

CITY OF NEWTON
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2003

7:45 p.m.
Room 222
City Hall

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#246-03 BERNARD J. GOULDING, 80 Brookside Avenue, Newtonville, re-appointed as a CONSTABLE for the City of Newton. Said term of office to expire on July 1, 2006.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#221-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$24,206 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of funding payments to the East Middlesex Mosquito Control District to conduct mosquito larva control in catch basins in order to control the spread of West Nile Virus.
PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 7-0 ON 6/4/03

#247-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$19,753.42 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of settling a claim against the City of Newton as a result of an accident between a private vehicle and a City truck.

#248-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the following transfer of funds from within the Law Department operating budget be made in order to pay a temporary increase in work hours of a part-time employee:

FROM: Printing	
0110801-5342.....	\$6,500
TO: Administrative Salaries	
0110801-511001.....	\$6,500

#249-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$13,000 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the legal assistance budget of the Law Department for legal services of private law firms employed by the City.

- #219-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$100,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of adding funds to the Municipal Liability Self-Insurance Fund. The fund is currently at \$182,592.
- #218-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$15,200 from Free Cash for the purpose of purchasing computer hardware for various departments.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANS AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #254-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting a transfer of funds in the amount of \$80,500 to replace the Police Department's stock of nine millimeter pistols with 40 caliber Glock pistols as follows:

FROM: 0120101 5141	\$8,245.00
0120103 514304	\$3,000.00
0120104 514304	2,400.00
0120105 511501	<u>\$66,929.28</u>
TOTAL	\$80,574.68
TO: 584004 Public Safety Equipment	\$80,500.00

PS&T APPROVED 3-0-2 (Samuelson, Baker abstaining) ON 6/4/03

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #251-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the following transfer of funds from within the Public Works Department operating budget be made in order to correct a misestimate and allow the department to pay its outstanding contractor invoices:

FROM: Snow and Ice Overtime	
0140110-5130	\$35,000
TO: Rental Vehicles and Equipment	
0140110-5273	\$35,000

PUBFAC APPROVED 7-0 (Yates not voting) on 6/4/03

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #226-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$2,261,700 for the purpose of funding infiltration/inflow projects in the City sewer system. The sources of funding will be debt (\$1,244,039) and a grant of \$1,017,850 provided through the MWRA Infiltration/Inflow Local Financial Assistance Program. This is a grant/loan program under which the City receives a grant of 45% of the total proceeds and 55% in interest-free loans.

PUB. FACILITIES APPROVED 5-0 (Gerst not voting) ON 5/21/03

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#220-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR recommending that Department of Public Works fees be increased to more accurately reflect the City's cost of providing services. The increased revenue from these fees is to be part of the FY04 revenue estimates prepared by the Chief Budget Officer.
PUBFAC APPROVED 6-0 ON 5/21/03

#220-03(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR recommending that Department of Public Works fees for sewer back-ups be increased to more accurately reflect the City's cost of providing services. The increased revenue from these fees is to be part of the FY04 revenue estimates prepared by the Chief Budget Officer.
PUBFAC APPROVED 5-1 (Salvucci Opposed) ON 5/21/03

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#252-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the following transfer of funds from within the Public Works Department operating budget to be made in order to replace six plows that have been damaged or have worn out:

FROM:	Snow and Ice Overtime	
	0140110-5130.....	\$29,000
	Snow Plow Damage	
	0140110 5783	\$8,000
	Salt and Sand	
	0140110-5532.....	\$5,700
	Parts and Lube	
	0140110-5484.....	\$1,500
TO:	Construction Equipment	
	0140110-58502.....	\$44,200

PUBFAC APPROVED 7-0 (Yates not voting) on 6/4/03

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#222-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$25,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding lighting upgrades at various school buildings. These funds constitute the City's matching funds to the NStar donation for the continuation of a program in which the utility company pays between 50% and 80% of the cost of new energy efficient light fixtures.

PUBFAC APPROVED 5-0 (Gerst not voting) on 5/21/03

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #223-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$55,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of funding repairs to lavatories in various school buildings (specifically at the Day and Brown Middle Schools).
PUB. FACILITIES APPROVED 5-0 (Gerst not voting) ON 5/21/03

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #224-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$93,179 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding several environmental clean-up and compliance projects.
PUB. FACILITIES APPROVED 5-0 (Gerst not voting) ON 5/21/03

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #225-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$77,236 from Free Cash for the purpose of making improvements to the entrance of the Police Department Annex building (25 Chestnut Street) in order to make it handicapped accessible. This appropriation will be augmented by CDBG funds.
PUB. FACILITIES APPROVED 5-0 (Gerst not voting) ON 5/21/03

- #216-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the sum of \$3,000, received as a grant from the Charles River District Medical Society for the purpose of creating a grant program through the Human Services Department to provide subsidies for the prescription drug costs of low-income residents of Newton.

- #217-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$3,938 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the salary account of the Inspectional Services department. These funds are necessary in order to retain a temporary clerk to fill in while one of the administrative employees of the department is out on unanticipated medical leave.

ITEMS NOT TO BE DISCUSSED:

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 PROG&SERV, PUB. FACILITIES & FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #253-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting a RESOLUTION from the Board of Aldermen supporting the expenditure of up to \$100,000 from the proceeds of the bond authorization for Newton North High School to pay for professional services the School Committee will need to analyze the Newton North High School Task Force recommendation for renovating Newton North High School.
PUBFAC APPROVED 5-0-3 (Linsky, Gerst, Yates abstaining) on 6/4/03

PUBLIC HEARING ASSIGNED FOR JUNE 18, 2003

REFERRED TO PUB. FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #168-03(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting proposed FY04 Water/Sewer rates for Board of Aldermen approval.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ITEMS NOT YET SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

- # 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.
PROG. & SERV. NAN 7-0 ON 3/5/03

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #199-03 ALD. STEWART recommending a change in water and sewer billing policy that will result in individual rental units being billed on a par with single family homes.
- #69-03 VINCENT FILIPPONE requesting that there be a requirement that all parking ticket appeal hearings be tape-recorded.
- #92-03 STUART JOHNSON on behalf of MONTE J. WALLACE and ANNE H. WALLACE, Trs., requesting abatement of sewer betterment assessment for 256 CHESTNUT HILL ROAD, 02467 in the amount of \$7,198.43.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #94-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting Board of Aldermen support of a RESOLUTION affirming a change in water and sewer billing policy that will result in individual condominium units being billed on par with single family homes.

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."

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #66-03 ALD. SANGIOLO requesting discussion on a different water rate structure for condominium owners.
PUBFAC NAN 7-0 ON 4/23/03

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.
- #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 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.
PUB. FACILITIES HELD 7-0 ON 2/5/03
- #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.
PROG. & SERV. NAN 5-0 (Coletti not voting) on 4/23/03
- #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."
- #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.)
- #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.
- #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.

- #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)
- #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.
- #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.
- #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.
- #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