



Public Facilities Committee Report

City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

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

Absent: Councilor Danberg

City Staff: Commissioner of Public Works Jim McGonagle and Associate City Engineer John Daglian

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 - November 6, 2024](#)

#419-24 *Request for a grant of location in Beacon Street*

NATIONAL GRID petition for a grant of location to install and maintain gas main in Beacon Street as follows:

- *Approximately 1460 ft of 12 in. plastic in Beacon St. from the existing 8 in. Cast Iron at #1038 Beacon St. to the existing 12 in. Cast Iron at #1150 to replace approximately 60 ft. of 12 in. Cast Iron (1930), approximately 710 ft. of 10 in. Cast Iron (1904/1916), approximately 10 ft. of 10 in. Coated Steel (1997), and approximately 680 ft. of 8 in. Cast Iron (1904)*
- *Approximately 10 ft. of 4 in. plastic at #1121 Beacon St. to replace approximately 10 ft. of 4 in. plastic (1997)*
- *Approximately 600 ft. of 8 in. plastic in Garland Rd. from Beacon St. to the existing 6 in. plastic (2018) in Brentwood Ave. to replace approximately 600 ft. of 6 in. Cast Iron (1924/1928)*
- *Abandonment of approximately 65 ft. of 12 in. Cast Iron (1910) [north]*
- *Approximately 55 ft. of 12 in. plastic in the intersection of Beacon St. and Walnut St. [south of the 10 in. Cast Iron in Beacon St.] to replace approximately 55 ft. of 12 in. Cast Iron (1910) [south]*
- *Approximately 50 ft. of 6 in. plastic in the intersection of Beaconwood Rd. and Beacon St. to replace approximately 50 ft. of 6 in. Cast Iron (1916)*

<https://newtonma.viewpointcloud.com/records/844264>

Action: Public Facilities Held 6-0 (Councilor Kalis Not Voting); Public Hearing Continued

Note: Chair Albright provided an update to the committee regarding this Grant of Location and items #396-24, 397-24, 398-24, and 299-24. She explained that National Grid had reached out on November 5 to ask for these items to be rescheduled but since this new Grant of Location had already been noticed, the Committee needed to open the public hearing. She said these items would be taken up at the December 4 Public Facilities Committee meeting.

The public hearing was left open.

Councilor Laredo motioned to hold, which passed 6-0 with Councilor Kalis not voting.

Public Hearing

#396-24 Request for a grant of location in Centre Street

NATIONAL GRID petition for a grant of location to install and maintain gas main in Centre Street as follows:

- *Approximately 1135 ft of 12 in. plastic main in Centre St. from the existing 12 in. coated steel in Centre Ave. to the existing 10 in. Cast Iron at #543 Centre St. to replace approximately 65 ft. of 10- in. Cast Iron (1899), approximately 85 feet of 12 in., Bare Steel (1964), approximately 935 feet of 10 in. Cast Iron (1899), approximately 15 ft. of 10 in. Bare Steel (1899), approximately 20 ft. of 12 in. Coated Steel and approximately 15 ft. of 10 in. Coated Steel*
- *Approximately 1125 ft. of 12 in. plastic main in Vernon St. from Centre St. to Park St. to replace approximately 50 feet of 4- inch, Cast Iron (1898), approximately 775 feet of 6- inch, Cast Iron (1930) and approximately 300 feet of 6- inch, Bare Steel (1933)*
- *Approximately 100 ft. of 6 in. plastic main in the intersection of Eldredge St. and Vernon St. to replace approximately 85 feet of 6- inch, Cast Iron (1930) and approximately 15 feet of 6 -inch, Bare Steel (1933)*
- *Approximately 40 ft. of 6 inch plastic main in the intersection of Baldwin St. and Vernon St. to replace approximately 40 feet of 6 -inch, Cast Iron (1930)*
- *Approximately 320 ft. of 8 in. plastic main in Mt Ida St. from Centre St. to the existing 6 in. plastic main in Newtonville Ave. to replace approximately 320 feet of 6- inch, Bare Steel (1938)*
- *Approximately 720 in. plastic main in Hollis St. from the existing 10 in., Cast Iron (1899) at #515 Center St. to the existing 10 in. Cast Iron (1899) at #543 Centre St. to replace approximately 405 feet of 3- inch, Wrought Iron (1933) and approximately 315 feet of 3- inch, Cast Iron (1903)*

