

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2007

7:45 p.m.  
Room 222  
City Hall

**NEW BUSINESS:**

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

Re-Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#255-07      JEFFREY D. SILTON Re-Appointed on July 25, 2007 as a CONSTABLE for the City of Newton; said term of office to expire on June 1, 2010. [07-25-07 @ 4:14 p.m.] (60-day Board action date: 10/12/07)

#269-07      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation of \$972,530 from the Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Fund to restore the funds previously appropriated from Capital Stabilization for the fire station repairs and outstanding work at Newton South High School, as indicated at the time of those requests. [8-28-07 @4:12 PM]

**ITEMS LISTED ON FIRST CALL REPORT AS PREPARED BY COMPTROLLER (SEE ATTACHED):**

#256-07      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$111,630 be appropriated from Wage Reserve to the Health and Human Services Department payroll accounts in order to make FY07 retroactive salary payments and to provide full funding for said wages in the FY08 Operating Budget, pursuant to the agreement reached with the MA Nurses Association. [08-07-07 @ 4:32 p.m.]

#268-07      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation of \$102,000 from Wage Reserve to fund a settlement with the Newton Municipal Employees Association. [8-28-07 @4:13 PM]

#270-07      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation of \$50,000 for expenditure of a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development for making improvements to the Hamilton Grove Community Center in Lower Falls. [8-28-07 @4:12 PM]

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

- #271-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation of \$20,669 from FY'08 Budget Reserve to fund payments to the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project (EMMCP) for mosquito larva control in catch basins to control the spread of West Nile Virus. [8-28-07 @4:13 PM]  
**PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 6-0 (Ald. Coletti and Parker not voting) ON 9/5/07**

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #273-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation of \$35,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for removal of the structures located at 20 Rogers Street and preparation of the property for recreational use. [8-28-07 @4:53 PM]  
**PUB FAC APPROVED 6-0 (Ald. Weisbuch not voting) ON 9/5/07**

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

- #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 CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- #257-07 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$358,600 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for the purchase and associated legal costs of acquiring 30 Wabasso Street (assessors parcel id number 41031 0053), as an addition to the Flowed Meadow Conservation Area in Auburndale. [08-03-07 @4:55PM]
- #267-07 COMPTROLLER transmitting Annual Financial Report for the audit of fiscal year ending 6/30/07 for Board of Aldermen review/acceptance. [8-27-07 @9:50 AM]

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #272-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation of \$450,000 from Free Cash to purchase a Fire Engine. [8-28-07 @4:14 PM]  
**PS&T APPROVED 6-0-1 (Ald. Lennon abstaining) ON 9/5/07**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

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

*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**

#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]

#208-07 ALD. COLETTI respectfully requesting that Mayor Cohen initiate a Tax Payment agreement with the Woodland T. Station developer prior to issuance of an occupancy permit for that project. [06-12-07 @ 5:50 PM]

#207-07 ALD. COLETTI (FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR) submitting City of Newton Financial Policies draft, prepared by the Comptroller, for review and adoption by the Board of Aldermen. [06-12-07 @ 5:50 PM]

**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**

**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