



# **Public Facilities Committee Report**

## **City of Newton**

### **In City Council**

**Wednesday, January 8, 2020**

Present: Councilors Leary (Chair), Kelley, Danberg, Laredo, Crossley, Norton, Kalis

Absent: Councilors Gentile

Also Present: Councilor Wright

City Staff Present: Chief Operating Officer Jonathan Yeo

**Chairs Note: *The Committee discussed scheduling and priorities for the 2020-2021 term. The Committee reviewed the following docket items.***

**Note:** The Committee discussed the scheduling for the current docket items. Additionally, the Chair stated the three commissions under the purview of the Committee are the Design Review Committee, Solid Waste Commission and the Newton Citizens Commission on Energy.

The following items are planned for discussion on January 22, 2020

**#56-20      Requesting an update on Horace Mann Improvements**

COUNCILOR CROSSLEY on behalf of the Public Facilities committee, requesting an update from the administration and school department on the plans, proposed schedule and any funding needed to correct recently identified deficiencies and improvements to the Horace Mann school at Nevada Street, including addressing classroom space needs, mitigating acoustics, providing sinks for the second floor classrooms, improving proximity of bathrooms to activity areas, etc.

**#63-20      Request for updates on the Library Renovation Project**

COUNCILORS CROSSLEY AND ALBRIGHT requesting periodic updates from the Library Trustees and Library Director on the Library expansion project.

The following items are planned for discussion on February 5, 2020

**#55-20      Update on the status of the Solar Phase 3 Projects**

COUNCILOR CROSSLEY requesting an update on the status of the Solar Phase 3 Projects.

**#60-20      Update on the Climate Action Plan**

PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE requesting updates on the status of the Climate Action Plan.

The following items require further discussion and will be posted on a future agenda.

- #57-20      Request for Review/Update Double Pole compliance**  
COUNCILORS ALBRIGHT, DANBERG, LAREDO & CROSSLEY requesting an update from the Double Poles Working Group on the work of the group and the status of removing double poles and cataloguing and assigning responsibilities for transfer of utility and city wires.
- #58-20      Proposed amendments to Sec. 5-54 through 5-58 of the Ordinances**  
COUNCILORS CROSSLEY, ALBRIGHT, LAREDO & KELLEY requesting revisions to Sections 5-54 through 5-58 of the City of Newton Ordinances to clarify the City Council's role and decision-making process with respect to design review, funding, and budget oversight during the construction process of municipal capital building projects; in particular, to better align City Council decisions with typical steps in the design development process, and where applicable, with Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) and other state requirements.
- #59-20      Discussion with DPW to consider amending the Ordinance for street reconstruction**  
COUNCILORS CROSSLEY & LAREDO requesting a discussion with the Commissioner of Public Works, to review city policy and/or ordinances governing repairs to city streets within a period of years after full reclamation and/or milling and repaving of said streets, and to consider strengthening the requirements for repairs so as to protect the public investment in said streets.
- #61-20      Discussion to limit or prohibit the installation of fossil fuel infrastructure**  
COUNCILORS CROSSLEY, KELLEY, LEARY, NORTON, ALBRIGHT, GREENBERG, AUCHINCLOSS, MARKIEWICZ, NOEL, DANBERG, KALIS, DOWNS & HUMPHREY requesting a discussion with the Sustainability Team to create an ordinance to limit or prohibit the installation of fossil fuel infrastructure in new construction and substantially renovated buildings, as well as to clarify the Council's authority to prohibit the extension of gas mains subject to the condition of the existing infrastructure

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Alison M. Leary, Chair**