- *Approximately 610 ft. of 8 in. plastic in Church St. from Centre St. to the existing 8 in. plastic (2015) at #120 Church St. to replace approximately 595 ft. of 4 in. Cast Iron (1910) and approximately 15 ft. of 6 in. plastic (1999)*
- *Abandonment of approximately 40 ft. of 4 in. Bare Steel (1953) in Wesley St. (South) and approximately 30 ft. of 4 in. Bare Steel (1948) in Wesley St. (North)*

<https://newtonma.viewpointcloud.com/records/840282>

Public Facilities Held 6-0 on 10-23-24; Public Hearing Continued

Action: **Public Facilities Held 6-0 (Councilor Kalis Not Voting); Public Hearing Continued**

Note: Please see #419-24 for committee discussion on this Grant of Location.

The public hearing continued.

Public Hearing

#397-24 Request for a grant of location in Walnut Street

NATIONAL GRID petition for a grant of location to install and maintain gas main in Walnut Street as follows:

- *Approximately 220 ft. of 12 in. plastic in Walnut St. from #1136 Walnut St. to #1170 Walnut St. to replace approximately 220 ft. of 12 in. Cast Iron (1904)*
- *Approximately 695 ft. of 12 in. plastic in Walnut St. from #1162 Walnut St. (south of bridge) to #1208 Walnut St. to replace approximately 695 ft. of 10 in. Cast Iron (1898)*
- *Approximately 310 ft. of 8 in. plastic in Lincoln St. from Walnut St. to the existing 8 in. plastic at #34 Lincoln St. to replace approximately 310 ft. of 10 in. Cast Iron (1906)*
- *Approximately 1535 feet of 8 in. plastic in Floral St. from Hyde St. to #123 Floral St. to replace approximately 30 ft. of 4 in. plastic (2008/2006), approximately 10 ft. of 4 in. Bare Steel (1954), approximately 1360 ft. of 4 in. Cast Iron (1898) and approximately 10 ft. of 4 in. Bare Steel (1954)*
- *Approximately 210 ft. of 4 in. plastic in Floral Pl. from Floral St. to end of main at #13 Floral Pl. to replace approximately 195 ft. of 4 in. Cast Iron (1911) and approximately 15 ft. of 4 in. plastic*
- *Approximately 370 ft. of 6 in. plastic in Hyde St. from the existing 4 in. plastic at #120 Hyde St. to Centre St. to replace approximately 40 ft. of 4 in. plastic (1992), approximately 275 ft. of 4 in. Cast Iron (1909) and approximately 55 ft. of 4 in. Bare Steel (1956)*

<https://newtonma.viewpointcloud.com/records/840300>

Public Facilities Held 6-0 on 10-23-24; Public Hearing Continued

Action: **Public Facilities Held 6-0 (Councilor Kalis Not Voting); Public Hearing Continued**

Note: Please see #419-24 for committee discussion on this Grant of Location.

The public hearing continued.

