

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE AGENDA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2009

7:45 pm
Room 222

#95-09 TOM SHEFF requesting the Board of Aldermen appoint an advisory committee made of up persons who are not elected officials to review the daily processes of the Board of Aldermen and report recommended efficiency improvements to the Board of Aldermen. [03/26/09 @8:34 pm]

ITEMS NOT SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION

#72-09 ALD. PARKER AND LAPPIN requesting discussion with the administration regarding which Citizens Advisory Group recommendations are appropriate to implement as part of the Fiscal Year 2010 operating budget.

#73-09 PRESIDENT BAKER, ALD. HESS-MAHAN, VANCE, ALBRIGHT, LENNON, SALVUCCI, LINSKY & SCHNIPPER requesting discussion of the recommendations of the Citizen Advisory Group as may be relevant for long-range planning for the City for coming fiscal years.

Respectfully submitted,

Alderman Ted Hess-Mahan, Chair

#95-09 TOM SHEFF requesting the Board of Aldermen appoint an advisory committee made of up persons who are not elected officials to review the daily processes of the Board of Aldermen and report recommended efficiency improvements to the Board of Aldermen. [03/26/09 @8:34 pm]

ACTION: **HELD and REFERRED TO LONG RANGE PLANNING 4-0 (Ald. Baker, Parker and Brandel not voting)**

NOTE: Mr. Sheff was not present at this meeting. Ald. Johnson noted that Mr. Sheff docketed a previous item that posed questions answered in large part by the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAG). Mr. Sheff, therefore, reframed his request in this new docket item to be more specific to the process of the Board of Aldermen.

Ald. Hess-Mahan suggested this might go to the Long Range Planning Committee and Ald. Sangiolo agreed. However, he felt that the CAG looked at all the processes of the City, including the Board of Aldermen. Ald. Hess-Mahan would like to have either current or former members of the Board included in the advisory committee and Ald. Johnson agreed.

Ald. Johnson said that a survey was done in 2007 when Ald. Vance chaired the Long Range Planning Committee. The Committee Clerk sent the report to Ald. Johnson and Ald. Hess-Mahan and is available in the Clerk's Office for review.

Ald. Hess-Mahan moved to hold this item in Programs & Services and to schedule a discussion in the Long Range Planning Committee. He said he would contact Mr. Sheff. The Committee voted in favor.

#193-09 ALD. ALBRIGHT AND FISCHMAN submitting, on behalf of the Dogs Off-Leash Advisory Committee, a report for discussion as required by City Ordinance Chapter 3 Section 30(e). [06/18/09 @ 3:30 PM]

ACTION: **NO ACTION NECESSARY 5-0 (Ald. Merrill and Sangiolo not voting)**

NOTE: The Dogs Off Leash Advisory Committee submitted their report and it was attached to the agenda for this meeting. The Committee accepted the report and voted No Action Necessary for this item.

HARRINGTON & HARRINGTON
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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N. Jeanette Robinson

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Of Counsel

September 11, 2009

Alderman Ted Hess-Mahan
Newton Board of Aldermen
Newton City hall
Newton, MA 02459

09 SEP 14 PM 1:29
CITY CLERK
NEWTON, MA. 02129

Dear Ted,

Enclosed is a copy of the Board of Aldermen Efficiency Committee Report of 10/11.

As background, the committee was formed and its report generated at a time of political change, as the City of Newton transitioned from a majority of Republican voters to a majority of Democratic voters. While municipal elections were non-partisan, the political party organizations played a significant role in each election.

During the 1970-1972 term, the Board of Aldermen was divided: 13 Republicans to 11 Democrats. Many issues were disputed along party lines.

The issues that prompted the call for an Efficiency Committee included: a) there were no rules of the Board other than Roberts Rules of Order; b) Committees had no staff, c) the meetings were lengthy, d) there was aggravation between members who spoke often, or at length, and those who spoke rarely, e) there were continual questions about the application of the Open Meeting Law and transparency of Board activities (some committees held closed sessions and excluded non-member aldermen) and, f) press coverage was limited to reporters seated in the box on the President's left side (no TV).

