

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2005

7:45 p.m.
Room 222
City Hall

NEW BUSINESS:

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

- #372-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$98,085 from Salary Reserve in order to fund the cost items set forth in the labor contract agreed upon with the Massachusetts Nurses Association.
- #373-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$70,288 from Salary Reserve in order to fund the cost items set forth in the labor contract agreed upon with the AFSCME Local 2913 (Newton Police School Traffic Supervisors, including Parking Control Officers) union.
- #374-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$7,500 from Water Surplus for the purpose of settling a claim against the City made by Stearns Place Park, relating to a dispute over the cost and timeliness of notification by the City of a requirement that the owner of Stearns Park Place install a meter pit.
- #375-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$10,000 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of settling a claim against the City related to flooding of properties along Quinobequin Road from storm drain pipes.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #377-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$107,748 from Free Cash for the purpose of replacing the bunker gear that firefighters wear when responding to a fire or other incident.
PUB. SAFETY/TRANS. APPROVED 6-0 ON 11/09/05

REFERRED TO PUB. FAC., PS&T. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #378-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of
(314-05) \$150,000 from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of making repairs and renovations to various firehouses within the City of Newton.
PUB. FAC. APPROVED 6-0 (Gerst not voting) ON 11/09/05
PUB. SAFETY/TRANS. APPROVED 6-0 ON 11/09/05

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #379-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$26,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of making repairs to the Burr Park Field House, which was damaged during the October 25, 2005 wind storm when a tree fell on it.
PUB. FAC. APPROVED 6-0 (Gerst not voting) ON 11/09/05

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #376-05 PRES. BAKER, ALD. COLETTI AND JOHNSON requesting an amendment to Section 4-21 of the City of Newton Ordinances, 2001, to set the salary for the new City Clerk/Clerk of the Board.
PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 7-0 ON 11/09/05

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

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.
PUB. FACILITIES DENIED 3-0-3 (Mansfield, Albright, Yates not abstaining) on 11/9/05

******ITEMS 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.
- #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.

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).

- #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.
PUB. FACILITIES DENIED 3-0-3 (Mansfield, Albright, Yates not abstaining) on 11/9/05

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."

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

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

#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 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. 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. APPROVED 6-0 ON 4/20/05

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chair

FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

Monday, November 14, 2005

Page 6