



Public Facilities Committee Report

City of Newton In City Council

Thursday, September 5, 2024

Present: Councilors Albright (Chair), Getz, Leary, Kelley, and Kalis

Absent: Councilors Danberg, Gentile, and Laredo

City Staff: Commissioner of Public Works James McGonagle, City Engineer Louis Taverna, and Co-Director of Sustainability, William Ferguson

All Public Facilities agendas and reports, both past and present, can be found at the following link: <https://www.newtonma.gov/government/city-clerk/city-council/council-standing-committees/public-facilities-committee>

For more information regarding this meeting, a video recording can be found at the following link: [Public Facilities Committee- September 5, 2024](#)

#278-24 Verizon petition for a Grant of Location on Chase Street

VERIZON petitioning for a grant of location to relocate one jointly-owned pole, P. 6 located on the northerly side of Chase Street approximately 13 feet southwesterly from its existing location to accommodate a new driveway. (Ward 6)

[Chase Street: Back-up Material](#)

Public Facilities Held 7-0; Public Hearing continued on 07/10/24

Action: Public Facilities Approved 5-0; Public Hearing Closed

Note: Alexander Marreo, Pike EAK Telecom and Renewables, LLC, a contractor for Verizon, noted that Verizon is doing the work on behalf of Westview Partners Holdings LLC. There will be new construction at 47-49 Chase Street, and there will be a new driveway installed where the existing pole is located.

The public hearing had been continued at the prior meeting. No member of the public was present to speak on the item. The public hearing was closed.

A councilor asked if they would be installing a new driveway, expanding a driveway, or replacing a driveway. A councilor noted that the developers would abandon the existing driveway, and replace them with one driveway in the middle.

Lou Taverna, City Engineer noted that the new pole will be closer to the property line which is an objective that Verizon attempts to do with utility poles.

A councilor questioned how the existing the tree would be impacted by the relocation of the pole, with Mr. Marrero noting that they believe the tree will not be impacted except for the possibility of some light trimming when doing the cabling work.

Alexander Kogan, the developer for the property, discussed plans to relocate the pole, with the pole being on the left side of the new driveway. If this is not approved the plan would be to have two driveways, a subsequent plan had been submitted in case the Public Facilities Committee did not approve the pole move. He noted if the pole is approved, they would resubmit the plan with a single driveway.

A Councilor questioned if the wires would be running through the tree in the same way that they currently are, which Mr. Kogan noted he expects they would be.

Councilors voiced support for protecting the existing tree. Mr. Marrero noted they would do their work in a way to not harm the tree. The only time they would perform maintenance on the tree is if they do something with the pole in the future.

Councilors voiced support for a condition to be put in the council order for the petitioner to talk with the tree warden to ensure the tree is properly protected when doing this work.

Councilor Getz motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

#293-24 Eversource petition for Grant of Location for Commonwealth Ave

EVERSOURCE ENERGY petitioning for a grant of location to install and maintain approximately 378 feet of conduit westerly from the new manhole MH32297 at the intersection of Auburn Street and Evergreen Avenue to support the MWRA Tunnel Boring Machine project. (Ward 4)

[Commonwealth Ave: Back-up Material](#)

Public Facilities Held 7-0; Public Hearing continued 07/10/24

Action: Public Facilities Approved 5-0; Public Hearing Closed

Note: Joanne Callender, a representative from Eversource, noted they would be willing to meet all the recommendations that the Department of Public Works had given.

A councilor asked Mr. Taverna if the requirements are met, are they okay with this moving forward, which he noted they are. He noted the recommendations are outlined on the grants of location report.

The public hearing had been continued. No member of the public was present to speak on the item. The public hearing was closed.

Councilors voiced support and pleasure that they are following the requirements.

A councilor noted that there would be a condition in the council order for the petitioners to follow the recommendations made by the Department of Public Works.

Councilor Kelley motioned to approved which passed unanimously.

Referred to Public Facilities & Finance Committees

#313-24 **Appropriate \$105,253 for the Newton South Lighting Project**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expand the sum of one-hundred five-thousand two-hundred fifty-three dollars (\$105,253) from the Energy Stabilization Fund to fund an LED Lighting Project at Newton South High School.

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 5-0**

Note: Bill Ferguson, Co-Director of Sustainability, noted this would complete the LED lighting project at Newton South High School. They have been converting lighting to LED lighting since 2015 mainly using green communities grant funds with some matching funding from the energy stabilization funds. This would complete the work before the incentive to make this conversion gets cut. A grant in the amount of \$30000 would come from Eversource for this work. Currently, there is \$311,000 in the energy stabilization fund.