I hope you find the report helpful.

Sincerely,



Peter F. Harrington

Copy: 871 Watertown Street
Newton, MA 02465

*Newton
Collection*

EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE

PETER F. HARRINGTON, CHAIRMAN

MICHAEL J. ANTONELLIS

RICHARD J. BULLWINKLE

HARRY H. CROSBY

DAVID W. JACKSON

JOSEPH M. MC MCDONNELL

ROBERT TENNANT

09 SEP 14 PM 1:29
CITY CLERK
NEWTON, MA. 02159

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III

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#27-71

CITY OF NEWTON

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

January 4, 1971

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BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board authorize the President of the Board to appoint a select committee of seven (7) to make recommendations to this Board leaning toward a reduction of the time spent at the Board meetings.

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Submitted by

Edward C. Uehlein,
Alderman
Ward 5.

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Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived & Approved by voice vote
18 yeas, 1 nay, 5 absent
Nay: Ald. McDonnell
Absent: Ald. Cohen, Dietz, Uehlein, Walen
and Wolf.

Committee appointed by President Bauckman:
Ald. Harrington, Chairman.
Ald. Bullwinkle, McDonnell,
Tennant, Antonellis, Crosby
and Jackson.

ay

(Sgd) Joseph H. Karlin, City Clerk

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The Efficiency Committee was appointed on January 4, 1971, and has met five times (January 14, February 4 & 18, March 4 & 23) .

In an attempt to obtain advice and thoughts of non committee members, Ald. Robert L. Tennant prepared and distributed a questionnaire to all Board members; 17, including committeemen responded. See APPENDIX I.

In the United States there are 34 cities with a population in excess of 50,000, whose City Councils have 15 or more members. Your Committee contacted all of these cities requesting certain information. See APPENDIX II
30 cities responded by answering questions and sending information. See APPENDIX III

Additional legislative bodies were contacted and asked to send copies of their rules. In total your Committee read and reviewed the rules of 47 cities and towns, listed in APPENDIX IV. The results indicated that there are a number of similar rules not used by the Newton Board of Aldermen. These, along with suggestions of committee members and suggestions by Aldermen Cohen, Concannon and Lipoff were reviewed by your Committee. See APPENDIX V.

A further note of interesting information is that, cited by the various Councils as ruling authority of parliamentary procedure, in the following order, are:

ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, REVISED
CUSHING'S LAW AND PRACTICE OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES
CROSWELL'S MANUEL OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE
DEMETER'S MANUEL OF PARLIAMENTARY LAW

In order to determine the need or desireability of applying various recommendations to the Newton Board of Aldermen, 2 additional studies were made of our present practices.

1. Ald. Richard J. Bullwinkle conducted a Time Study. See APPENDIX VI. The purpose of this study was to determine the length of time spent on each Committee and its report, the length and number of times Aldermen addressed themselves to the same and separate motions/questions, The effectiveness and need for the same. The study was conducted at Board meetings, the longest of which was hours and the shortest of which was hours.
2. Ald. Harry H. Crosby conducted a study of voting patterns (who votes with whom and how often) See APPENDIX VII. The Committee extends its thanks to Horace L. Varian, Jr. for his assistance in collating this information.

Finally, the Committee would like to thank all Aldermen who participated with advice, those that answered the questionnaire, Edward English and Mrs. Corbett.

EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE::: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RULES CHANGE AND ADDITION

1. SCHEDULE:

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

PUBLIC WORKS & FRANCHISE AND LICENSES COMMITTEES shall meet once a month, on the Thursday following the first Board meeting each month.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS & STREET TRAFFIC COMMITTEES shall meet once a month, on the Thursday following the second Board meeting each month.

LAND USE COMMITTEE shall meet on the second Monday of each month.

LEGISLATION AND RULES COMMITTEE shall meet on the fourth Monday of each month.

FINANCE COMMITTEE shall meet on the Tuesday before each Board meeting.

ALL COMMITTEES shall meet upon the call of the Chairman, or the call of any TWO members, by notice in writing, received 48 hours in advance, giving the time, day, date, place and agenda is sent by the Clerk of the Board to each committee member.

SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN: The President of the Board, or any five (5) members may call a special meeting by giving written notice of the time, day, date, place and agenda to all Aldermen, delivered to their domicile of record at least 24 hours in advance of such meeting.

2. ACTION:

DOCKET: The Docket for each meeting of the Board shall be mailed by the Clerk no later than 5:00 o'clock p.m. on the Wednesday before any Board meeting. In addition to those Dockets printed and distributed to the Aldermen, The Clerk shall have available such additional copies, for distribution to the public, as he may deem necessary, but in no event less than 35 extra copies.

COMMITTEE AGENDA: The agenda for any committee shall be limited to items appearing on the Docket at the Board Meeting previous to the committee meeting and such items as are filed and published in said agenda. The agenda for any committee shall include copies of all petitions, communications and reports from city officers and others, and all supporting material for all Docket items, including the form of the proposed order, ordinance or resolution. The agenda for each committee shall be placed on the desk of each member of the Board on the day of the regularly scheduled Board meeting held immediately prior to the meeting of any such committee. A supplement to the committee agenda containing items referred at that Board meeting shall be placed on the desk of each Board member on the day the committee meets and shall be complete with all initiating and supporting papers and proposed Board orders, ordinances and resolutions, as the regular agenda.

COMMITTEE PROCEDURES: Any member offering a motion, order, ordinance or resolution which is referred to a committee shall be given a hearing on the same by the committee if he/she so requests; if such order, ordinance or resolution is presented by a member of the public, they shall be given a hearing if they so request in writing.

EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE ::: (cont.)

2. ACTION: (cont.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS: All committee reports shall be submitted in writing and such reports shall contain an explanation of the item, the vote, who was present and absent at the committee meeting, copies of letters or other information available to the committee chairman or members, and the final form of the order, ordinance or resolution which is recommended by the committee. Such committee report shall be assembled in an orderly manner and fastened in booklet form.

JOURNAL: The Clerk shall keep a Journal of all proceedings of the Board, including motions, orders, ordinances, resolution, amendments to same and all documents submitted in writing. Such Journal shall be available to the public and a copy of such Journal shall be provided to each member of the Board.

3. PROCEDURE AT BOARD MEETINGS:

ACCEPTANCE OF COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Chairman of each committee shall move the acceptance of his committee report as published. In the event that any Alderman wishes to question any item in the committee report he shall rise and voice his request for a second call of such item, and such item shall be removed from consideration until after all of the unquestioned items in all of the committee reports have been presented and voted upon. Each committee report shall be presented in order.

After each committee has reported, all of the committee reports shall be accepted as published by a roll call vote.

After the acceptance of the committee reports the Board of Aldermen shall recess for a period of not less than 10 minutes nor more than 30 minutes; during such recess all Aldermen so requesting a second call of any particular Docket item shall present themselves to the President so that he might determine their objection, intended motions or amendments, and desire to present arguments for or against any items previously held from committee reports.

ARTICLE III, SECTION 2: (PROPOSED AMENDMENT): The report of the Legislation and Rules committee shall follow the report of the Land Use Committee.

LIMITATION ON DEBATE: Debate shall be limited as follows:

- a) on procedural items the Maker shall speak not more than 3 minutes and all others may not speak more than 2 minutes nor more than one time.
- b) on all other matters each Alderman may speak no more than 3 times nor more than 10 minutes total.

VOTES; HOW TAKEN: In all matters excepting Committee Reports, Finance, Land Use, Ordinances and other matters so required by law, all questions shall be put in substantially this form; "Those who are in favor of the question vote 'AYE', those opposed vote 'NO'; Those in favor ? , Those opposed ? , . Upon the request of any one member the President shall call for those in favor to stand, and then for those opposed to stand. Upon the request of any one member the President shall call for a Roll Call Vote.

If there is no objection the President shall record that the vote was unanimous; if a small number object the President shall record. "The vote was affirmative, with 'X', 'Y' & 'Z' objecting".

EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE ::: (cont.)

