

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
PRESERVATION

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2006

7:00 P.M. – NOTE EARLY START

Room 222

City Hall

******ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING JOINT COMMITTEE***

MEETING:

ITEM RECOMMENDED BY FULL BOARD ON 7/10/06:

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

FINANCE APPROVED AS AMENDED @ \$30,000 5-1-1 (Gentile opposed; Parker abstaining); Chartered by Ald. Gentile on 6/19/06

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

#279-06 DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT and COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE proposing an increase in the FY07 CPA Administrative Budget from a total of \$176,326 to \$185,468 in order to implement several changes in the administration of the CPA program.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

#300-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend a total of \$39,423, received as grant funds for installation of solar panels at the Oak Hill Middle School.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#303-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$70,425 from FY07 estimated revenue for the purpose of restoring FY07 budget cuts to the Public Buildings Department building maintenance supply and outside contractor accounts.

PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 7-0 ON 9/6/06

#298-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$8,092 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of supplementing the funds that the Senior Center has available to paint the exterior of its building.

#299-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to increase the annual expenditure limit on the Department of Senior Services Senior Memorial Revolving fund to \$40,000. Donations received will enable the Senior Center to complete the Park at the Senior Center.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#301-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$25,000 from Marathon Receipts for the purpose of funding park improvements and repairs at the Charlesbank and Bowen playgrounds.
PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 5-0 ON 9/5/06

#322-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of the provisions of Chapter 55 of the Acts of 2006 and Section 3 of Chapter 64 of the Acts of 2006 (related to employee retirement benefits) to allow for an increase in the accidental death benefit for surviving children to an amount equal to the benefit provided for in MGL Chapter 32, Section 7(2)(a)(iii).

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#302-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$350,000 from FY07 Revenue for the purpose of supplementing the FY07 School Department budget. This sum represents 70% of the new state aid given to the City of Newton by the Massachusetts General Court in the final conference committee budget passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor.
PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 5-0 ON 9/5/06

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#297-06 DAVID LESCOHIER, 93 Adena Road, reappointed as a member of the Newton Taxation Aid Committee for a term to expire on May 1, 2009. (60-day Board action date: 10-13-06)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

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

- #267-06(2) ALD. PARKER, BURG, LINSKY, FISCHMAN, HESS-MAHAN, VANCE, HARNEY, JOHNSON, & DANBERG proposing an ordinance paralleling the state legislation that would require the divestiture of City of Newton funds from those companies that aid and abet the Sudanese government in its genocide.

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 (21-05.2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$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 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 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 PS&T, PF., FINANCE AND PROG. & SERV. COMMITTEES

#246-06 ALD. LINSKY, PARKER AND DANBERG requesting discussion of placement of debt exclusion questions on the November 2006 state election ballot in Newton that would ask voters whether they wish to finance repairs, renovations and improvements to Newton Fire Stations as well as other high-priority capital and infrastructure needs through debt exclusions. Said questions would be written as binding debt exclusion in accordance with the provisions of Proposition 2 ½.

REFERRED TO PUB. FAC., FINANCE AND PROG. & SERV. COMMITTEES

#247-06 ALD. PARKER, LINSKY, SANGIOLO, VANCE, MANSFIELD, DANBERG, & HARNEY proposing placement of a question on the November 2006 state election ballot in Newton that would ask voters whether they wish to finance the construction of the proposed new Newton North High School project through debt exclusion. Said question would be written as a binding debt exclusion in accordance with the provision of Proposition 2 ½.

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 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)

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
- #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.
- #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 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 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 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**

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman