



## Public Safety & Transportation Committee Agenda

### City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

7:00 PM

Room 211/205

#### Items Scheduled for Discussion:

The Public Safety & Transportation and Programs & Services Committees will meet jointly on the following item in **Room 211**.

#### Referred to PS&T, Programs & Services, Public Facilities and Finance Committees

- #59-17**      **Appropriate \$350,000 for construction of a Parks & Recreation/Police building**  
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) from Overlay Surplus for the purpose of funding the construction of a new combined Parks & Recreation and Police Department facility to be located at the Elliot Street DPW yard. [02/17/17 @ 9:29 AM]

The committee will then reconvene to discuss the remaining agenda items in **Room 205**.

- #366-16**      **Requesting a review and update on Traffic Council responsibilities**  
COUNCILORS NORTON, SCHWARTZ AND AUCHINCLOSS, requesting a review and update on Traffic Council responsibilities by shifting certain areas to the executive branch, including the installation of stop signs and safety upgrades. [10/17/16 @ 9:15 AM]  
**HELD 5-0 on 12/07/16, Councilor Cote not voting**  
**HELD 8-0 on 02/08/17**

**Clerk's Note:** The docketers have requested that the following three (3) items be voted No Action Necessary.

- #41-17**      **Resolution requesting the speed limit on Quinobequin Road be reduced to 25 mph.**  
COUNCILOR YATES, requesting that the Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation reduce the speed limit on all sections of Quinobequin Road to 25 mph in conformity with the speed limit in the City. [02/09/17 @ 9:28 PM]

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The location of this meeting is accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: [jfairley@newtonma.gov](mailto:jfairley@newtonma.gov) or (617) 796-1253. The city's TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711.

- #137-11 Possible changes to long-term meter fees to discourage short-term use**  
ALD. DANBERG AND FULLER, requesting possible changes to City Ordinance 19-191, Parking Meter Fees, to require a minimum purchase at long-term parking meters in order to discourage short-term use. [04/26/11 @ 9:52 AM]

**REFERRED TO PUB FACIL, PROG & SERV, AND PS&T COMMITTEES**

- #46-15 Discussion of parking options and permits at municipal and 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]

**Chair's Note:** It is the Chair's intention to entertain a vote of no action necessary on the following item:

- #240-12 Request Chapter 19 Motor Vehicles & Traffic be amended, Sec. 19-224 and 19-226 RECODIFICATION COMMITTEE**, requesting that **Chapter 19 MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC** be amended to determine who has jurisdiction for parking on municipal land, the owning department as described in **Sec. 19-224. Parking prohibited on city grounds.** or the Traffic Council as described in **Sec. 19-26. Authority and role of Traffic Council.**

**Items Not Scheduled for Discussion at this meeting:**

**Referred to Programs & Services and Public Safety & Transportation Committees**

- #46-17 Discussion regarding how community policing works**  
COUNCILOR ALBRIGHT requesting a discussion with the Chief of Police and/or members of his department to explain to the City Council how "community policing" works in Newton, how it differs from traditional policing, how staffing differs from traditional departments, and how it benefits Newton. [02/20/17 @ 3:21 PM]
- #25-17 Resolution requesting MBTA repair the pedestrian bridge near the Elliot MBTA station**  
COUNCILORS YATES, RICE AND CROSSLEY, requesting that the MBTA repair the pedestrian bridge from the south side of Route 9 to the Elliot MBTA station. [01/23/17 @ 1:41 PM]

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES**

- #359-16 Submittal of the FY 2018 to FY 2021 Capital Improvement Plan**  
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the Fiscal Years 2018 to 2022 Capital Improvement Plan pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter. [10/11/16 @ 11:28 AM]
- #345-16 Requesting a review, amendment or elimination of the Winter Overnight Parking Ban**  
PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, requesting a review and possible amendment or elimination of the winter overnight parking ban. [10/06/16 @ 9:10 AM]  
**HELD 6-0 on 11/02/16**

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY 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.  
[10/19/15 @ 1:30 PM]
- #28-14**      **Discussion on duplicate street names**  
ALD. CICCONE AND FULLER, on behalf of the Health Department and the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) requesting a discussion on duplicate street names. [01/09/14 @ 10:57 AM]

**REFERRED TO PS&T AND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEES**

- #413-11**      **Updates on the renovations to the City's fire stations**  
ALD. CICCONE, SALVUCCI, GENTILE & LENNON, updating the Public Facilities and Public Safety & Transportation Committees on the progress of renovations to the city's fire stations. [11/17/11 @ 11:07 AM]

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chair**



City of Newton, Massachusetts  
Office of the Mayor

SETTI D. WARREN  
MAYOR

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March 2, 2017

Honorable City Council  
Newton City Hall  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I write to request that your Honorable Council docket for consideration a request to authorize the appropriation and expenditure of \$350,000 from Overlay Surplus for the purpose of funding the construction of a new combined Parks and Recreation and Police Department facility to be located at the Elliot Street DPW yard.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

RECEIVED  
Newton City Clerk  
2017 MAR -2 AM 9:55  
David A. Olson, CMC  
Newton, MA 02459



Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

## PUBLIC BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

Joshua R. Morse, Commissioner

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52 ELLIOT STREET

NEWTON HIGHLANDS, MA 02461-1605

The request for \$350,000 is for a new facility at the Elliot Street DPW yard, which will house the Parks and Recreation and Police Departments.

