

CITY OF NEWTON
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2003

Present: Ald. Coletti (Chair), Gentile, Stewart, Parker, Schnipper and Lipof

Absent: Ald. Gerst and Ciccone

Also Present: Ald.-Elect Harney

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#520-03 JEANNE STOLBACH, 38 Morseland Avenue, Newton Centre, appointed as the resident trustee of the Mabel Louise Riley Trust Fund. Said term of office to expire on 1/2/07.

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0 (Gentile, Parker not voting)**

NOTE: The Committee was pleased to meet Ms. Stolbach this evening. The Committee reviewed her resume, which was attached to this evening's agenda. We briefly discussed the Mabel Louise Riley Trust Fund and its current balance.

The Committee was in full support of Ms. Stolbach's appointment to the trust fund, and voted 4-0 to approve this item.

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

ACTION: **DENIED 3-0-1 (Coletti abstaining; Gentile, Parker not voting)**

NOTE: There was very brief discussion on this item. Most Committee members felt that this item was not necessary and should be denied at this time, especially since the Treasurer/Collector was not necessarily equipped (in terms of his FY04 budget funds) to take on this function right now.

Ald. Coletti indicated that he would like to see this item referred to the 2004-2005 Board and discussed as part of the FY05 budget review.

It was clear that there was not support to refer this item to the next Board, so the Committee voted 3-0-1, with Ald. Coletti abstaining and Ald. Gentile and Parker not voting, to deny this item.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE: *The Committee voted to hold the following items until the December 8th meeting, at which time the decision will be made as to whether they should be voted NO ACTION NECESSARY or REFERRED to the 2004-2005 BOARD:*

#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.

ACTION: **HELD 6-0**

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

ACTION: **HELD 6-0**

#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)

ACTION: **HELD 6-0**

#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.

ACTION: **HELD 6-0**

#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).

ACTION: **HELD 6-0**

#239-02 ALD. LENNON requesting a discussion with appropriate personnel regarding the process for appealing parking tickets.
ACTION: **HELD 6-0**

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.
ZONING & PLANNING REFERRED TO 2004-05 BOARD on 11/24/03
ACTION: **HELD 6-0**

REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#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.
PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 4-0 on 2/23/00
ACTION: **HELD 6-0**

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE: *Without debate, the Committee voted NO ACTION NECESSARY on the following items, with the understanding that each was either no longer needed, or could be re-filed at a later date:*

REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#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.)
PROGRAMS & SERVICES NAN 5-0 ON 11/19/03
ACTION: **NO ACTION NECESSARY 6-0**

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.
PUB. FAC. NO ACTION NECESSARY 5-0 (Gerst not voting) on 11/19/03
ACTION: **NO ACTION NECESSARY 4-0 (Gentile, Parker not voting)**

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.
PUB. FAC. NO ACTION NECESSARY 4-0 (Salvucci, Mansfield not voting) ON 11/19/03
ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 4-0 (Gentile, Parker not voting)

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.
PUB. FAC. NO ACTION NECESSARY ON 11/19/03
ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 4-0 (Gentile, Parker not voting)

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE: *Committee members agreed that the proper action to take on these items at this time was to REFER them to the 2004-2005 Board. Therefore, without debate, the following items were referred:*

- #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.
ACTION: REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 4-0 (Gentile, Parker not voting)

- #397-03 KPMG AND COMPTROLLER submitting status report on completion of the financial audit for the City's fiscal year ending 6/30/03.
ACTION: REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 4-0 (Gentile, Parker not voting)

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.
PROG. & SERV. REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD ON 11/19/03
ACTION: REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 4-0 (Gentile, Parker not voting)

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.
PROG. & SERV. REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD ON 11/19/03
ACTION: REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 4-0 (Gentile, Parker not voting)

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.
PROG. & SERV. REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 4-1 (Gentile opposed) ON 11/19/03
ACTION: REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 4-0 (Gentile, Parker not voting)

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.
PROG. & SERV. REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD ON 11/19/03
ACTION: REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 4-0 (Gentile, Parker not voting)

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.
PROG. & SERV. REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD ON 11/19/03
PUB. FAC. REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD ON 11/19/03
ACTION: REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 4-0 (Gentile, Parker not voting)

REFERRED TO PROG&SERV, PUB. FACILITIES & 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.
PROG. & SERV. HELD ON 11/19/03
PUB. FAC. REFERRED TO 2004-2005 ON 11/19/03
ACTION: REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 4-0 (Gentile, Parker not voting)

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 REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD ON 11/19/03
ACTION: REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 4-0 (Gentile, Parker not voting)

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.
PUB. FAC. REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD ON 11/19/03
ACTION: REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 4-0 (Gentile, Parker not voting)

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.
PUB. FAC. REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD ON 11/19/03
ACTION: REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 4-0 (Gentile, Parker not voting)

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.
PUB. FAC. REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD ON 11/19/03
ACTION: REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 4-0 (Gentile, Parker not voting)

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#258-02 PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE requesting discussion of feasibility and appropriateness of more progressive water/sewer rates.
PUB. FAC. REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD ON 11/19/03
ACTION: REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 4-0 (Gentile, Parker not voting)

#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.
ACTION: REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 6-0

#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.

ACTION: **REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 6-0**

The Committee will hold one last meeting of this term on Monday, December 8th. At that time, items (on the December 1st docket) which are not admitting of delay will be discussed and voted upon. All other items will either be voted NO ACTION NECESSARY or REFERRED TO THE 2004-2005 BOARD.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman