



Programs & Services Committee Agenda

City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, February 17, 2016

7:45 PM
Room 211

Items Scheduled for Discussion:

Chairman's Note: There will be no public comment on the leaf blower items at this meeting.

- #31-15** **Proposing an ordinance to limit leaf blower use**
PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE proposing an ordinance to limit the use of leafblowers. [01/26/15 @ 2:20 PM]
- #31-15(2)** **Amend Noise Ordinance restrictions for yard maintenance equipment**
THE PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting to amend *Chapter 20-13, Noise Control*, relative to time restrictions on the use of yard, garden or grounds maintenance equipment. [03/19/15 @ 12:14 PM]

The location of this meeting is handicap accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons requiring assistance. If you need a special accommodation, *please contact Jini Fairley, at least two days in advance of the meeting: jfairley@newtonma.gov, or 617-796-1253. For Telecommunications Relay Service dial 711.*

Items Not Scheduled for Discussion at this meeting:

- #56-16 **Ordinance amendment to add statutory references to policy on housing practices**
COUNCILOR HESS-MAHAN requesting an amendment to Chapter 12, Section 50(b) *Policy of the city regarding housing practices*, to add statutory references to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the Americans with Disabilities Act; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act; and any other applicable state or federal laws that were inadvertently omitted from the current ordinance. [02/08/16 @ 1:51 PM]

- #37-16 **Resolution to state officials requesting a carbon fee**
COUNCILOR NORTON requesting a Resolution to state officials calling for a fee on carbon to curb climate change. [01/22/16 @ 10:34 AM]

- #36-16 **Resolution to state officials supporting fossil fuel divestment**
COUNCILOR NORTON requesting a Resolution to state officials supporting fossil fuel divestment. [01/22/16 @ 10:34 AM]

Referred to Programs & Services and Public Facilities Committees

- #27-16 **Updates from the Administration on the renovations at the Aquinas site**
PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEES requesting that the School Department and/or Executive Department provide updates on removal of asbestos and other toxic materials that were identified at the Aquinas site, the scope and timing of window replacement in particular, and renovations that may be necessary to facilitate short and long-term plans for uses and operations at the site. [01/10/16 @ 1:14 PM]

- #10-16 **Polling location change from Memorial Spaulding School to Temple Beth Avodah**
NEWTON ELECTION COMMISSION requesting the Newton City Council approve a change of polling location for Ward 8, Precinct 2 from the Memorial Spaulding School to Temple Beth Avodah at 45 Puddingstone Lane, Newton beginning with the September 2016 State Primary Election. [12/17/15 @ 5:21 PM]

Referred to Programs & Services, Public Facilities and Finance Committees

- #357-15 **Request for CPA funding for the Newton Highlands Playground**
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending the appropriation of two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) from the Community Preservation Fund's open space and general reserves or fund balance to the Parks & Recreation Department, for the rehabilitation of the Newton Highlands Playground at Winchester and Dedham Streets, as described in the proposal submitted to the Community Preservation Committee in November 2015. [12/15/15 @ 12:32 PM]

Referred to Programs & Services and Public Safety & Transportation Committees

- #312-15** **Update from Health Department on opiate overdose epidemic**
ALD. COTE, HARNEY AND NORTON, requesting a review and discussion of the opiate overdose epidemic including an update from the Health Department appraising the board on the current situation to include comparative statistics from previous years as to the number of opiate overdoses handled by first responders. In addition, what is being done immediately to take this on and what support can the Board provide.

