

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2005

7:45 p.m.
Room 222
City Hall

NEW BUSINESS:

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

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#81-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$152,994 from Free Cash for the purpose of supplementing the snow and ice and tree emergency accounts in the Parks and Recreation Department.
PROG. & SERV. 7-0 (Fischman not voting) ON 3/9/05

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#229-04(2) TREASURER/COLLECTOR requesting that docket item #229-04 (Ord.X-86, approved 5/17/04) be amended to adjust the fee for School Drop-off Zone violations from \$35 to \$25 (the maximum fine as allowed under state law).
PS&T APPROVED 4-0 (Harney not voting) ON 3/9/05

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#250-03(3) TREASURER/COLLECTOR proposing that docket item##250-03(2) (Ord.X-96, approved 6/21/04) be amended to include a new late penalty schedule for parking fines, in accordance with state law requirements for maximum fines.
PS&T APPROVED AS AMENDED 3-0-1 (Lennon abstaining; Harney not voting) ON 3/9/05

#79-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$33,820 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of purchasing two new printers and folding machines for the Collector/Treasurer's Office.

#80-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$6,500 be transferred within the FY05 Inspectional Services operating budget in order to allow the department to pay for temp agency staff person to fill in for an employee who will be on leave this spring and to complete the transfer of files into the new filing system in the department's office.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #82-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$960,978 (\$457,856 from Free Cash/\$503,122 from Overlay Surplus) for the purpose of supplementing the snow and ice control accounts in the Public Works Department.
PUB. FACILITIES 8-0 ON 3-9-05

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

- #427-02(2) PRESIDENT BAKER requesting consideration of the recommendations of the special Blue Ribbon Commission regarding salary compensation for the Mayor.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #427-02(3) PRESIDENT BAKER requesting consideration of the recommendations of the special Blue Ribbon Commission regarding salary compensation for the Aldermen.
PROG. & SERV. APPROVED AS AMENDED 4-2-1 (Johnson, Hess-Mahan opposed; Merrill abstaining) on 3/3/05

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #427-02(4) PRESIDENT BAKER requesting consideration of the recommendations of the special Blue Ribbon Commission regarding salary compensation for the School Committee.
PROG. & SERV. APPROVED AS AMENDED 3-2-2 (Johnson, Hess-Mahan opposed; Merrill, Fischman abstaining) on 3/3/05

******ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED ON 3/28/05:***

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

ITEM RECOMMENDED TO FINANCE BY FULL BOARD ON 2/22/05:

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMM PRES & FINANCE COMMITTEE

- #32-05 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$1,000,000 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund to create ten units of low-income housing at 52-54 Wyman Street, Waban.
CMTE ON COMM PRES APPROVED 7-0 ON 1/25/05
FINANCE APPROVED 6-0 (Gentile not voting) on 2/14/05

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMM PRES & FINANCE COMMITTEE

- #31-05 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$550,000 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund to create four units of low-income housing at 20-22 Falmouth Road, West Newton and 163 Jackson Road, Newton Corner.
CMTE. ON COMM PRES APPROVED 7-0 ON 1/25/05

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

- #39-05 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$257,395 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for purposes of the preservation and restoration of Phase II (year 2) of the Historic Burying Grounds Project.
CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 5-0-2 (Vance, Parker abstaining; Linsky not voting) on 3/1/05

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

- #40-05 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$64,000 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for purposes of funding the Wellington Park Improvement Project.
CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 7-0 (Lennon not voting) on 3/1/05

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

- #68-05 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$271,210 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for purposes of creating The Park at the Newton Senior Center.
CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 7-0-1 (Sangiolo abstaining) on 3/1/05

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

- #69-05 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$41,000 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for the purpose of providing additional funding for the Newton Corner Library Restoration Project.
CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 8-0 ON 3/1/05

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

- #392-04(3) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR proposing a draft ordinance to create the structure under which the Angino Farm Property will operate.
CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. HELD 8-0; REFERRED TO SUBCOMMITTEE ON 3/1/05

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

#64-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$122,224 for the purpose of paying retroactive overtime payments owed to Police Department staff as calculated under the rules of the FLSA. These rules differ in certain key aspects from the City of Newton's overtime policies. In some cases, they require the City to pay more than it would otherwise under the overtime provisions of our collective bargaining agreements and, in other cases, less. The funding source for this appropriation will be \$95,065 from Water Surplus and \$27,159 from Salary Reserve.