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS:

APPEAL: Any member may appeal the ruling of the President; and if such appeal is duly seconded, the appellant may speak once, solely on the question involved and the President may explain his ruling, but no other member shall participate in the discussion, otherwise no debate shall be permitted. An objection under Sec. 11 of the Newton Charter may be appealed by the maker only, and he shall be permitted ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ to explain his position without the need of a second.

GUESTS: No person, other than an Alderman, shall be admitted within the rail of the Chamber of the Board or within the Members Lobby connected therewith, at any meeting of the Board, except upon permission of the President or vote of a majority of the Board.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Purchase a timer with a bell.
2. Purchase a clock to be hung behind the President, for all to see.
3. Purchase dictating equipment, at least five machines, to be under lock but available to all Aldermen at all times.
4. Budget request for sec. help.
5. Purchase copies of Roberts Rules of Order, Revised, for all Aldermen.
6. Continue Committee to study seniority and committee structure.

FINAL RECOMMENDATION:

THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS SHALL BE IN EFFECT FOR A TRIAL PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS


Peter F. Harrington, Chairman

Recommended Data Flow + Reports Procedure

A P R I L

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	5 Board of Ald. close Comm. Agenda	6	7	8 Public Works Public Build.	9	10
	12 Land Use	13 Finance	14 Close Docket	15	16	17
	19 Board of Ald. close Comm. Agenda	20	21	22 F. & L. Street Traffic	23	24
	26 Leg. & Rules	27 Finance	28 close Docket	29	30	

COMMITTEE AGENDA:
 1. Unfinished Committee Business
 2. New Committee Business

M A Y

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	3 Board of Ald. close Comm. Agenda	4	5	6 Public Works Public Build.	7	8
	10 Land Use	11 Finance	12 close Docket	13	14	15
	17 Board of Ald. close Comm. Agenda	18	19	20 F. & L. Street Traffic	21	22
	24 Leg. & Rules	25	26	27	28	29
	31					

BOARD DOCKET:
 1. Committee Reports
 2. Unfinished Committee Business
 3. New Committee Business
 4. Late Filed Items

J U N E

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Finance	2 close Docket	3	4	5
	7 Bd. Ald. close Comm. Agenda	8	9	10 Pub. Works Pub. Build.	11	12

SUPPORTING STATEMENTS - EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE

1. SCHEDULE: It is hoped that the change in schedule of committee meetings will provide an improved opportunity for all Aldermen to attend any committee meeting, to discuss or examine into expected controversial docket items.

The moving of the committee meetings to 6 - 10 days prior to Board meetings is designed to allow each committee to make a full report and to provide time for individual Aldermen to read and digest the same.

The written reports are recommended to provide Aldermen with committee information, ideas, reasons and votes in advance of Board meetings. Also, we note that of 30 cities in the United States with 15 or more members on their City Councils (the remaining 4 did not respond), only Newton, Mass., and Nashville, Tenn., do not have written reports.

2. ACTION:

DOCKET At the present time the reports docket closes at 10:00 A.M. Friday before a Board meeting and is mailed Friday afternoon. Urgent, late-filed items are included. Many times the reports docket is not received on Saturday, but arrives in the mail Monday on the day of the meeting, so Aldermen have only the time at supper to read it. The new business docket is closed and mailed on Monday preceding a Board meeting, so it is normally received Tuesday or Wednesday before committee meetings. The unfinished business docket is made up and mailed so as to be received the Tuesday or Wednesday before committee meetings. The docket made available to the public at Board meetings is the new business docket which contains order of hearings. Since it does not contain committee votes, it is relatively useless to the observing public. It is available in one posted copy, except to those organizations and observers on the mailing list.

The Efficiency Committee feels that the present schedule provides insufficient time for Aldermen to review the docket before meetings. If mailed by 5:00 P.M. Wednesday, many Aldermen would receive them by Thursday, and all by Friday. This would permit Aldermen to plan on Friday night for any weekend viewings of affected locations which they feel necessary to make an informed vote.

If 35 copies of the hearings docket were available to the public, there would be less confusion and noise among the public present for hearings. If a few copies of the reports docket were made available for certified observers from civic organizations, the Boards actions would be more quickly understood and rapport with the interested organizations would be improved. Less talk and noise would be likely to ensue over the rail.