Referred to Finance and Other Appropriate

- #288-15** **Submittal by the Mayor of the FY17 Capital Improvement Plan**
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY 2017-FY 2021 Capital Improvement Plan pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter. [10/01/15 @ 1:53 PM]

Referred to Programs & Services and Public Facilities Committees

- #201-15** **Discussion of the condition of the Kennard Estate on Dudley Road**
ALD. SANGIOLO requesting a discussion with the Commissioner of Public Buildings, the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, and the Executive Department regarding the condition of the property located at 246 Dudley Road (Kennard Estate) and how much, if any, repairs and upgrades will be needed as the City relocates the Parks and Recreation Department to that location. [09/01/15 @ 4:00 PM]

Referred to Programs & Services and Public Facilities Committees

- #141-15** **Discussion on tracking the gas utility infrastructure in Newton**
ALD. BROUSAL-GLASER, SANGIOLO, HESS-MAHAN, COTE, NORTON AND ALBRIGHT requesting a discussion with *the Director of Urban Forestry*, a representative of the Department of Public Works and a representative of the Law Department about tracking and improving the condition of the gas utility infrastructure in Newton, new state statutes governing infrastructure repairs, coordination of increased repair work with city operations, the status of negotiations with National Grid to compensate for tree deaths resulting from gas leaks, and the possibility of creating a utilities working group to monitor progress on these and related issues.
05/26/15 @ 2:53 PM]

Referred to Public Facil, Programs & Services and Public Safety & Trans Committees

- #46-15** **Discussion of parking options and permits at municipal & school parking lots**
ALD. JOHNSON & CICCONE, requesting a discussion with the Commissioner of Department of Public Works and the School Department to determine and discuss parking options including use of school properties based on the current municipal parking lot programs including the issuance of permits. [02/11/15 @1:35 PM]

#483-14 Resolution to promote cooperative programs with food establishments
PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE proposing a RESOLUTION to promote a cooperative program with food establishments in the City, the Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Commission, the Director of Economic Development and members of the Board of Aldermen, to find opportunities for these establishments to provide their food services for events in the City. [12/02/14 @ 3:56 PM]

#377-14 Discussion of proposed changes of use of the Senior Center
THE PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting a discussion with the Director of Senior Services, the Council on Aging and the Executive Department relative to changes in the use of the Senior Center at 345 Walnut Street. [10/16/14 @ 5:43 PM]

Respectfully Submitted,

John B. Rice, Chair

#31-15 (LEAF BLOWERS)

DRAFT REDLINE FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ~~(10/30/2015)~~ 02/17/2016

(Transition period leading to total ban version)

(Added language underscored; deleted language struck through)

ARTICLE II.

NOISE

Sec. 20-13. Noise control.

(a) This ordinance may be cited as the "Noise Control Ordinance of the City of Newton."

(b) *Declaration of findings and policy.* Whereas excessive sound is a serious hazard to the public health and welfare, safety, and the quality of life; and whereas a substantial body of science and technology exists by which excessive sound may be substantially abated; and, whereas the people have a right to and should be ensured an environment free from excessive sound that may jeopardize their health or welfare or safety or degrade the quality of life; now therefor it is the policy of the City of Newton to prevent excessive sound which may jeopardize the health and welfare or safety of its citizens or degrade the quality of life.

(c) *Scope.* This ordinance shall apply to the control of all sound originating within the limits of the City of Newton except as follows:

- (1) the emission of sound for the purpose of alerting persons to the existence of an emergency or the emission of sound in the performance of emergency work or in training exercises related to emergency activities; and
- (2) all snow clearance activities; and
- (3) any program or activity supervised by the parks and recreation department of the city in effect and as it exists on June 1, 1983.

(d) *Definitions.* For the purposes of this ordinance the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this section:

Construction and demolition: Any excavation, highway construction, land development or land clearing work, or the erection, demolition, alteration, repair, or relocation of any building or structure, which uses powered equipment such as backhoes, trucks, tractors, excavators, earth moving equipment, compressors, motorized, or power hand tools, manual tools, or equipment of a similar nature as well as two-way radios or other communication equipment; or use of any equipment for recycling, screening, separating, or any other processing of soil, rocks, concrete, asphalt or other raw material.

Electronic devices: any radio, tape recorder or player, television, phonograph, public address system, loudspeaker, amplified musical instrument or any other similar device, except two-way communication radios.

Emergency: any occurrence or set of circumstances involving actual or imminent physical trauma or property damage which demands immediate action.

Emergency work: any work performed for the purpose of preventing or alleviating the physical trauma or property damage threatened or caused by an emergency.

Gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR): the value specified by the manufacturer as the recommended maximum loaded weight of a single motor vehicle. In cases where trailers and tractors are separable, the gross combination weight rating (GCWR), which is the value specified by the manufacturer as the recommended maximum loaded weight of the combination vehicle, shall be used.

#31-15 DRAFT REDLINE FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES (11/6/2015)

§ 20-13 NEWTON ORDINANCES — CIVIL FINES AND MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES § 20-13

Leaf blower: any portable motorized device, whether carried or pushed, whether powered by gasoline or other fuel, electricity or battery, used in any landscape or property construction or maintenance activity, for the purpose of blowing, dispersing, vacuuming, redistributing, or removing dust, dirt, leaves, grass or plant clippings, litter or other debris.

Motorcycle: any unenclosed motor vehicle having two or three wheels in contact with the ground, including, but not limited to, motor scooters, minibikes, and mopeds.

Motor vehicles: any vehicle which is propelled or drawn on land by a motor, such as, but not limited to, passenger cars, trucks, truck-trailers, semi-trailers, campers, go-carts, snowmobiles, dune buggies, or racing vehicles, but not including motorcycles.

Noise pollution: a condition caused by a noise source that increases noise levels 10dB(A) or more above background noise level, except that if the noise source produces a tonal sound, an increase at 5dB(A) or more above background noise level is sufficient to cause noise pollution.

Tonal sound: any sound that is judged by a listener to have the characteristics of a pure tone, whine, hum or buzz.
(e) *Noise Pollution prohibited.*

- (1) No person shall willfully, negligently, or through failure to provide necessary equipment or facilities or to take necessary precautions permit the establishment or continuation of a condition of noise pollution caused by a noise source (other than a dog or bird) owned, leased, kept, or controlled by such person, or caused by any activity of such person.
- (2) When the offending noise source is located in public spaces, noise measurements shall be made at, and noise pollution determinations made in relation to, any location a passerby might reasonably occupy. When the offending noise source is located on private property, noise measurements shall be made at, and noise pollution determinations made in relation to, the boundary line of the property within which the offending source is located, or as close thereto as feasible.
- (3) All noise level measurements made pursuant to subsection (e) shall be made with a Type I or II A-weighted sound level meter as specified under the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards.

(f) *Time Restrictions.*

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) and subject to the maximum noise levels listed in subsection (g), the generation of any noise from all electric motors and/or internal combustion engines employed in yard, garden, or grounds maintenance is prohibited except during the following time periods:
 - (A) Between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on weekdays; or
 - (B) Between 9:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays as established in section 2-26 of these revised ordinances.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) and subject to the maximum noise levels listed in subsection (g), the generation of any noise from construction and demolition activity is prohibited except

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during the following time periods:

(A) Between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekdays; or

(B) Between: 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays;

(C) Generation of any noise from construction and demolition activity is prohibited at any hour on Sundays and legal holidays as established in section 2-26 of these revised ordinances, except by permit issued in accordance with subsection (h)(1).

(3) All public address loudspeakers, either mobile or stationary, shall be prohibited from operating every evening from 9:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. the following morning.

(4) No automobile, motorcycle, truck or vehicle-mounted refrigeration equipment or other motorized vehicle shall be left running when not in traffic, within three hundred (300) feet of any dwelling, hotel or residence, for a period of greater than five (5) minutes.

(5) Between the hours of midnight and 6:00 a.m. deliveries and pick-ups for commercial or business purposes are prohibited within 300 feet of any dwelling within a residential zone excepting deliveries to such dwellings, deliveries of gasoline to gasoline stations, deliveries or pick-ups at state or federal governmental offices and any other commercial or business delivery or pick-up operation that does not increase noise levels 5dB(A) or more above background noise level. For purposes of this subsection, "deliveries" and "pick-ups" shall include the loading and unloading of a vehicle.

(6) Between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. trash collection shall be prohibited within five hundred (500) feet of any dwelling.

(7) Between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. no person or persons shall disturb the peace by causing or allowing to be made any unreasonable or excessive noise, including but not limited to such noise resulting from the operation of any electronic device, or from the playing of any band or orchestra, or from the making of excessive outcries, exclamations, or loud singing or any other excessive noise by a person or group of persons, provided however, that any performance, concert, establishment, band group or person who has received and maintains a valid license or permit from any department, board, or commission of the City of Newton authorized to issue such license or permit shall be exempt from the provisions of this section. Unreasonable or excessive noise for the purposes of this section shall be defined as 5dB(A) or more above background level when measured not closer than the lot line of a residential lot or from the nearest affected dwelling unit.

(g) *Maximum Noise Levels.* Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (e)(1) and (e)(2), the following are the maximum noise levels that are permitted for the specified purposes:

Maximum noise level dB(A) permitted:

(1) *Vehicles*

Vehicle Class..... Stationary or Moving

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All vehicles over 10,000 lbs. GVW
or GCWR 86

All Motorcycles 82

Automobiles and light trucks..... 75

Noise measurements shall be made at a distance of fifty (50) feet from the closest point of pass-by of a source or fifty (50) feet from a stationary vehicle.

(2) *Construction and demolition.*

The cumulative noise level of all construction and demolition on one site at any one time shall not exceed 90dB(A). No individual piece of equipment shall exceed a maximum noise level of 90 dB(A). If noise barriers are used that effectively shield nearby areas from a condition of noise pollution, the following devices shall be exempt from the maximum noise level limitations: jackhammers; pavement breakers; pile drivers; and rock drills.

Maximum noise level dB(A) permitted:

Backhoe, bulldozer, concrete mixer, dump truck, loader, paver, pneumatic tools, roller, scraper 90

Air compressor 85

Generator 90

Electric drills, sanders, saws (except chainsaws) or other power tools of all types, whether hand held or otherwise 75

Noise measurements shall be made at a distance of fifty (50) feet from the source, or from the nearest lot line, whichever distance is less.

(3) *Yard, Garden, or Grounds Maintenance Equipment*

Maximum noise level dB(A) permitted:

Commercial Chipper, 3 1/2 inch or greater limb capacity (running at full speed but not chipping) 90

Commercial truck-mounted leaf
vacuum..... 90

All other equipment, including home
tractor, ~~leaf blower~~, lawn mower
or trimmer 65

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Noise measurements shall be made at a distance of fifty (50) feet from the source, or from the nearest lot line, whichever distance is less.

- (4) *Tonal Sound Corrections.* When a tonal sound is emitted by a noise source specified in subsections (g)(1), (g)(2) and (g)(3) herein, the limit on maximum noise levels shall be 5dB(A) lower than as specified in subsections (g)(1), (g)(2) and (g)(3).
- (5) *Maximum Noise Levels for HVAC systems.* No person shall operate any air conditioning, refrigeration or heating equipment for any residence or other structure or operate any pumping, filtering or heating equipment for any pool or reservoir in such manner as to create any noise which would cause the noise level on the premises of any other occupied property or if a condominium, apartment house, duplex, or attached business, within any adjoining unit, to exceed the background noise level by more than 5 dB(A). This provision shall not apply, however, to periodic or emergency maintenance or testing of such equipment reasonably necessary to maintain such equipment in good working order. Noise measurements and noise pollution determinations shall be taken in accordance with subsections (e)(2) and (e)(3).
- (6) *Alternative Measurement Procedures.* If it is not possible to make a good noise level measurement at the distance specified in subsections (g)(1), (g)(2) and (g)(3), measurement may be made at an alternate distance and the noise level subsequently calculated for the specified distance. Calculations shall be made in accordance with established engineering procedures.
- (7) All noise-level measurements made pursuant to subsection (g) shall be made with a Type I or II A-weighted sound level meter as specified under the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards.

(h) Restrictions on use of leaf blowers. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 20-13 (f) and (g), no person, including any City employee or contractor, shall use or operate a leaf blower within the City of Newton from May 15 through September 15 or from December 15 through March 1 in each year. At all other times leaf blowers may be operated subject to the following provisions:

(1) Permitted hours of use. Leaf blowers may be operated only during the following times:

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Saturday: 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Sundays and legal holidays: prohibited except for operation by a resident of the property on which the leaf blower is operated between 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

(2). Only leaf blowers meeting the following criteria are permitted for use:

A. Leaf blowers must be manufactured after January 1, 2005 for EPA Class 4 engines and after January 1, 2008 for EPA Class 5 engines;

B. Leaf blowers must bear an affixed manufacturer’s label indicating the model number of the leaf blower;

C. Leaf blowers must bear an affixed manufacturer's label documenting a noise rating of 65 dB(A) or less; and

D. Leaf blowers may only be used with any muffler, full extension tube and sound attenuating devices supplied by the manufacturer of the leaf blower.

(3) No more than one leaf blower may be used on any lot of 10,000 square feet or smaller. One additional leaf blower may be used for each additional 10,000 square feet or portion thereof comprising one lot.

(4) During times of emergency caused by a storm or other special circumstance, the Mayor or his designee may temporarily suspend application of this section for purposes of cleaning up from such storm or other special circumstance.

(5) The Mayor may grant, on a case by case basis, a permit for exemption from all or a portion of this section in accordance with the provisions of section 20-13 (i).

(hi) Permits for exemptions from this ordinance and for extensions of time to comply with this ordinance.

(1) The mayor or his designee may grant a permit for any activity otherwise forbidden by the provisions of this ordinance upon a determination by the mayor or his designee that compliance in the conduct of such activity would cause undue hardship on the person or persons conducting such activity or on the community, taking into account: (i) the extent of noise pollution caused by not requiring such compliance; and (ii) whether reasonable efforts have been made to abate the noise. The mayor or his designee shall establish appropriate procedures for the processing of requests for such permits, including such hearings as the mayor or his designee deems appropriate. In granting any such permit, the mayor or his designee may impose such appropriate conditions as he deems necessary pursuant to this section. Copies of all such permits shall be filed with the clerk of the board of aldermen promptly after issuance. Promptly after issuance, copies of all such permits shall be filed with the clerk of the board of aldermen and to each ward alderman for the affected ward.

(2) The mayor or his designee may extend to a specified date the time for compliance with this ordinance in the case of any particular activity with respect to which a determination is made that such extension is necessary to provide a reasonable opportunity for such activity to be brought into compliance. No such extension shall be granted which has the effect of exempting such activity from compliance with this ordinance. The mayor or his designee shall establish appropriate procedures for the processing of requests for such extensions of time, including such hearings as the mayor or his designee deems appropriate.

(hj) Judicial Review. Any person aggrieved by the grant or denial of a permit pursuant to subsection (h)(1) or an extension of time pursuant to subsection (h)(2) may seek relief therefrom by a civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction as provided by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

(jk) Penalties. Violation of any of the provisions of this section shall constitute a misdemeanor and any person, upon conviction of such violation, shall be fined an amount not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300.00). Each day

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that such violation continues shall be considered to be a separate offense.

(kl) *Non-criminal disposition.* In addition to the penalties set forth in subsection (j), where non-criminal disposition of specified sections of this ordinance by civil fine has been provided for in sections 20-20 and 20-21 of the Revised Ordinances, as amended, pursuant to the authority granted by G.L. c. 40, sec. 21D, said violations may be enforced in the manner provided in such statute. The civil penalty for each such violation is set out in Sections 20-21(c) and 20-21(d).

(m) In the event the person in violation of section 20-13 (h) pertaining to leaf blower use is a contractor, the property owner shall be notified of the violation and of any warning or other enforcement issued to the contractor.

(ln) *Severability.* If any provision(s) of this ordinance or the application of such provision(s) to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this ordinance and the applicability of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby. (Ord. No. R-331, 6-20-83; Ord. No. T-62, 12-4-89; Ord. No. T-200, 12-16-91; Ord. No. V-286, 3-6-00; Ord. Z-32, 7-14-08; Ord. No. Z-78, 02-22-11; Ord. No. Z-104, 04-02-12)

Cross reference—Sounding warning devices on motor vehicles, § 19-72; noise by hawkers and peddlers, § 17-26.

Secs. 20-14—20-19. Reserved.