

CITY OF NEWTON
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA
MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2004

7:45 p.m.
Room 222
City Hall:

NEW BUSINESS:

******Items to be discussed***

FIRST CALL ITEMS:

- #67-04 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the sum of \$18,000, received as a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to the Newton Health Department for support of emergency preparedness activities.
- #70-04 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the sum of \$3,500, received as a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to the Newton Fire Department to cover expenses associated with training using the new mobile decontamination unit that the City received in a prior grant.

SECOND CALL ITEMS:

- #73-04 PRES. BAKER, and ALD. SANGIOLO AND COLETTI submitting re-appointment of DAVID C. WILKINSON as Comptroller of Accounts for the City of Newton; said term will be two years or until a successor is duly qualified.
- #74-04 PRES. BAKER re-appointing ALD. ANTHONY SALVUCCI to the Board of Trustees of the Board of Aldermen Scholarship fund, representing wards 1-4; said term to expire 12/31/05.
- #75-04 PRES. BAKER re-appointing ALD. PAUL COLETTI to the Board of Trustees of the Board of Aldermen Scholarship Fund, representing wards 5-8; said term to expire on 12/31/05.
- #76-04 PRES. BAKER re-appointing ALD. BRIAN YATES to the Board of Trustees of the Emerson Community Center Trust; said term to expire on 12/31/05.

- #71-04 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$15,940 from Salary Reserve in order to fund the cost items set forth in the labor contract agreed upon with the Professional Members of the Engineering Division of DPW.
- #68-04 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$50,000 be appropriated from the Sewer Surplus fund for the purpose of funding a settlement of the last claim against the City arising from a sewerage backup at the failed Quinobequin Pumping Station.
- #69-04 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$17,500 from Water Surplus for the purpose of funding a settlement of the final claim (Brunell property, 52 June Lane) against the City arising from flooding caused when a City employee struck a water pipe valve during an excavation
- #72-04 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$17,850 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of making repairs to Engine 7 in the Fire Department.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

REFERRED TO PUB. SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #38-04 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$501,867 from Budget Reserve in order to supplement the Fire Department budget to cover overtime costs.
PS&T APPROVED 5-0 0N 1/21/04

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #37-04 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$62,925 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of funding the costs of a special election to fill the vacancy for Alderman-at-Large in Ward 6.
Note: Election Commission suggests that the special election would take place on Tuesday, May 4, 2004.
PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 3-0-3 (Sangiolo, Johnson, Coletti abstaining; Parker not voting) ON 1/7/04

REFERRED TO ALL COMMITTEES

- #15-04 ALD. BAKER requesting discussion and planning of upcoming committee agendas, process, future work, and how to streamline committee work on minor or routine approvals in order to allow time to focus on more major or non-routine matters.

****ITEM TO BE DISCUSSED ON 2/9/04:**

REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#295-99 ALD. GENTILE, COLETTI AND SALVUCCI, requesting an ordinance that would require any proposed settlement, which would include any funds from the Liability Trust Fund, must be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Aldermen.

PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 7-0 ON 1/21/04

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

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.

#380-02 ALD. YATES proposing that the City of Newton exercise the new option offered by Ch.184 and Ch.51 of the Acts of 2002 to adjust the age, income and asset requirements seniors must meet to qualify for tax exemption under Ch.59 and Ch.51 (41C) and the amount of the exemption granted to eligible seniors.

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

#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)

#120-98 ALD. PARKER AND COMPTROLLER recommending the appointment of a special subcommittee of the Board to work with the Comptroller in developing a summary level financial report for public information.

#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).

#239-02 ALD. LENNON requesting a discussion with appropriate personnel regarding the process for appealing parking tickets.

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

#94-03(4) ALD. PARKER requesting His Honor the Mayor submit Home Rule Legislation to create a separate rate structure for water and sewer rates for condominiums and apartments.

#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.

#397-03 KPMG AND COMPTROLLER submitting status report on completion of the financial audit for the City's fiscal year ending 6/30/03.

#241-02 ALD. PARKER, GERST, LINSKY, MANSFIELD, CICCONE, LIPSITT requesting discussion of City policy with respect to city-owned vehicles, in particular, the use of such vehicles during non-working hours.

#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. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#311-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR recommending the creation of a revolving fund with an expenditure limit of up to sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000). Said fund will be established in accordance with MGL Ch.44, Sec.53 ½. This fund will receive student parking fees and expenditures will pay the wages of campus aides and administrative salaries for the parking program.

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEES

- #420-02 ALD. PARKER, GERST, LINSKY JOHNSON, STEWART, LAPPIN, BRYSON & LENNON requesting local acceptance and ordinance to implement recent 41A revisions allowing expansion of tax deferral program.

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.

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 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.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #519-03 ALD. SANGIOLO requesting a discussion and possible ordinance amendment to Sec. 29-36 "Rates, schedule" and 29-80 "Sewer use charge" of the City of Newton Revised Ordinances, 2001 regarding water and sewer rates for condominiums.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #94-03(3) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR proposing Sec. 29-36(a) and Sec. 29-80(b) of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Newton, 2001 be amended to include language and a definition for single meter/multi-residence water and sewer rates.

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

- #258-02 PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE requesting discussion of feasibility and appropriateness of more progressive water/sewer rates.

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.

REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #426-03 DAVID DONAHUE, GINNY GARDNER, ROBERT ANTONELLIS requesting His Honor the Mayor, appropriate 1.2 million dollars from free cash to the School Department for the purpose of eliminating all user fees, i.e. sports, bus, parking.

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

- # 34-03 ALD. COLETTI requesting discussion with Executive Department and Fire Department relative to street light maintenance contract with Wellesley Power and Light with the possibility transferring this function to of the Fire Department's Wire Group.
- #69-03 VINCENT FILIPPONE requesting that there be a requirement that all parking ticket appeal hearings be tape-recorded.

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.

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

#549-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY05-FY09 Capital Improvement Program pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter which requires Board of Aldermen approval of a plan to finance \$170,899,860 of new local projects over the next several years:

SUMMARY

PUBLIC WORKS (City-Funded).....	\$ 8,075,000
PUBLIC WORKS (Grant/Fee Funded).....	\$ 54,256,057
PUBLIC SAFETY.....	\$ 4,611,000
PUBLIC BUILDINGS.....	\$ 4,555,750
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.....	\$ 89,293,029
PARKS AND RECREATION.....	\$ 8,143,500
OTHER.....	\$ 1,965,524
TOTAL.....	\$170,899,860

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chair