The maintenance division of Parks and Recreation is currently located at 70 Crescent Street. This property will no longer be available for this use, and we therefore needed to construct a new facility elsewhere. After looking at a number of sites, the Elliot Street DPW yard was selected due to the synergy with DPW, and the minimal impact to residents. The maintenance division needs a facility to house their equipment, perform maintenance and repair of that equipment, house supplies, and serve as a base location for the maintenance crew.

The Police Department has had a long standing desire for a substation on the south side of the city. This substation would have standard office hours, and would be used for report writing and customer interface. Police Headquarters can be a challenging building to get to with parking scarce in that area. Specifically, the Police Department feels that this substation would be more welcoming and accessible for Newton's elderly population. In addition to the substation, there will be a small training classroom for the NPD. Having training at Police Headquarters is challenging due to the limited parking. There is also increased departmental efficiency by not having to have police officers on the south side of the city, drive to the north side to write a report.

To meet the programmatic needs of both departments, we are proposing a prefabricated facility for joint use, with separate entrances. The first phase of design will help us determine the gross building square footage, but I would anticipate a facility between 5000 and 8,000 square feet. We will need to look at a couple of options for site placement of the facility, but our primary focus will be minimizing impact to the neighborhood, while also maximizing accessibility for visitors to the substation. We also need to make sure this facility does not negatively impact DPW operations.

Josh Morse  
Building Commissioner  
Public Buildings Department  
City of Newton

City of Newton



Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

110 Crafts Street  
Newton, MA 02460

**DATE:** March 1, 2017

**TO:** Members of the Public Safety and Transportation Committee

**FROM:** Nicole Freedman, Transportation Director  
David Koses, Transportation Coordinator

**RE:** #366-16 COUNCILORS NORTON, SCHWARTZ AND AUCHINCLOSS,  
requesting a review and update on Traffic Council responsibilities by shifting  
certain areas to the executive branch, including the installation of stop signs and  
safety upgrades.

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### MEMORANDUM

This memorandum responds to a request made members of the Public Safety and Transportation Committee at your February 8, 2017 meeting. Staff was to provide a recommendation to Committee members in terms of any potential changes to how particular traffic and parking requests are handled by the Traffic Council.

Traffic Council's primary function is to examine and vote to make changes to the Traffic and Parking Regulations (TPR). At least 60 requests are handled every year over the course of 10-12 meetings. Traffic Council is also charged with advising the mayor and/or City Council on matters concerning traffic and parking issues affecting the city, upon request.

**Staff recommends no change to the process of making changes to the TPR at this time.** It is recommended that all requests for stop signs, parking regulations, and every other element of the TPR continue to be handled through the current Traffic Council process. The recommendation to make no change is based on the following:

- Staff suggests that that our current practice allows requests to be handled efficiently and effectively, and does not call out for a change. Any change is vetted through a fair public process, which provides for citizen input and voting by staff representing various City departments as well as a resident and an elected official. An appeals process to the City

Council is currently in place, although rarely used. All changes to the TPR are made by the Clerk's office, which maintains the document.

- Any issue of immediate public safety is currently immediately handled by the Police Department, and are subsequently handled by Traffic Council in a timely manner.
- The TPR is currently up to date. This has allowed staff to locate errors and improve various sections of the TPR through the current process.
- Recent staffing changes have allowed staff to take action on certain items that have been delayed, such as requests for four-way stop signs. This has been a staffing issue, not a process issue.
- Staff is concerned that a change to the current process, albeit with the best intentions, may result in unforeseen consequences.

Traffic Calming is not included as a specific section of the TPR. **It is suggested that requests for traffic calming may be more efficiently handled outside of the Traffic Council process.** The following requests for Traffic Calming are currently being carried on the Traffic Council long docket:

- COUNCILORS FULLER, BAKER AND LAREDO, requesting an analysis of speeding on Grant Avenue (between Commonwealth Avenue and Ward Street) and potential traffic calming procedures. (Ward 8)
- COUNCILOR ALBRIGHT, requesting traffic calming measures on Lowell Avenue. (Ward 2)
- WARD 2 COUNCILORS, requesting traffic calming measures on Central Avenue, Newtonville. (Ward 2)
- BARBARA BRUSTOWICZ, 12 Radcliff Road, requesting a) a traffic study be conducted for the purpose of analyzing high speed and traffic volume on Radcliff Road and Tamworth Road and b) implementation of traffic control devices, such as stop signs and/or traffic calming measures to deter speeders and address safety concerns. (Ward 5)
- ALD. SANGIOLO, requesting traffic calming measures or a reduction in speed limit on Washington Street between Aspen Avenue and Beacon Street. (Wards 4 & 5)
- ALD. LAPPIN, requesting traffic calming measures on Dudley Road. (Ward 8)

Many other requests for Traffic Calming have not arrived to the attention of staff through the Traffic Council process, but rather through email communication, phone calls, in-person meetings, or through the WebQA/311 system. To handle all the requests for traffic calming that staff receives, we have been working on the development of a scoring system, to be used to review and prioritize requests against one another. Staff suggests that requests for Traffic Calming be removed from the Traffic Council docket, and directed to a different process, to be developed, but which will include an administrative scoring system.