

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ZONING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
BUDGET REPORT

MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2001

Present: Ald. Yates (Chairman), Ald. M. Lipof, Sangiolo, Baker, Gentile, Johnson, and Merrill

Absent: Ald. Mansfield

City Officials: Sandy Pooler (Chief Budget Officer), Mark Gilroy (Commissioner of Inspectional Services), Judy O'Brien (Principal Clerk, Inspectional Services), Michael Kruse (Director of Planning and Development), Steve Gartrell (Associate Director of Housing and Community Development), Linda Finucane (Clerk)

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

#113-01 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, in accordance with Section 5-1 of the Newton City Charter, submitting the FY2002 Municipal/School Operating Budget, including Water/Sewer for a total of \$232,421,103.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUBMISSION: APRIL 17, 2001

LAST DAY TO PASS BUDGET: JUNE 1, 2001

Inspectional Services Department

Commissioner Gilroy presented his department's budget. One new position of half-time Plumbing Inspector is to be created, and filled with a person transferred from the Public Buildings Department who has performed the task for several months paid out of savings from vacant positions. The position of Chief Building Inspector was vacated by Mr. Gilroy. It will be filled. The vacant Senior Building Inspector position will be filled by the promotion of one of the current Building Inspectors. The extra cost for the position will be \$4,163. The vacated position will not be filled. The administration will shortly file a request for increased building fees to cover the costs of the department. The building code/zoning enforcement appeared to have increased by nearly \$50,000. Half of this increase was due to the collective bargaining agreement. The other half was a misunderstanding of what the true expenditures were during the current year.

Alderman Baker expressed concern shared by other Committee members that the Department needed to be fully funded in order to properly serve the citizens of the city. Mr. Pooler said that Mr. Gilroy had made several improvements in the Department, and that more would be forthcoming after a consultant's report was completed. He promised to share it with the Board. The Committee voted 5 to 0 (Alderman Merrill not voting) to approve the budget.

Planning and Development Department

Mr. Kruse presented his budget. He included a revised departmental Mission Statement and a series of priorities for the year. Alderman Johnson asked that a reporting mechanism be developed so that the Board could assess success at achieving these goals. Mr. Kruse acknowledged that there are several errors in the introductory materials. The Federally funded positions are not shaded on the Organizational Chart. The position vacated by Mr. Alsksnitis when he became Associate Director is mislabeled. The number of positions has remained constant at 10.8. He will provide corrected versions of these materials. He also distributed a very detailed work plan for the Department, and expressed his gratitude that the Mayor is allowing him to refill the two vacant clerical and one vacant planning position. The Department will not be back in City Hall for several months. A space planner is looking a space needs in City Hall as a whole. and the location and number of personnel from the Planning Department put back in City Hall may be subject to change. The administration will keep the Board informed.

The Committee voted 5 to 0 to approve the budget (Alderman Gentile not voting.)

Respectfully submitted

Brian Yates, Chairman

Attachment: Work Plan