

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2002

Present: Ald. Johnson (Chair), Ald. Sangiolo, Lipsit, Merrill, Fischman, Parker

Absent: Ald. Gentile, Coletti

Also Present: Michael Rourke(Chief Administrative Officer), Karen Griffey (Director of Policy & Communication)

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES & PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEES

#181-02 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the Board of Aldermen approve a new agreement between the City of Newton and the Town of Wellesley that will allow the Town of Wellesley to continue to pump sewerage through Newton's Cochituate Aqueduct to the MWRA collection system in Brighton.

ACTION: APPROVED 4-1-1(Sangiolo opposed, Parker abstaining)

NOTE: See Public Facilities Report

#181-02(3) PUBLIC FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEES requesting a two month extension of the existing agreement between the City of Newton and Town of Wellesley that allows the Town of Wellesley to pump sewerage through Newton's Cochituate Aqueduct to the MWRA collection system in Brighton.

ACTION: APPROVED 4-1-1 (Merrill Opposed and Lipsitt Abstaining)

REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV.& FINANCE COMMITTEES

#264-02 ALD. SALVUCCI AND LUCKY STAR GROUP requesting policy discussion regarding the feasibility of allowing taxpayers to voluntarily make donations to establish an Aid to the Elderly Taxation Fund for the purpose of defraying the real estate taxes of elderly citizens in Newton.

ACTION: HELD 6-0

#130-02 ALD. JOHNSON requesting discussion with the Executive Department regarding the establishment of a consistent process for the submission of appointments/reappointments to Boards and Commissions to Board of Aldermen for approval.

ACTION: HELD 6-0

NOTE: Michael Rourke and Karen Griffey were both present for this discussion. Ms. Griffey suggested that there should be both a pre-appointment packet and a final packet of information available for interested parties to serve on Boards and Commissions. Ald. Parker said there could be a nomination form that could be downloaded from the web site. President Lipsitt stated that one issue she had discussed with Ms. Griffey was what happens to someone's name that comes into the process and is not an appropriate appointee.

In President Lipsitt's viewpoint, it was important that early in the process appointees receive information about the mission of the body to which they are being appointed and what the expectations are. The appointees should know that they are expected to attend meetings. This information should be conveyed in a such a way that potential appointments can still withdraw.

Ald. Sangiolo asked if the application was on the web site because she felt people were not aware they could apply to serve on a committee. Ald. Sangiolo also asked about the fact that there was not a term limit. Mr. Rourke stated there had been discussions regarding the beginning and end of terms for their appointees and felt it should be made clear when individuals are appointed. The policy regarding reappointments is still being studied.

President Lipsitt said that certain boards and commissions do have limits to the length of time individuals can serve and felt a policy matter could be considered for some or all boards. Ald. Fischman felt the objective was to create commissions that would be vital to the operation of the City. Ald. Johnson said the process has to go further to find new people who have not served on commissions before and would be appropriate appointments. In some cases, part of the appointment process might be to have possible appointments attend one or two meetings of the Committee to see if they are truly interested in doing the work. President Lipsitt would like to see proper recorded records.

Ald. Parker stated that changing term limits would be a legislative issue and feels that the Mayor should take an active role in not just routinely reappointing citizens. Mr. Rourke felt the Committees would improve with some of these changes being implemented. President Lipsitt was not

completely in favor of term limits but would like to try to explore ways not to reappoint if it was not appropriate. Ald. Merrill felt strongly that in certain committees, term limits would not be a positive change.

Ald. Parker stated that the committees and commissions do not have adequate minutes of their meeting and he also felt the minutes should be on web site so the community can be well informed. Chairman Johnson emphasized that the City needs to keep track of the commission's actions, whether annual or biannual reports, decisions, etc. She also felt there should be feedback to the appropriate aldermanic committee. After this packet is completed, Ald. Johnson recommended some type of guidelines for the commission chairs and vice chairs so the responsibilities are clear.

Ald. Merrill pointed out that the City is very lucky to have these commissions and we should be careful not to create burdens, such as extensive minutes requirements, that would discourage individuals from serving.

Ald. Parker stated that a minimum report should at least be done with the vote and made available to the public. He said for committees and commissions that do not have a member who is willing to write the detailed version to supplement the short version the meeting could be recorded.

Chairman Johnson said she would like to invite all commission chairs and Board committee chairs to participate in discussion regarding the changes being proposed, as a result of this docket item, to get their buy-in/support before any new processes/requirements are put in place. The Committee voted to hold.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Johnson, Chair