COMMITTEE/AGENDA

At present the committee agenda consists of a listing by title and subject summary in the Board docket, appearing in several locations for most committees. Land Use and Legislation and Rules have specially listed agenda, and other special committees do upon request. However, the committees do in practice consider matters not previously on the docket, and which may appear for the first time on the reports docket, similar to late-filed items. The rules of the Board permit this.

The present committee agenda does not contain any of the originating petitions or communications, though one copy is filed in the committee book and loose copies are usually laid on each alderman's desk and also mailed to him for resolutions and important communications. For many items on which the committee and the Board vote, only the committee chairman has seen the actual petition or communication though he may have read it in part or in toto to the committee or the Board. Such oral transmission wastes valuable time in committee and Board meetings.

On most matters before the Board, no alderman sees the proposed order before the vote, since the clerk prepares the order after the vote. Proposed orders prepared by other agencies such as the Redevelopment Authority and the Housing Authority and Proposed Ordinances and resolutions are generally on the alderman's desk in writing. Some errors in orders have occurred due to misunderstanding or typography. Much time in debate has delayed action on the Board because of confusion or ignorance or lack of confidence in the exact wording which would be embodied in the resulting Board Order. It appears reasonable and feasible for each alderman to have in writing the text of each proposed order, ordinance and resolution which will come before the committees, and that each alderman shall have a copy of the text as reported out by the committee, in sufficient time before the Board meeting so that he may deliberate on it and discuss it with other aldermen.

The practice of including late-filed items in the reports docket with insufficient or conflicting initiating petitions or communications and hastily drawn Board orders has resulted in substantial confusion, delay and debate by the Board. It appears that the process would be better served by requiring late-filed items to be properly prepared, and to meet an earlier date, allowing for reading and consideration by the aldermen before they convene to take action.

These deficiencies in existing practices are overcome by the proposed new comprehensive documentation in committee agenda and committee reports. The Efficiency Committee has found that most other councils among those investigated do require and provide such documentation. It is your committee's opinion that it is largely through the effective execution of such staff work that many of these councils can complete their Board work in half to one quarter of the time which we consume.

COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

It has occasionally occurred that aldermen initiating an item have not an opportunity to testify before the committee considering. This has resulted in wrangling and delay and occasional re-committal when the committee report has been adverse. The proposed privilege should eliminate this.

The same situation sometimes applies in the case of a constituent person or organization. Extension of the proposed privilege will present the public with a sense of fair treatment and will reduce instances of obstruction before the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Efficiency Committee feels that properly prepared written committee reports, available in sufficient time to be read by the aldermen before Board meetings, will enable the Board to reach its decisions much more expeditiously.

Much of the committee report will already be prepared and available in the form of the committee agenda. This will include the initiating petition or request, and supporting data which has been presented, and the proposed Board order, or ordinance or resolution. The committee report would add to this the attendance at the meeting, the vote on the items considered, and the form of the proposed order, ordinance or resolution as recommended by the committee. If unchanged by the committee, this would be the same as the proposed form in the committee agenda. In addition, a brief statement of the basic reasons for the committee vote would usually be stated. This is to take the place of such oral statements before the Board.

The committee report would be placed in Docket or committee agenda order and fastened so that it can be conveniently used without shuffling of papers and docket searching. In most cases, the written committee report will replace the docket book as the document of reference during discussion by the Board. It will contain all the material pertinent to reaching a decision, and will make evident whether the committee work is adequate or re-committal is desirable.

The proper preparation of committee reports will make possible the preparation of a journal for an instrument of record.

JOURNAL

Under the present system it appears nearly impossible to reconstruct clearly the record of action by the Board at a previous meeting on a particular item. It is sometimes difficult to conclusively determine the action of prior Boards on ordinances and resolutions; ordinances are usually easier to trace because of their location in the ordinance book, placement in loose-leaf folders on aldermen's desks and periodic issuance of supplements. However, even ordinances have been lost and failed to appear in published supplements, to wit: Ald. Walen's ordinance re parking at meters where unused time exists.

