

CITY OF NEWTON
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2003

7:45 p.m.
Room 222
City Hall

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

- #422-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$10,000 be appropriated from funds paid to the City from cable companies for the purpose of supplementing the Law Department salary accounts. This appropriation will allow the Law Department to hire student legal interns for FY04.
- #423-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$11,700 (to be funded equally from the Water and Sewer Surplus funds) for the purpose of funding installation of linoleum flooring in the DPW Utilities Division Office at City Hall.
- #419-03 DIRECTOR OF ASSESSMENT ADMINISTRATION recommending that the City of Newton reject MGL Chapter 59, Section 2D (*Supplemental Tax Assessment on New Construction*) prior to setting the FY04 tax rate.
- #420-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$500,000 from Overlay Surplus for the purpose of funding the triennial revaluation for Fiscal Year 2005.
- #421-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting a that the sum of \$13,640 be transferred within the FY04 Inspectional Services operating budget in order to cover the costs associated with hiring temporary staff to fill gaps in personnel created by the retirement of one clerical staff person and the extended medical leave of another.

- #424-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$1,150 be transferred within the FY04 Planning Department operating budget in order to allow the department to provide matching funds (for those received from Department of Urban Studies and Planning) for a Master's level intern from MIT to assist with the update of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

PUBLIC HEARING ASSIGNED FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2003 AT 7:00 p.m.:

- #418-03 DIRECTOR OF ASSESSMENT ADMINISTRATION submitting for Board of Aldermen review and approval FY04 Municipal Property Tax Levy Distribution Percentages among residential, open space, commercial and industrial classes of Real Property.

ITEMS NOT YET SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #425-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the sum of \$175,751.50, received from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health as the Enhanced School Health Services Grant. As in the past, these funds will be used to supplement school nurse staffing.

PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 4-0 ON 10/8/94

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES 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 PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #427-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate the sum of \$144,168 from the Parking Meter Receipts Fund to the Department of Public Works street light account prior to the setting of the FY04 property tax rate.

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

- #113-01(9A) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to expend \$80,085 from the High School Debt Reserve fund for the purpose of funding the first year debt service costs of the \$5.7 million permanent bonds issued for the high school renovation projects.

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

- #113-01(9B) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to expend the sum of \$193,206 from the High School Debt Reserve fund for the purpose of funding the first year debt service costs of the two year Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) issued for the high school renovation projects.

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

- #113-01(9C) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to expend the sum of \$23,700 from the High School Debt Reserve fund for the purpose of funding the legal costs associated with the ten year bond issuance for the high school renovation projects. These costs were over and above the funds previously appropriated in the Treasurer/Collector's budget for debt issuance costs.

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

- #113-01(9D) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$2,289,771.35 from FY04 estimated revenue (\$1,926,544 School Building Assistance Program funds and \$363,227.35 from recent sale of BANs) for the purpose of adding funds to the High School Debt Reserve in the Capital Stabilization Fund.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

- #397-03 KPMG AND COMPTROLLER submitting status report on completion of the financial audit for the City's fiscal year ending 6/30/03.
- #96-01(2) PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting discussion of the budget deficit in the School Department.
PROG. & SERV. NAN 5-0 ON 09/17/03

ITEMS NOT YET SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

REFERRED TO AD HOC COMM. PRES. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- ##227-03(2) COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$1,018,500 be appropriated to be expended under the direction and control of the Mayor for purposes of funding a portion of the acquisition of the property known as Kessler Woods (parcels #82-41-22 and #82-37-3) and that the Mayor be authorized to borrow said amount for a term of 10 years under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(3) of the General Laws.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES 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 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.
- # 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.

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.

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)

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- #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.
- #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