Public Hearing

#398-24 Request for a grant of location in Washington Street

NATIONAL GRID petition for a grant of location to install and maintain gas main in Washington Street as follows:

- *Approximately 3210 ft. of 8 in. plastic in Washington St. from the existing 24 in. Cast Iron in Commonwealth Ave. to the railroad crossing at #1940 Washington St. to replace approximately 3105 ft. of 10 in. LP Cast Iron (1899) and approximately 15 ft. of 10 in. Coated Steel (1976)*
- *Approximately 250 ft. of 2 in. plastic in Bonmar Cir. from the new 8 in. plastic in Washington St. to the end of main at #15 Bonmar Cir. to replace approximately 250 ft. of 6 in. Cast Iron (1926)*
- *Approximately 230 ft. of 2 in. plastic in Angier Cir. from the new 8 in. plastic in Washington St. to end of main at #19 Angier Cir. to replace approximately 230 ft. of 6 in. Cast Iron (1927)*
- *Abandonment of approximately 25 ft. of 10 in. Cast Iron in the intersection of Washington St. and Woodland Rd. (cut and cap the existing 6 in. Cast in Woodland Rd.)*
- *Approximately 30 ft. of 6 in. plastic stub in the intersection of Washington St. and Hope St. (cut and cap the existing 6 in. Cast Iron in Hope St.) to replace approximately 30 ft. of 6 in. Cast Iron (1928)*
- *Approximately 320 ft. of 2 in. plastic in Seton Hill Rd. from the new 8 in. plastic in Washington St. to end of main at #20 Seton Hill Rd. to replace approximately 25 ft. of 4 in. Cast Iron (1899), approximately 20 ft. of 4 in. plastic (2000) and approximately 275 ft. of 4 in. Coat Steel (1951)*
- *Approximately 30 ft. of 6 in. plastic stub in the intersection of Washington St. and Leslie Rd. (cut and cap the existing 6 in. Cast Iron in Leslie Rd.) to replace approximately 30 ft. of 6 in. Cast Iron (1927)*
- *Approximately 20 ft. of 6 in. plastic stub in the intersection of Washington St. and Day St. (cut and cap the existing 4 in. Bare Steel in Day St.) to replace approximately 20 ft. of 4 in. Bare Steel (1940)*
- *Approximately 745 ft. of 6 in. plastic in Aspen Ave. from the new 8 in. plastic Washington St. to the existing 6 in. at #115 Aspen Ave. to replace approximately 745 of 6 in. Cast Iron (1914)*
- *Installation of 85 ft. of 6 in. 22 plastic in Aspen Ave. between the gap at #112 and #115 Aspen Ave.*
- *Approximately 55 ft. of 2 in. plastic in the intersection of Forest Ave. and Aspen Ave. to replace 55 ft. of 6 in. Cast Iron (1914)*
- *Abandonment of approximately 95 ft. of 4 in. plastic (1998) in private property between Stanton Ave. to Day St. and approximately 330 ft. of 2in.*

plastic in Stanton Ave. from the new 8 in. plastic in Washington St. to end of main at #25 Stanton Ave. to replace 330 ft. of 4 in. plastic (1998)

<https://newtonma.viewpointcloud.com/records/840322>

Public Facilities Held 6-0 on 10-23-24; Public Hearing Continued

Action: **Public Facilities Held 6-0 (Councilor Kalis Not Voting); Public Hearing Continued**

Note: Please see #419-24 for committee discussion on this Grant of Location.

The public hearing continued.

Public Hearing

#399-24 Request for a grant of location in Canterbury Road

NATIONAL GRID petition for a grant of location to install and maintain gas main in Canterbury Road as follows:

