

CITY OF NEWTON
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA
MONDAY, JULY 18, 2005

7:45 p.m.
Room 222
City Hall

NEW BUSINESS:

******FIRST CALL ITEMS (SEE ATTACHED MEMO FROM COMPTROLLER):***

- #248-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of \$18,493 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of funding payments to the East Middlesex Mosquito Control District to conduct mosquito larva control in catch basins to control the spread of West Nile Virus.
- #249-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of \$33,571 from Salary Reserve to fund the cost items set forth in the labor contract agreed upon with the Professional members of the Engineering Division.
- #253-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting a transfer of funds in the amount of \$4,646.37 from Newton Free Library Electricity account to the Accumulated Special Leave account to pay the accumulated special leave of an employee who retired at the end of the fiscal year.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #254-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of \$38,029 to staff the reference desk on Sundays and to purchase supplemental reference materials to enable the Newton Free Library to fulfill its duties as a Regional Reference Provider

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

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES & FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #232-05 CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE requesting an amendment to Section 4-21 of the City of Newton Ordinances, 2001, to reflect an adjustment of salary for the City Clerk/Clerk of the Board to mirror retroactive adjustments given to all Hay Grade employees from July 1, 2004 to July 1, 2006.
PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 6-0 ON 7/13/05

#250-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to expend a grant of \$10,000, awarded to the Mayor's Office for Cultural Affairs, the Newton History Museum at the Jackson Homestead, and Discover Newton ARTS, to fund a program to promote tourism in Newton.

#252-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of \$14,406 from proceeds reserved for charitable purposes by the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course in calendar year 2004 to Newton Pride.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES & FINANCE COMMITTEES

#233-05 COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS recommending that Sec. 26-31, of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Newton, 2001, be amended by deleting the \$25 application fee plus an additional \$10 fee pertaining to the number of boxes and inserting a fee of \$50 per box.

PUB FAC APPROVED AS AMENDED 6-0 ON 6/22/05

#251-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend \$16,000 from the Parking Receipts Reserved Fund for the purpose of funding repairs or replacement of city-owned light poles that have been knocked down by motorists.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES & FINANCE COMMITTEES

#231-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend \$55,000 (\$30,000 for Fibar and \$25,000 for equipment) from Marathon Receipts for the purpose of funding park improvements and repairs at Hunnewell Park and Cabot Park.

PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 4-0 (Johnson, Baker not voting) on 7/13/05

#229-05 MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION seeking Board of Aldermen approval of a RESOLUTION in support of House Bill 2408 that would close the telecommunications property tax loophole and eliminate the unfair exemption in out-dated property tax statutes.

#230-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to accept and appropriate a grant in the amount of \$20,237 from a National historical Publications and Records Commission grant for the purpose of completing the cataloguing of the city archival collection held by the City Clerk.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#247-05 LINDA HILLER, 41 Bound Brook Road, Newton Highlands, re-appointed as a Resident Representative member of the NEWTON TAXATION AID COMMITTEE, for a 3-year term to expire on May 1, 2008 (60 days 9/9/05).

*****ITEM NOT SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:**

PUBLIC HEARING ASSIGNED FOR 7/13/05:

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#238-05 WENDY KIMMEL, et al., filing on 6/20/05 a group petition pursuant to Section 10-2 of the City Charter for a public hearing for the purpose of capping the cost of the Newton South High School project at the "revised current budget" of \$59,305,020.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

REFERRED TO CMTE ON COMM PRES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

#182-05(2) COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$1600 for reimbursement to the Law Department for legal services rendered in connection with the Gath Pool Accessibility Enhancements.
CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 5-1 (Parker opposed) on 6-28-05

REFERRED TO CMTE ON COMM PRES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

#183-05(2) COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$650 for reimbursement to the Law Department for services rendered in regard to the funding of City Hall and War Memorial Historic Landscape Design project.
CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 5-1 (Parker opposed) on 6-28-05

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

#207-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to expend the sum of \$6,010.44 from Lottery Receipts in order that the Fire Department may pay an invoice from a prior fiscal year from the Triumvirate Company for disposal of hazardous materials.

#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 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.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #134-05 CITIZEN'S PETITION, Newton North Ballot Committee of the Newton Taxpayers Assoc., Samuel Robbins, 300 Prince Street, W. Newton submitting a petition pursuant to Section 10-2 of the City Charter, which contains approximately 73 signatures validated by the Newton Election Commission requesting the Board of Aldermen to hold a Public Hearing which seeks the passage of the following measure:
"The total cost of renovating and expanding Newton North High School shall be limited to \$65 million including reimbursements. Cost increases due to inflation, as reported by the Consumer Price Index of the U.S. Department of Labor, will be allowed."

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

- #112-05 ALD. LAPPIN requesting discussion of policy guidelines/conditions for the approval of CPA projects involving matching grants in the event that the grants are not obtained.
CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. NAN 8-0 ON 3/29/05

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

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.
PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 5-0 ON 3/23/05

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

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

#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.

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 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 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.

PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 6-0 on 6/16/04

#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.

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 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 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.
- #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)

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.
- #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).

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chair