

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2006

Room 222
City Hall

**7:00 p.m. NOTE EARLY START FOR BUDGET REVIEW
PURCHASING**
7:30 p.m. HUMAN RESOURCES/BENEFITS
8:00 p.m. EXECUTIVE

NEW BUSINESS:

******ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:***

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

- #165-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, in accordance with Section 5-1 of the City of Newton Charter, submitting the FY07 Municipal/School Operating Budget totaling \$295,437,277, passage of which shall be concurrent with the FY07-FY11 Capital Improvement Program.
EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUBMISSION: 4/18/06
- #182-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation from free cash in the amount of \$75,000 for the purpose of settling a claim brought against the City as the result of an incident in which a City plow struck a pedestrian.
- #183-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$7,414.05 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of paying an (undisputed) outstanding electricity bill at the Crystal Lake bathhouse.
- #184-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the sum of \$23,000, received from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative for the purpose of purchasing five solar-powered trash compactors in city squares (in place of regular trash barrels).

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #185-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$74,750 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the electricity and natural gas accounts for the Newton Free Library.
PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 8-0 ON 4/19/06

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#185-06(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting the following transfers of funds within the FY06 Library Department operating budget for the purpose of supplementing the electricity account:

FROM: Main Library; Full Time Salaries
(016010351101).....\$22,000
Main Library; Overtime
(0160103513001).....\$ 3,000
TO: Library; Electricity
(01601025210).....\$25,000

PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 8-0 ON 4/19/06

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#186-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$50,799 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of purchasing 65 bulletproof vests for police officers; these vests will replace the current equipment which has reached the end of their 5-year warrantee.

******ITEMS NOT YET SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:***

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#187-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$20,307 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of purchasing equipment for seven new recruits in the Fire Department.

REFERRED TO CMTE. ON COMMUNITY PRESERV. AND FINANCE

#188-06 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$92,080 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for purposes of funding the *Upper falls & Newton Highlands Playground Strategic Design* recreation project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

#139-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting a transfer of funds in the amount of \$18,000 from the Human Resources Department training account to the Planning Department consultants account for the purpose of paying for the services of a consultant to work with the Newton Centre Task Force to facilitate a series of visioning workshops among task force members and the general public.

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
PROG. & SERV. NO ACTION NECESSARY 4-0-2 (Parker, Merrill abstaining; Sangiolo not voting) on 3/8/06.

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

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

- #142-06 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$33,400 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for the purpose of funding the *Albemarle Park Central Corridor Design* open space and recreation project in Newtonville.

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

- #143-06 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$25,100 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for the purpose of funding the *Cheesecake Brook Greenway Design* open space project in Newtonville

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

- #458-05 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$55,675 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for purposes of studying and planning the restoration of the Crafts Street Stable Exterior Building Historic Preservation Study.
CMTE. ON COMM.PRES. APPROVED AS AMENDED @ \$65,675 4-0-3 (Linsky, Lappin, Parker abstaining) on 1/24/06

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

- #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 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 FINANCE COMMITTEE BY FULL BOARD ON 1/18/05:

- #134-04(2) TRAFFIC COUNCIL requesting public input regarding the following
proposed changes to Washington Street between the Wellesley town line
and Route 128: re-stripe Washington Street for four 12'-wide travel lanes
and a parking lane on the south side between Concord Street and the
ramps to/from Route 128; "No Parking" on the northerly side; "No
Parking" on the southerly side from the Wellesley town line to Concord
Street; add two to four 15-minute metered parking spaces in front of the
Lower Falls Post Office; add 2-hour meters for the remainder of the
southerly side to a point near #2278 Washington Street (Ward 4)
- #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 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
- #206-00(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to expend \$35,000
from Hebrew College pursuant to provisions of Special Permit #66-98(3)
and a Traffic Mitigation Agreement between the City and Hebrew
College, to be used toward the cost of traffic improvements, studies or
transportation programs selected by the City for the purpose of mitigating
potential impacts of the Hebrew College project on Herrick and Langley

Roads or improving traffic and flow in the Herrick Road area. Note: #206-00, approved 6/5/00, authorized acceptance of these funds; #206-00(3), approved 6/19/00, requested implementation of accounting measures to track future expenditures; #206-00(2), the actual expenditure, was held in Committee on 6/19/00 to allow Board review of proposed mitigation measures and costs on a case-by-case basis.

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 FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

- #428-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY07-FY11 Capital Improvement Program pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter which requires Board of Aldermen approval of a plan to finance \$179,120,279 of new local projects over the next several years:

SUMMARY

PUBLIC WORKS (City-Funded)	\$ 12,544,000
PUBLIC WORKS (Grant/Fee Funded)	\$ 53,255,000
PUBLIC SAFETY.	\$ 3,910,289
PUBLIC BUILDINGS	\$ 5,420,420
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	\$ 92,415,000
PARKS AND RECREATION	\$ 8,807,410
OTHER	\$ 2,768,160
TOTAL	\$179,120,279

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 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 PROG & SERV, ZAP AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #119-06 ALD. SALVUCCI requesting revocation of the Community Preservation Act (accepted by the Board of Aldermen as item #64-01(2) on 7/9/01 and

approved by public vote at the 11/6/01 election) by vote by the Board of Aldermen and referral to the voters of Newton, pursuant to GL chapter 44B, Sec.16.

PROG. & SERV. HELD 5-0 (Sangiolo not voting) ON 3/22/06 FOR 4/19/06 PUBLIC MEETING

REFERRED TO PUB. SAFETY/TRANS. PROG.& SERVICES & FINANCE

#273-04(2) ALD. GENTILE requesting home rule legislation to reclassify the two "dedicated fire apparatus mechanic" positions from Group 1 to Group 2 in the State Retirement System.

PS&T DENIED 5-1-1 (Lennon opposed; Samuelson abstaining) on 2/8/06

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

#92-06 ALD. HESS-MAHAN AND VANCE proposing that the FY07 interest rate for real estate tax deferrals under Clause 41A be determined and set, at an interest rate lower than 8%, as authorized by Chapter 136 of the Acts of 2005; and requesting enactment of an ordinance to reflect such interest rate.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman