

CITY OF NEWTON  
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA  
MONDAY, MAY 24, 2004

7:45 p.m.  
Room 222  
City Hall

**NEW BUSINESS:**

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

Re-Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#248-04      ELIZABETH DROMEY, 15 Horace Road, Belmont, Re-appointed to the Board of Assessors for a term expiring February 1, 2007.  
(60-day Board action date; 7/16/04)

#250-04      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, requesting that the sum of \$3,366 be transferred within the FY04 City Clerk/Clerk of the Board operating budget in order to fund the purchase of a new public microphone for the Aldermanic Chamber as well as four digital audio recorders and appropriate equipment to be used for recording Board of Aldermen and Committee meetings.

#251-04      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$10,691 be transferred within the FY04 City Clerk/Clerk of the Board operating budget in order to fund the purchase of new Computers, related equipment and licenses to be used by the Clerk of the Board staff. The PCs currently used by Board staff will be transferred as computer upgrades to be used by the four City Clerk staff members.

#252-04      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$2,475 be transferred within the FY04 Purchasing Department operating budget in order to provide ample funding for the department to continue to pay the temp agency employee who covers the Mail Clerk function for the remainder of this fiscal year.

#253-04      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$44,938 be appropriated from the Capital Stabilization Fund (\$34,598), Water Surplus (\$4,900), and Sewer Surplus (\$4,900) for the purpose of purchasing one Canon imageRUNNER 105 Black and White copier for the City Hall Print Shop. This machine will replace the current printing press, which has become obsolete and unreliable.

**REFERRED TO PUB. FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #258-04      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$86,625 be appropriated from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of making emergency repairs to the Newton Free Library main branch cooling towers.  
**PUB FAC APPROVED 5-0 ON 5/19/04**

**REFERRED TO PUB. FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #258-04(2)      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, in accordance with Section 2-9 of the Newton City Charter, declaring docket item #258-04 to be an emergency measure, necessary to protect the health and safety of the people and property of the City of Newton.  
**PUB FAC APPROVED 5-0 ON 5/19/04**

**REFERRED TO PUB. FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #268-00(6)      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting issuance of long term debt in the amount of \$2,120,000 for the purpose of completing construction and renovation of Newton South High School. These funds are necessary to cover unanticipated costs associated with the project.  
**PUB FAC APPROVED 5-0 ON 5/19/04**

**REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #255-04      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$45,745 be appropriated from E-rate reimbursement funds for the purpose of purchasing elementary school computers.  
**PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 8-0 ON 5/19/04**

**REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #256-04      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$82,800 be appropriated from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of purchasing 92 Personal Computers for the School Department.  
**PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 7-0-1 (Sangiolo abstaining) on 5/19/04**

**REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #257-04      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$400,000 be appropriated from Free Cash for the purpose of supplementing the School Department FY04 budget in order to make up a shortfall in state aid in the special education accounts.  
**PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 8-0 ON 5/19/04**
- #254-04      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$2,025 be transferred from the Massachusetts Historical Commission reimbursement account to the Planning Department Temporary Wages account for the purpose of hiring a part-time historical preservation intern to assist the Preservation Planner with several projects.
- #249-04      IRVING FRED KOFFMAN, Constable for the City of Newton, submitting annual Constable Bond in the surety amount of \$5,000, pursuant to MGL Ch.41, Sec.92 and 93.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

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

**REFERRED TO PUB. FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #201-04      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$50,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund Bonded account for the purpose of remodeling portions of the Newton Senior Center.  
**PUB FAC APPROVED 5-0 ON 5/19/04**

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

- #203-04(2)      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$65,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding the following Public Buildings Department projects:  
                    Police Dispatch Ctr. Improvements.....\$65,000  
**PS&T APPROVED 5-0 (Gentile not voting) on 5/19/04**  
**PUB FAC APPROVED 5-0 ON 5/19/04**

**REFERRED TO PUB. FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #203-04      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$135,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding the following Public Buildings Department projects:  
                    Boiler Repl.; Pub. Bldgs. Dept.....\$35,000  
                    Replacement of Utility Van.....\$25,000  
                    UST and Veeter Root Sys. Repair/Repl.....\$75,000  
**PUB FAC APPROVED 7-0 ON 4/21/04**

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

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

**REFERRED TO PUB. FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#202-04 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$150,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of replacing windows at the Pierce Elementary School.

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

**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.

**PS&T HELD ON 4/7/04**

**REFERRED TO PUB.SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#250-03(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR proposing Ordinance amendment to allow for increases in fines for violations of parking ordinances, in accordance with the recommendations of the Public Safety/Transportation Committee and the Police Chief.

**PS&T APPROVED AS AMENDED ON 4/7/04 (SEE REPORT)**

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#161-04 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR proposing Ordinance amendment to provide for new water and sewer rates structure for condominium units and apartments to be billed on par with single family homes.

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

**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**

- #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).

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #128-04 ALD. SALVUCCI proposing revocation of the Community Preservation Act to be effective after the completion of the five-year term, as provided in MGL Ch. 44B, Sec.16.  
**PROG. & SERV. NAN ON 4/7/04 (SEE REPORT)**

**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 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.
- #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 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.

#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 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 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**

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

#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 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.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chair