Many times aldermen have expressed doubt or lack of confidence that the actions of the Board have been properly recorded or implemented. Much aldermanic time is spent reporting to constituents and other interested parties what happened at Board meetings.

To overcome these various problems, your Efficiency Committee recommends that a JOURNAL of the proceedings of the Board be kept. This JOURNAL would consist of three categories of documents, as follows: the docket for the meeting, all committee reports presented at the meeting in their full comprehensiveness as earlier described, and a record of the action proceedings by the Board during the meeting. The record of the action proceedings would list the aldermen present during any vote, whether vote was by voice, hands, standing or roll call. All parliamentary procedures, motions, amendments, seconds, rulings by chair, etc. would be recorded. Substance of debate would not be recorded unless furnished to the Clerk in writing prior to the meeting, and ruled relevant to the issue and in order by the President. Substance of minority reports when furnished in writing prior to close of meeting would be included.

The existence of such a journal would greatly aid and simplify the catch up effort required by aldermen after absence due to sickness, business or vacation. A complete and official audit trail of previous Board action will always be available at every meeting, so questions concerning previous meetings may be quickly resolved and rulings made with confidence and accepted.

Further the public will have an accessible and comprehensive official record of all Board work which will reduce the communication burden. It should result in instilling confidence and support for the Board when it performs and records its work well.

The review by the Efficiency Committee of the practices of other cities revealed that most of them do publish a journal of their proceedings substantially as recommended.

3. PROCEDURE AT BOARD MEETINGS: The intent of the proposed procedure is to expedite clearing routine or non-controversial matters contained in Committee Reports. "Second-call will hold matters on which a question exists or debate is desired. Routine matters may be voted by reference to the Docket, without the necessity of formal presentation and explanation.

The recess is intended to resolve questions on second-call items, expeditiously on an informal basis, and so that intended debate or discussion may be prepared substantively and procedurally (by report of intent to the President) thus expediting the matter thereafter before the full Board. Any alderman who does not wish to report to the President during the recess will not be precluded from debate or discussion, since argument or discussion given by others may raise questions or call for discussion or debate not previously contemplated.

Understanding of our fellowmen is probably one of life's difficult tasks. Each one of us thinks, acts and behaves differently. All have opinions, desires, likes and dislikes that change, just as the day into night. History has shown the wonderful things that are created by man, do not just happen, they are built from absolutely nothing to something. Through this creative period the substance trial, tribulations, aches, pains, hates and fears all moulded into the one, usually produces a good end result. Some are hurt along the way, some hold grudges that are harmful. Others agree and push for the finish of the project which is the best that can be produced with the materials, intelligence and energies that are at hand.

We as elected representatives hold a position of honor in our city and have by oath agreed to do our best. Should there not be a strong effort to socialize and know others better, not just as business acquaintances but as friends. Definite attempts made not to embarrass, harass, or point a vindictive finger, misunderstanding quickly cleared, communication of any information and research shared. A general desire to co-operate could prevail. This would save endless hours of time that, if needed, be put to better advantage to all concerned.

Thus, we as aldermen should endeavor to act. The goal is the same, the reimbursements equally divided. No one wins, no one loses. Civic dedication should be the basis of our thoughts, personal gain, and the desire for it, although difficult in this world of ours to dismiss completely, should take a very low position, if at all, in our deliberations. The understanding of your brother alderman and the considerations that should be given to bring out the best in all of us, should be our desire. We are all attempting to work together for the common good, leaving a mark that will be left and viewed by others to decide as to its value.

In conclusion, your Committee recommends that the Board hold at least two social meetings each year.

