

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2005

7:00 p.m. – NOTE EARLY START

Room 222

City Hall

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE: *The Committee will convene early this evening in order to hold joint Committee discussion with the Committee on Community Preservation on item #305-05, which is not admitting of delay. It is expected that the joint Committee discussion will end in time for the Finance Committee to discuss its regular business items beginning at 7:45 p.m.*

NEW BUSINESS:

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

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

- #305-05 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$55,700 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for purposes of funding the additional work of a replacement slate roof for the Newton Corner Library historic preservation project at 124 Vernon Street.
- #302-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting establishment of a revolving gift account for the ActivateNewton! Campaign to promote healthy eating and active living. Said account will be administered by the Health and Human Services Department and it is requested that there be a \$10,000 annual expenditure limit.
- #303-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the sum of \$4,608, received as grant funds from Springwell to the Health and Human Services Department for providing counseling, information and materials to senior residents of Newton about the safe use of medications.
- #304-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$1,691 be appropriated from the Cable Franchise Receipts Fund for the purpose of funding the attendance of Theresa Park (Planning Department Telecommunications Specialist) at the National Associations of Telecommunications Officers Advisors conference in Washington D.C. from 9/22-9/25.

- #232-05(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$8,153 from the Wage Reserve account for the purpose of providing sufficient funds to implement the City Clerk/Clerk of the Board salary adjustment (as approved on 8/8/05).

REFERRED TO PS&T, FINANCE, & PROG. & SERVICES COMMITTEES

- #281-05 ALD. PARKER on behalf of NEAL FLEISHER et al requesting that the Board of Aldermen place a question on the November 8, 2005 municipal election ballot to override proposition 2 1/2 for the purpose of restoring firefighter positions to the City of Newton operating budget such that fire engine 6 can be made operational for a total of 7 engine companies.
PROG. & SERV. MOTION TO APPROVE FAILS TO CARRY 2-4 (Baker, Hess-Mahan, Fischman, Merrill opposed; Coletti, Sangiolo not voting) ON 9/7/05
PS&T MOTION TO APPROVE FAILS TO CARRY 3-4 (Lennon, Gentile, Lipof, Samuelson opposed) ON 9/7/05

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

- #283-05 ALD. PARKER requesting that the city adopt §19 of MGL 32B to allow retiree coalition bargaining of health care benefits.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

******ITEM TO BE DISCUSSED:***

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

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

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

- #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 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 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.

- #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 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

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

- #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
- #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