- *Approximately 660 ft. of 4 in. plastic in Boylston St. from the existing 2 in. plastic at #1121 Boylston St. to the existing 3 in. plastic at #1173 Boylston St. to replace approximately 660 ft. of 2 in. plastic (1979)*
- *Approximately 280 ft. of 4 in. plastic in Bacon Pl. from Boylston St. to Waldorf Rd. to replace 280 ft. of 4 in. Cast Iron (1907/1910)*
- *Approximately 750 ft. of 4 in. plastic in Waldorf Rd. from Canterbury Rd. to Bacon Pl. to replace approximately 90 ft. of 4 in. plastic (2008) and approximately 660 ft. of 4 in. Cast Iron (1907/1911/1915)*
- *Approximately 955 ft. of 4 in. plastic in Canterbury Rd. from Meredith Ave. to #73 Canterbury Rd. to replace approximately 620 ft. of 4 in. Cast Iron (1914) and 335 ft. of 6 in. Cast Iron (1926)*
- *Approximately 230 ft. of 4 in. plastic in Ridgeway Ter. from Canterbury Rd. to end of main at #18 Ridgeway Ter. to replace 230 ft. of 6 in. Cast Iron (1926)*
- *Approximately 270 ft. of 4 in. plastic in Meredith Ave. from #4 Meredith Ave. to #22 Meredith Ave. (dead end main at #22 Meredith Ave.) to replace approximately 270 ft. of 8 in. Cast Iron (1904) and abandon approximately 75 ft. of 6 in. LP plastic (1974) and approximately 125 ft. of 8 in. Cast Iron (1904) between #22 Meredith Ave. and the intersection of Harrison St. and Lincoln St.*

<https://newtonma.viewpointcloud.com/records/841964>

Public Facilities Held 6-0 on 10-23-24; Public Hearing Continued

Action: **Public Facilities Held 6-0 (Councilor Kalis Not Voting); Public Hearing Continued**

Note: Please see #419-24 for committee discussion on this Grant of Location.

The public hearing continued.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#405-24 ***Authorization to appropriate and expend \$1 million for the Vehicle Replacement Program***

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) from June 30, 2024 Certified Free Cash to support the Vehicle Replacement Program.

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 6-0 (Councilor Kalis Not Voting)**

Note: Commissioner McGonagle joined the committee to discuss this appropriation from Free Cash to support the Vehicle Replacement Program. He explained that this money will be in addition to the \$850,000 in Public Works' operating budget for vehicle replacement. The CIP allocated 2.5 million dollars to Public Works for vehicle replacement this year so an additional request of approximately \$700,000 will need to come later.

A councilor shared they were impressed with the upkeep of the fleet of vehicles that were on display at a recent event.

A councilor asked about vehicle prices rising even after ordering and the Commissioner confirmed that is correct. He acknowledged there is some room in the budget for these increases.

Councilor Gentile motioned to approve, which passed 6-0 with Councilor Kalis not voting.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#406-24 ***Authorization to appropriate and expend \$200,000 for FY25 Traffic Calming projects***

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) from June 30, 2024, Certified Free Cash to support the planned FY25 Traffic Calming projects in line with a Resolution from the City Council during the budget process.

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 7-0**

Note: Commissioner McGonagle joined the committee to discuss this appropriation from Free Cash to support FY25 Traffic Calming projects. He explained this money is in addition to \$350,000 in Public Works' operating budget for Traffic Calming projects and it will fund four projects.

A councilor asked how Public Works determines which projects to work on and the Commissioner explained that there are criteria that locations are scored against to determine the prioritization of projects.

A councilor asked if this money plus the money from the operating budget, totaling about \$550,000, will cover both design and construction of all four of these projects. The

Commissioner responded that this would not cover the entire cost, and that money would need to be allocated in the future. The same councilor asked if any of the work could be done in house to save money, and the Commissioner answered that it will depend on the workload of the Engineering Division and the technical level of the projects.

A councilor asked if any of these four projects would include a raised intersection, and the Commissioner said one of the projects would include a raised crossing.

A councilor asked if the projects would be posted on the website for the public to view and the Commissioner said he would look into adding a page on the website for ongoing projects in construction. The same councilor asked what the timeline would look like for these projects and the Commissioner said the design would go on during the winter and then construction would be spring and summer.

A councilor referenced a completed traffic calming project at the intersection of Austin and Lowell streets and noted that it appeared safer but asked if there was any data to confirm that. The Commissioner did not know but said that Public Works does a post evaluation on all projects, and they have received positive feedback regarding the project.

Councilor Kelley motioned to approve which passed 7-0 unanimously.

The Committee adjourned at 7:25PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Albright, Chair