

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2007

7:45 p.m.
Room 222
City Hall

NEW BUSINESS:

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

NOTE: The Comptroller has prepared a "First Call Report" for the following items (see attached memo dated 6/8/07):

#171-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$500,000 from Free Cash to the office of the Comptroller. It is also requested that the Comptroller be authorized to transfer from this sum, in addition to employee benefits accounts, any amount necessary to close any gap that may exist at FY07 year end in the employee health funds. [05-15-07 @ 5:42 PM]

#172-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$48,880, received as State and Federal reimbursement grant funds for the purchase of bullet proof vests for the Police Department, be transferred to the Capital Stabilization Fund. [05-15-07 @ 5:43 PM]

#173-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting rescission of unexpended authorized bonded indebtedness for the following board orders:

 #265-06; School Boilers.....\$99,000
 #230-06(A); NNHS Costs.....\$ 250
 #382-06; Fire Station Improv.....\$ 165
 #461-06; School Windows.....\$ 500

[05-15-07 @ 5:43 PM]

#191-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$7,000 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the Newton Library Overtime accounts for FY07. [05-29-07 @ 4:54 PM]

REFERRED TO PUB. SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#194-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$25,000 be transferred within the Police Department FY07 operating budget (from the personnel account to the gasoline account) in order to cover a shortfall in the gasoline account.

PS&T TO VOTE ON 6/13/07

The following items will also be discussed this evening:

- #190-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$340,000 be appropriated from FY07 wage reserve to various departmental payroll accounts to make FY07 retroactive salary payments in accordance with the memorandum of agreement reached with the Local 3092 municipal bargaining unit (salary adjustments also include H-grade non-union employees) and that the sum of \$950,000 be appropriated from FY08 Wage Reserve to various department salary accounts to reflect these increases in the FY08 operating budget. [05-29-07 @ 4:54 PM]

PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #175-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$90,000 be appropriated from the Newton-Wellesley Hospital Emergency Department Expansion and Arborpoint at Woodland Station Traffic Mitigation Funds for the purpose of designing and preparing for the construction of improvements to the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue (Rte.30) and Washington Street (Rte.16). [05-15-07 @ 5:43 PM]

PS&T TO VOTE ON 6/13/07

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #193-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$25,000 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the Law Department FY07 salary account. [05-29-07 @ 4:54 PM]

PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 7-0 (Hess-Mahan not voting) ON 6/6/07

REFERRED TO PUB. SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #197-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$20,000 from Free Cash to repair the upper boom of the Fire Department Wires Division W-2 Bucket Truck, which serves as the primary truck for fire alarm and as the backup truck for streetlight repairs. [6-1-07 @ 1:50 PM]

PS&T TO VOTE ON 6/13/07

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #195-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$672,530 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of funding the Tier I work identified in the Fire Station Report of April 20, 2007. Said funds will go toward the design, testing and renovation of 6 fire stations. [5-29-07 @ 4:54 PM]

PUB. FAC. APPROVED 6-0 ON 6/6/07

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #196-07(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$1,969,227 from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding the rehabilitation of Fire Station #4. [05-29-07 @ 5:54 PM]
PUB. FAC. APPROVED 6-0 @ \$325,000 FOR DESIGN, PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND TESTING ON 6/6/07

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #174-07 ALD. PARKER requesting a RESOLUTION to the state legislature in support of Governor Patrick's Municipal Partnership Act. [05-09-07 @ 11:56AM]
PROG. & SERV. 8-0 ON 6/6/07

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

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #196-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$1,969,227 from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding the rehabilitation of Fire Station #4. [05-29-07 @ 5:54 PM]

REFERRED TO ZONING & PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #192-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$43,123.50 from Receipts Reserved for Appropriation fund for the purpose of making a grant for the rehabilitation of the Warren House. These funds are the portion of the Inclusionary Housing fees designated for the Newton Community Development Authority. [05-29-07 @ 4:54 PM]

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

- #120-07(2) COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending phase II funding for the Durant Kenrick Homestead restoration and rehabilitation project as a grant in the amount of \$1.27M. The phase II funding would be used to purchase a preservation restriction on the adjacent open lot. 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. [05-29-07 @ 11:02am]

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

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, SCHNIFFER, 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