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

#130-04(2) COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$50,000 that was appropriated through Board Order #130-04, pertaining to the Houghton Garden Fence Project, be converted to a grant (with no repayment).
CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. HELD 4-3 (Vance, Lappin, Yates opposed; Lennon not voting) on 3/1/05

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#38-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization of debt issuance in the amount of \$12,930,095, through a zero interest loan program sponsored by the MWRA to fund rehabilitation of the City's water mains.

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

#518-03 ALD. STEWART recommending the creation of a task force to study and report to the Mayor, Board of Aldermen and School Committee on the policies and criteria that should be used in imposing fees for various kinds of city services.

REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#503-03 ALD. PARKER AND STEWART requesting discussion of the possibility of including drug re-importation from Canada in City of Newton health plans, as pioneered by the City of Springfield, MA.

- #37-05 ALD. PARKER AND COMPTROLLER requesting review and discussion of the June 30, 2004 independent auditor Management Letter recommendations.

REFERRED TO PUB. FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #202-04 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$273,050 from the Capital Stabilization fund for the purpose of replacing windows at the Pierce Elementary School.

PUB FAC HELD 7-0 (Salvucci not voting) ON 4/7/04

FINANCE HELD ON 4/12/04

REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #548-03 ALD. GENTILE, SALVUCCI AND LENNON requesting discussion and possible City acceptance of Chapter 137 of the Acts of 2003, an Act relative to public employees serving in the armed forces. If accepted, city employees who have been granted a military leave of absence as members of the armed forces called to service after September 11, 2001 will be entitled to receive pay at regular base salary and will not lose any seniority or any accrued vacation leave, sick leave, personal leave, compensation time or earned overtime.

PROG. & SERV. HELD 5-0 ON 3/17/04

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

- #369-03 ALD. SANGIOLO requesting a presentation of the findings and results of the *Newton North Feasibility Study* to the Board of Aldermen in a public forum to allow a greater number of the public to hear the presentation and offer public comment.

REFERRED TO PUB. SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #250-03 ALD. JOHNSON, SAMUELSON AND SANGIOLO requesting amendments to Chapter 19 Sections 8 and 9 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Newton to increase the fines for traffic and parking violations.

PS&T HELD ON 4/7/04

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #432-02 ALD. PARKER, JOHNSON, LINSKY, LIPSITT, LAPPIN, BAKER requesting ordinance change and home rule legislation to implement a policy of indexing automobile excise tax to emissions and/or fuel economy, so low-pollution vehicles have lower taxes than those that pollute more.

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.

#429-02 ALD. PARKER requesting progress report from Treasurer/Collector on addressing Management Letter audit issues.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND 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.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#135-01 ALD. M. LIPOF offering a resolution urging His Honor the Mayor to hire an independent auditor to oversee and report monthly through the Mayor to the Board of Aldermen for the duration of the construction and renovations to the high schools.

#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, which funds will 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. (ITEM HELD IN COMMITTEE AT 6/19/00 FULL BOARD)

#33-01 ALD. YATES proposing an ordinance to establish a special assessment policy for the substantial rehabilitation of owner-occupied residential properties listed in the State Register of Historic Places (Sec. 5J. of MGL Chapter 59).

#128-98 ALD. PARKER, SANGIOLO, MERRILL, MANSFIELD requesting an adjustment to the water and sewer rate structure to allow rate relief for low-volume water and sewer users.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chair