

CITY OF NEWTON  
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA  
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2003

7:45 p.m.  
Room 222  
City Hall

**NEW BUSINESS:**

***ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:***

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#56-03      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$518,007 for the purpose of supplementing the Department of Public Works control of snow and ice budget:

FROM:      Budget Reserve.....\$400,000  
                 Free Cash.....\$118,007

TO:            Various DPW accounts.....\$518,007  
                 (See Mayor's letter dated 1/15/03)

**PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 6-0 ON 1/22/03**

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

#57-03      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$206,826 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of funding current and future snow and ice and tree emergency expenses in the Parks and Recreation Department.

**PROGRAMS & SERVICES APPROVED 5-0 (GENTILE, COLETTI NOT VOTING) ON 1/22/03**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

***ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:***

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

#163-02      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR proposing a reorganization of ARTICLE VI., the City Physician, sections 2-241-2-247 of the City of Newton Revised Ordinances, 2001.

**PROGRAMS & SERVICES APPROVED ON 10/9/02**

# 31-03      ALD. COLETTI requesting discussion regarding current vacancies in all municipal departments and status of those jobs as FY'04 budget is prepared.

**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.
- #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.
- #214-02 ALD. STEWART requesting that the Board of Aldermen and His Honor the Mayor create a "Senior Tax Assistance Study Commission."

***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 provision enforced by the Conservation Commission.
- #276-01(A) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$110,000 be appropriated from Overlay Surplus and that the sum of \$95,000 be appropriated from the Capital Stabilization Fund in order to fund the following capital project:

Department	Project	Cost
(a) Conservation Commission	Marty Sender Path	\$5,000

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

- #503-02 MAYOR COHEN AND PRESIDENT LIPSITT requesting RESOLUTION of support for expenditure of up to \$50,000 to complete work of the Newton North Citizens Task Force. Source to be funds previously authorized for the high school renovation project.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- # 32-03 ALD. COLETTI requesting discussion of status of Executive Department's negotiations regarding AT&T and RCN Cable Franchise Renewals and institutional network status as well as proposed City of Newton Fiber Optic Project.

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

- # 33-03 ALD. COLETTI requesting discussion with representatives of the School Department and Superintendent of Schools regarding lease vs. purchase options for technology equipment to develop a policy for acquisition of computers and technology for schools.

**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.
- 483-02 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$181,090.62 from the RCN gift fund (received pursuant to its franchise agreement with the City of Newton). Said funds are to be expended through the Planning Department in the form of a grant to the NCAC for the promotion of public, educational, and governmental access programming and for other cable-related purposes.
- #429-02 ALD. PARKER requesting progress report from Treasurer/Collector on addressing Management Letter audit issues.

**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 PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #485-02 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$64,947 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of funding construction of a customer service center in the northeast alcove of the City Hall rotunda.

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

- #157-02 ALD. BULLWINKLE requesting approval of Home Rule Petition that would waive the annual earned income limitations under M.G.L. chapter 32, the public employees retirement law, as applied to retired police officer Allan L. Ciccone of 105 Fair Oaks Avenue.

#248-02      ALD. SALVUCCI asking the Board of Aldermen request that His Honor the Mayor consider accepting Chapter 116 of the Acts of 2002, the "Early Retirement Incentive Bill."

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES**

#124-02(11)    HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY04-FY08 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, pursuant to Section 5-3 of the NEWTON CITY CHARTER, which requires Board of Aldermen approval of a plan to finance new local capital projects totaling \$160,847,242 over the next several years:

SUMMARY	
PUBLIC WORKS (GRANT/FEE FUNDED) .....	\$ 58,022,114
PUBLIC WORKS (CITY FUNDED).....	\$5,820,000
PUBLIC SAFETY .....	\$3,349,000
PUBLIC BUILDINGS.....	\$3,941,400
PUBLIC EDUCATION .....	\$80,156,728
PARKS & RECREATION .....	\$7,479,000
OTHER .....	\$2,079,000
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$160,847,242</b>

#477-97      ALD. SAMUELSON, LIPSITT, PARKER AND COHEN requesting that the Board of Aldermen explore the ways that the City of Newton could provide an umbrella organization that residents could join in order to obtain group health benefits (i.e. self-employed, individual insurance, etc.)

#350-98      ALD. CICCONE requesting discussion regarding the demand for (vs. the current number of) Constables in Newton, and the possibility of creating an ordinance to require Police background checks on each Constable candidate prior to his/her appointment/reappointment.  
NOTE: #350-98(2) RESOL. TO MAYOR REQUESTING POLICY FOR APPOINTMENTS APPROVED BY COMMITTEE ON 9/28/98 AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN ON 10/5/98.

#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.

#233-01(2)    ALD. COLETTI respectfully requesting investigation, under Sec. 2-11 of the Newton City Charter, of the circumstances surrounding acceptance of gift and subsequent naming of the proposed Millennium Park and other matters pertaining to Mr. Salvatore Balsamo.

- #158-00      ALD. COLETTI requesting review and discussion of the fifteen items identified in the Powers & Sullivan management letter of December, 1999, including actions taken thus far and the city's status as it prepares for the next financial audit.
- #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)
- #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.
- #96-01(2)      PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting discussion of the budget deficit in the School Department.
- #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.
- #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.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #20-96      ALD. CICCONE requesting discussion with the Director of Utilities regarding the re-implementation of the use of sprinkler/garden meters to measure outside water use for all residences city-wide. Item recommitted by full board on 4/5/99
- #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.
- #309-01      ALD. PARKER requesting increase in the income eligibility level of the 30% water/sewer discount for low-income senior citizens.

**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**

- #478-99      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend \$5,400,000, which funding will be long term debt as authorized by MGL Chapter 44, Section 8(7)(a), for the purpose of replacing water meters throughout the City.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman