

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2013

Present: Ald. Sangiolo, Linsky, Rice, Blazar, Fischman and Baker

Absent: Ald. Hess-Mahan; One vacancy

Also Present: Ald. Harney

Others Present: Robert Rooney (Chief Operating Officer), Maureen Lemieux (Chief Financial Officer), Bob DeRubeis (Commissioner, Parks & Recreation), David Olson (City Clerk), Jayne Colino (Director, Senior Services), Dori Zaleznik (Commissioner, Health and Human Services), Donnalynn Kahn (City Solicitor), Marjorie Butler (Elections Commission), Linda Walsh (Health and Human Services), Karyn Dean (Committee Clerk)

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#110-13 MARY PANAGGIO, 108A JFK Circle, Newton, re-appointed as a member of THE NEWTON HOUSING AUTHORITY for term to expire February 21, 2018. (60 days 05/17/13) [03/07/13 @ 11:24 AM]

ACTION: **APPROVED SUBJECT TO SECOND CALL 3-0-1 (Ald. Linsky abstaining; Ald. Fischman and Baker not voting)**

NOTE: Ald. Yates had wanted Ms. Panaggio to join the Committee to answer some questions. She was not able to attend and the questions were passed on to the Newton Housing Authority. Amy Sutherland, Director of the NHA, said she would present the questions to the Board of Directors and get back to Ald. Yates as soon as possible. Ald. Yates was satisfied with this and the Committee voted to approve this appointment, subject to second call.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#170-13 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate the sum of fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000) from B.A.A. Marathon Receipts for the purpose of purchasing \$30,000 of Fibar and playground repair parts equipment to replace worn, defective, or unsafe playground parts and to purchase \$25,000 of playground equipment at the Peirce School Playground and Hyde Playground.. [04/29/13 @ 6:05 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0 (Ald. Fischman and Baker not voting)**

NOTE: Bob DeRubeis, Commissioner of Parks & Recreation addressed the Committee. Each spring, Fibar is replaced in the 54 sites around the City. The Fibar is packed down and kicked out during the course of the year and needs to be brought to a 12 inch depth in order to provide safe cover on the ground. NewtonServes did replace over 300 yards of loam and a small amount of Fibar across the City as well.

The location of this meeting is handicap accessible, and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons requiring assistance. If you have a special accommodation need, please contact the Newton ADA Coordinator Trisha Guditz, 617-796-1156, via email at TGuditz@newtonma.gov or via TDD/TTY at (617) 796-1089 at least two days in advance of the meeting date.

The parks are on a revolving schedule for playground equipment and Peirce School and Hyde playgrounds are due this year and will receive \$12.5K each.

Ald. Rice moved approval and the Committee voted in favor.

Public hearing was held on the following item:

#147-13 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting approval to implement a reorganization plan in order to consolidate the Elections Department into the City Clerk's Department under **Article 6, Sec. 6-2.** of the City of Newton Charter.
[04/08/13 @ 5:02 PM]

ACTION: HEARING CLOSED; APPROVED 5-0 (Ald. Baker not voting)

NOTE: City Clerk, David Olson and Marjorie Butler of the Elections Commission joined the Committee. Mr. Olson summarized the reorganization plan for the Clerk's Office and the Elections Department. All the duties and responsibilities of the Clerk's office will remain with the added responsibilities of the Elections Department. The two current full-time positions in Elections will be incorporated into the new combined department and a new full-time Assistant Clerk for Elections position will be filled as well. The Assistant Clerk for Elections position has been posted and interviews have been conducted. Four candidates have been called back for second interviews and Mr. Olson anticipates a hire in the next couple of weeks. The salary for this position will be funded on a contract basis until the new fiscal year budget begins. There will be some small renovations in the office space that adjoins the Clerk's office to accommodate the larger department.

The Elections Commission and the Board of Aldermen have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which was drafted by the Law Department. The Elections Commission has signed the MOA and it is ready for Board approval.

Hearing no request for public comment, the Chairman closed the public hearing. Ald. Linsky moved to approve this item and the Committee voted in favor.

#139-13 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR AND THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN requesting a discussion of reorganization plans to consolidate the elections Department into the City Clerk/Clerk of the Board's Office.

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 5-0 (Ald. Baker not voting)

NOTE: Ald. Linsky moved No Action Necessary on this item and the Committee voted in favor.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#171-13 ALD. LENNON AND LAPPIN requesting an amendment to Chapter 4, Section 21 of the City of Newton Revised Ordinances 2012 to adjust the salary of the City Clerk/Clerk of the Board of Aldermen to reflect the added responsibilities and duties of overseeing the city's election functions. [04/17/13 @ 12:50 PM]

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0 (Ald. Baker not voting)

NOTE: The Committee felt the salary increase was appropriate to the new duties of the City Clerk and voted to approve the proposed salary of \$116,021. The Finance Committee will meet on this item as well.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Mah Sangiolo, Chairman