APPENDIX I

PLEASE CHECK YES OR NO WHERE INDICATED

RESULTS BASED ON 17 REPLYs

	Yes	No	BLANKs
1. Do you feel present rules are adequate and if enforced would be sufficient.	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	1
2. Do you agree that starting meetings at 7:00 P.M. or 7:30 P.M. would help shorten meetings.	<u>5</u>	<u>12</u>	
3. Controversial hearings should be held on other evenings rather than on full board nights.	<u>16</u>	<u>1</u>	
4. All Aldermen should inform City Clerk in advance if he does not plan to attend committee meetings or full Board meetings.	<u>12</u>	<u>5</u>	
5. Committee Reports			
A. Chairman should be immediately available when scheduled to give their reports.	<u>15</u>	<u>2</u>	
B. Items held by committee should be discussed or commented on by Chairman.	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	3
C. Chairmen of committees should have advance report in writing on each Aldermen's desk before full Board meeting.	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	2
D. Committee reporting should be reversed every other meeting.	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	2
E. If Committee Chairman knows of a controversial item it should be held to the end of his report and separate vote requested.	<u>13</u>	<u>3</u>	1
F. Should some committees be required to report only once a month.	<u>12</u>	<u>4</u>	1
6. If Rule could be changed to a voice, hand or standing vote on all docket items would you agree.	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	3
7. Should information on all new Docket items given to Committee Chairmen by City Clerk also be given to all Aldermen. This would allow Aldermen to attend any committee meeting of their choice preventing need for asking questions from floor of full Board.	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	2
8. Do you feel that the Aldermen converse too long on controversial Docket items.			
(A) Would you agree to two minutes---- three minutes----five minutes---- or no limit----time period on Docket by an Alderman.	<u>SEE</u>	<u>BELOW</u>	

0 MINUTES = 0 2 MINUTES = 6 5 MINUTES = 4 NO MINUTES = 0 7 = BLANK

(b) An Alderman should be limited to speaking on a subject One time 3 two times 7 three times 1 No limit 0. **5 BLANKS**

Yes No **BLANKS**

9. Unanimous vote of committee does not need any discussion on floor of Board.

4 13

10. Bell for recalling Aldermen should be discontinued. (It is usually ignored)

1 15 1

11. Aldermen should not be permitted to vote if they are not in Aldermanic Chamber to hear committee report.

4 13

12. President should Rule with a much firmer attitude with a more active gavel.

15 2

13. Minor Committee Reports should be placed with the President in writing to be read at the discretion of the President

7 9 1

14. Aldermen make speeches only for what publicity they can obtain from newspapers.

8 6 3

15. Should public be prohibited from Aldermanic Committee rooms on full Board nights to allow private discussions between Aldermen.

10 7

16. Chairman of Committee should advise President in advance if there is to be an acting Chairman so both President and Acting Chairman will be ready when report is called for.

17 0

17. Smoking should be allowed in the Aldermanic Chamber only by majority vote present.

16 1

18. All City Department heads should be available on committee nights if Docket item they are requesting is in any way controversial.

17 0

19. All full Board meetings should adjourn at 12:30 midnight, returning next evening for finish of business.

6 11

20. Quorum not necessary at hearings or committee discussions by Chairman on floor of Board in full Aldermanic session.

9 3 2

2 NO ON COMMITTEE
1 YES ON HEARINGS

- | | Yes | No | BLANK |
|---|-----------|----------|----------|
| 21. Aldermen should meet occasionally on a social basis through the year for a better understanding of each other. | <u>14</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> |
| 22. Do you feel that each Alderman owes it to his colleagues and efficiency of the Board to be on time for the opening gavel. | <u>16</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>1</u> |

Please indicate in the following space provided any comments or constructive criticism or any remarks that may further the cause of saving time and energy of all concerned for a happier and more efficient Board of Aldermen. Again we repeat RETURN FORM PROMPTLY

Survey Prepared by Ald. Robert L. Tennant
 Ald. Joseph M. McDonnell
 Sub-Committee

Approved by
 Efficiency Committee

Peter F. Harrington, Chairman
 Ald. Robert L. Tennant
 Ald. Joseph M. McDonnell
 Ald. Richard J. Bullwinkle
 Ald. David W. Jackson
 Ald. Harry H. Crosby

