

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2003

7:00 p.m. **NOTE EARLY START**

Room 222

City Hall

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE: The Committee will meet early with the Ad Hoc Community Preservation Committee in order to discuss items #505-03, #506-03 and #507-03. All other Finance items to be discussed will follow:

NEW BUSINESS:

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

REFERRED TO AD HOC COMM. PRES. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#505-03 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that:

- A) the sum of \$359,176 (10% of anticipated FY04 Community Preservation Fund revenue) be appropriated to the CPA Fund Open Space Reserve for future FY04 expenditures, and
- B) the sum of \$359,176 (10% of anticipated FY04 Community Preservation Fund revenue) be appropriated to the CPA Fund Historic Resources Reserve for future FY04 expenditures, and
- C) the sum of \$359,176 (10% of anticipated FY04 Community Preservation Fund revenue) be appropriated to the CPA Fund Community Housing Reserve for future FY04 expenditures, and
- D) the sum of \$2,457,330 of anticipated FY04 Community Preservation Fund revenue be appropriated to the CPA Fund Current Year Budget Reserve.

REFERRED TO AD HOC COMM. PRES. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#506-03 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$35,000 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Unreserved fund for purposes of funding debt issuance costs for the Kessler Woods property.

REFERRED TO AD HOC COMM. PRES. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#507-03 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$18,500 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Unreserved fund for the purposes of funding legal expenses for the Kessler Woods property.

#500-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$6,585 be transferred within the FY04 Purchasing Department budget in order to allow the department to cover the costs of hiring a temporary agency employee to cover City Hall mailroom duties.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#502-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$67,867.51 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of replenishing the tree emergency accounts in the Parks and Recreation Department. This appropriation will cover the department's year-to-date costs and restore the tree emergency accounts to their original appropriation levels.
PROG & SERV APPROVED 5-0 on 11/05/03

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#504-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$35,575 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of adding seven Traffic Supervisor positions to the Police Department.
NOTE: In accordance with Section 2-9 of the City Charter, the Mayor has declared this item to be an emergency measure, as it is necessary to protect the health and safety of the people and property of the City of Newton.
PS&T APPROVED 4-0-1 (Lennon abstaining) on 11/05/03

REFERRED TO ZONING & PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#501-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$32,832 be appropriated from funds paid to the City by cable franchisees in order to supplement the FY04 Planning Department budget for salaries and benefits. This will allow the Planning Department to convert the part-time transportation planner position to a full-time position.

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.
PROGRAMS & SERVICES REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD on 10/22/03;

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.

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 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 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

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."
- #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.

****Items not yet scheduled for discussion:**

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES 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 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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:**

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

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.
PS&T HELD ON 10/22/03

- #69-03 VINCENT FILIPPONE requesting that there be a requirement that all parking ticket appeal hearings be tape-recorded.

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