A councilor questioned if the remaining funds are set aside for any other project. Mr. Ferguson noted there had been some discussion on projects but nothing set at this point.

A councilor questioned the impact of lighting on students. Mr. Ferguson noted that he has gotten positive feedback from teachers, and they give a better quality of light.

A councilor asked how much money is saved with this new lighting, with Mr. Ferguson noting the estimated savings is \$17,000 per year.

Councilor Kalis motioned to approve, which passed unanimously.

Referred to Public Facilities & Finance Committees

#315-24 **Transfer \$215,000 for new traffic signal equipment**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer and expend the sum of two-hundred fifteen-thousand dollars (\$215,000), from Trio mitigation funds, identified in Council Order #96-17, Condition #6 for the purchase and installation of new traffic signal equipment at the Lowell Avenue/Washington Street intersection.

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 5-0**

Note: Jim McGonagle, Commissioner of Public Works, noted that new equipment would include a signal controller, signal mast, arm, and foundation, signal heads, and associated equipment. This will enable a dedicated left turn phase heading Westbound towards West Newton which currently does not exist making the intersection safer and improve vehicle detection in all 4 directions.

The Chair, Ward 2 Councilor, noted that the originally proposed project for mitigation funds was no longer possible because of the possible reconstruction of the Newtonville Worcester Line Station. She stated that the three Ward 2 Councilors felt this would be an appropriate use of the Trio Mitigation funds.

A councilor asked if this would be integrated with the other lights near it. Mr. McGonagle noted that they could be coordinated, but the lights are far enough away that it would not be integrated. It does have technology to do so though.

A councilor asked if bike signals could be installed. Mr. McGonagle stated this does not include a bike signal, and he anticipated a decision on the bike signal would wait until getting data from the Washington Street pilot.

A councilor asked if there would be adaptive signals. Mr. McGonagle noted they are not the adaptive signals they have been discussing, but they do have vehicle detection technology that will respond in real time.

Councilor Kelley motioned to approve, which passed unanimously.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#318-24 **Authorization for MWRA loan program for Sewer CIP Project 10**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to borrow four-million four-hundred three-thousand dollars (\$4,403,000) in an interest free loan, payable in 1/10 installments over 10 years, from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Sewer Infiltration/Inflow Local Financial Assistance Program Phase 15, loan program for the design and construction of Sewer CIP Project 10.

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 5-0**

Note: Jim McGonagle noted that this is done yearly which will go towards the next phase of the Sewer Capital Improvement Plan and includes repairs to Newton Highlands, Newton Corner, Newton Center, and Waban.

The Chair asked if the commissioner could come back to the committee to give an update on sewer, water, and storm water plans both past accomplishments and future work. Mr. McGonagle noted that he would be willing to do that.

Councilor Leary motioned to approve, which passed unanimously.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#319-24 Authorization for MWRA loan program

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting Authorization to borrow one-million nine-hundred fifty-seven thousand three-hundred dollars (\$1,957,300) in an interest free loan, payable in 1/10 installments over 10 years, from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Phase 4 water loan program.

Action: **Public Facilities Approved as Amended Changing “one-million nine-hundred fifty-seven thousand three-hundred dollars (\$1,957,300)” to “nineteen-million-five-hundred-seventy-three-thousand dollars (\$19,573,000)” 5-0**

