

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2007

7:45 p.m.
Room 222
City Hall

NEW BUSINESS:

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

#283-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$15,000 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of increasing the Law Department account for outside legal services. This sum will cover the cost of paying the attorney retained to negotiate the closeout of the construction of Newton South High School, as well as allowing the Department to retain the services of Gayle Smalley to complete the task of recodifying the City's ordinances. [09-11-07 @ 4:10 PM]

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
NOTE: See (attached) letter from Mayor (dated 9/21/07) declaring this item to be an emergency measure, pursuant to Sec.2-9 of the Newton City Charter.

#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]

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

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]

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#257-07(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$41,700 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of clearing structures and debris from the property at 30 Wabasso Street (the property for which acquisition funds are requested from CPA funds under docket item #257-07).
[09-11-07 @4:10 PM]

#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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

#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]

Chairman's note: It is anticipated that a motion for NO ACTION NECESSARY will be entertained on items #357-06 and 379-06:

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

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

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

- #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]

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 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.

ITEM RECOMMENDED 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 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 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 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
- #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