

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2006

7:45 p.m.  
Room 222  
City Hall

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- #333-06(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that a total of \$21,370.13, recovered as settlement of an insurance claim, be transferred from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund in order to replenish funds previously expended from the Capital Stabilization Fund and the General Fund for costs associated with an automobile accident that damaged the electrical transformer located in front of Police Headquarters on April 2, 2006.
- #420-04(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$10,000 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of making final payment for personal injury resulting from an accident in which a City plow struck a private vehicle on January 12, 2004.
- #425-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$14,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of replacing the worn stairway carpeting in the Main Library building.
- #426-06 ALD. PARKER requesting discussion with the City Solicitor regarding the feasibility of providing Newton firefighters with a partial payment in advance of the settlement of their contract, given that they have been working without a contract for more than three years.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS 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.

*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, 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.

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

#380-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$115,289 from Free Cash for the purpose of replacing the bunker gear that firefighters wear when responding to a fire or other incident.

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

#381-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$30,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of replacing two watch desks, which control the fire station automatic house lights, apparatus overhead doors, audible fire station alerting systems, vocalarm system, traffic signal preemption, alarm transmission decoding and other functions in the stations in Fire Stations #3 and #4.

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

#206-00(4) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend \$35,000 from the Hebrew College Traffic Mitigation Fund for the purpose of a study of the traffic safety and volume issues in Newton Centre in the vicinity of Herrick Road, Braeland Avenue and Chase Street.

- #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 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%.

**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**

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

**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 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.

**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 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