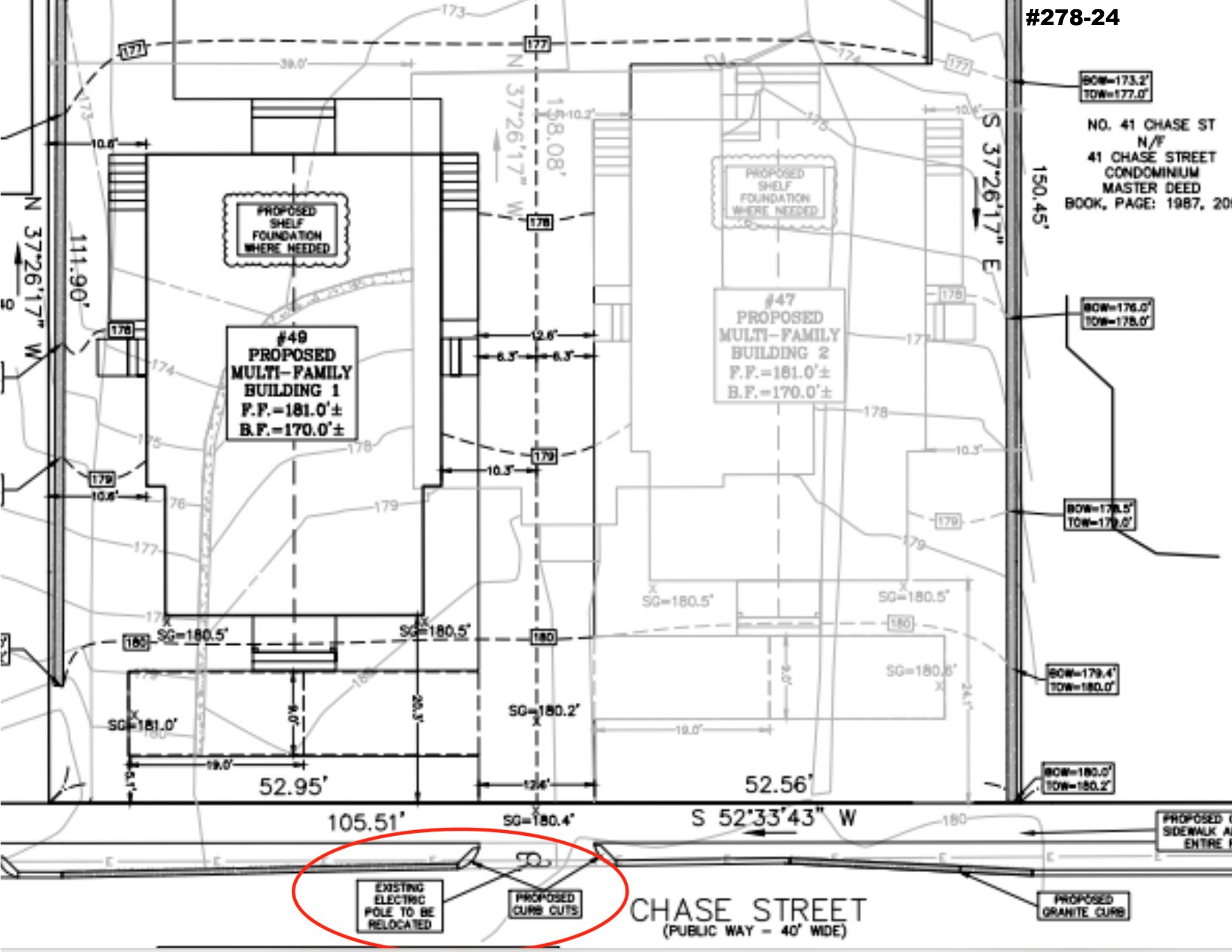
Note: James McGonagle noted that the item would have to be amended as this an approval of a 10-year authorization in the amount of 19,573,000. They receive 1,957,300 every year, but it is an initial 10-year authorization. This is for work to clean, line, and replace the city water mains. They have 19 miles scheduled to be worked on over the next 10 years. This pays for half of the \$4 million that they budget every year for this work, with the rest coming from bonding or water reserve funds.

Councilor Leary motioned to approve as amended, which was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Albright, Chair



NO. 41 CHASE ST
 N/F
 41 CHASE STREET
 CONDOMINIUM
 MASTER DEED
 BOOK, PAGE: 1987, 20

PROPOSED
 SHELF
 FOUNDATION
 WHERE NEEDED

#49
 PROPOSED
 MULTI-FAMILY
 BUILDING 1
 F.F.=181.0'±
 B.F.=170.0'±

PROPOSED
 SHELF
 FOUNDATION
 WHERE NEEDED

#47
 PROPOSED
 MULTI-FAMILY
 BUILDING 2
 F.F.=181.0'±
 B.F.=170.0'±

EXISTING
 ELECTRIC
 POLE TO BE
 RELOCATED

PROPOSED
 CURB CUTS

CHASE STREET
 (PUBLIC WAY - 40' WIDE)

PROPOSED
 GRANITE CURB

BOW=178.5'
 TOW=179.0'

BOW=179.4'
 TOW=180.0'

BOW=180.0'
 TOW=180.2'

BOW=173.2'
 TOW=177.0'

BOW=176.0'
 TOW=178.0'

