accordance with Section 5-1 of the City of Newton Charter, submitting the FY08 Municipal/School Operating Budget totaling \$310,372,833, passage of which shall be concurrent with the FY08-FY12 Capital Improvement Program.
EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUBMISSION: 4/17/07

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

- #88-07(3) COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$34,500 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2007 General Reserve, including legal fees in the amount of \$30,000 and bond issuance costs in the amount of \$4,500, in connection with the acquisition of 20 Rogers Street, whether by purchase or eminent domain, for recreational use. [04-10-07 @ 4:40PM]
CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 7-0 (Ald. Sangiolo not voting) ON 4/24/07

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

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

#120-07 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$1.44 M plus \$7,300 in legal fees be appropriated from the CPA fund Historic Preservation Fund Balance; FY 2007 Historic Preservation Reserve; and FY 2007 CPA General Reserve, for phase I funding for the Durant Kenrick Homestead restoration and rehabilitation project, as a grant. The CPC further recommends that the funds be appropriated under the control of the Newton History Museum (Jackson Homestead) and that certain terms included in the CPC recommendation be incorporated in the agreement between the City and the Newton Historical Society. [04-10-07 @4:49 PM]

CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 3-0-5 (Ald. Sangiolo, Linsky, Parker, Lappin and Lennon abstaining) ON 4/24/07

PUBLIC HEARING ASSIGNED FOR 5/16/07 @ 7:00 P.M.:

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.]

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.

**ITEM RECOMMITTED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES & 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]
**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 3-12-07

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.

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
- #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]

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

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 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)

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

- #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 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 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