Comments
on
Questions

#95-09

1. Not Adequate
2. Never have a quorm
2. 7:00 P.M.
3. If important - good idea at times (only on city wide problems)
4. We are elected officals and don't have to report to anyone.
4. Where possible
4. This is a matter of courtesy.
5. (a) No necessity for any rule on this
(b) Usually not
If requested
Circumstances determine what is appropriate
Status report on held items is sufficent
Interested Aldermen should speak to chairman privately
Only if requested
(c) Doubt if this could be done
To much of a burden on chairmen not essential
Only on heavy and controversial items
Need secretarial staff for this
Good idea if we have secretaries
(d) L & R should be moved up - F & L down in agenda
(f) Not feasible
Nothing to report - don't say nothing
6. Standing vote on most items
Prefer roll call vote
Stand or hand not voice
Newspapers would be unhappy with this change
7. Would be helpful but not praticable
Use common sense approach
You can only be one place at a time
8. (a) Limit to apply, except to committee reports
No limit should use common sense and good judgement
Important committees five minutes others two minutes
(b) Rules can determine this
Permission by 2/3 Borad for longer debates
9. Unanimous vote chairman should delete minor details
Committee report held or not invites questions
10. We should have an aldermatice whip - or use assistant city clerk
11. Find out from some one that was at meeting
Yes, any of their questions should be ruled out or order if they were not present
during report.
12. President is doing fine job- more firmer attitude is needed only at times.
Definitely

Comments
on
Questions

P#95209

13. Lump together docket items in report
14. Occasionally true
Usually
Some
Sometimes - certain few
15. Absolutely the invasion of our privacy amazes me.
17. I don't care.
Present rules cover.
Smoking should be permitted, no vote after hearings, eating should not be allowed at all.
19. Not always possible to return next night.
Tuesday evening are dedicated to my family.
We do not function well early in the morning.
20. Necessary for vote.
21. New members of Board should have orientation meeting.

APPENDIX II



CITY OF NEWTON Board of Aldermen

(1970 - 1971)

NEWTON CENTRE, MASSACHUSETTS 02159

Wendell R. Bauckman, President
Eliot K. Cohen, Vice President

Aldermen at Large

Ward

- 1 Adelaide B. Ball
- 1 Joseph M. McDonnell
- 2 Peter Harrington
- 2 William H. Wolf
- 3 Matthew Jefferson
- 3 Robert Tennant
- 4 Louis I. Egelson, Jr.
- 4 David W. Jackson
- 5 Harry L. Walen
- 5
- 6 Michael Lipof
- 6 Sidney T. Small
- 7 Harry H. Crosby
- 7 Jason Sacks
- 8 Wendell R. Bauckman
- 8 Eliot K. Cohen

January 6, 1971

Dear Sir:

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Newton is presently conducting a study of its Rules in an attempt to shorten the length of their meetings. Since your local legislative body is one of thirty-three in the United States of comparable size or larger we are writing to ask for your assistance as follows:

1. Would you please send us seven (7) (one for each committee member) copies of your council rules, and sample of your docket and committee reports
2. Would you please answer:
 - a) are committee reports written, verbal, both
 - b) how many council meetings per month _____
 - c) length of average council meeting _____
 - d) time of day of council meetings _____
 - e) number of meetings of each committee per month _____
 - f) amount of council members pay _____
 - g) if public hearings held before council meeting; _____
the average length of time _____

Ward Aldermen

Ward

- 1 Andrew J. Magni
- 2 Thomas B. Concannon, Jr.
- 3 Richard J. Bullwinkle
- 4 Arthur H. Sullivan
- 5 Edward C. Uehlein
- 6 Ernest F. Dietz
- 7 William Carmen
- 8 Alan S. Barkin

Clerk

Joseph H. Karlin

Any help you may give will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Peter F. Harrington
Ward 2 - Alderman-at-Large
Committee to Review Rules of Board
of Aldermen, Chairman

APPENDIX III

CITY & STATE	POPULATION	NUMBER OF COUNCILORS	COMM. REPORTS	MEETINGS	LENGTH	TIME	DAY	SALARY
ALBANY, N. Y.	127,000	19	Wd.	W & V	2/mo	1/2-2 1/2 hr	8pm	1,950/yr
ATLANTA, GA.	535,000	16	at Lg.	W	2/mo	3-4 hr	2pm 1&3 mon	7,200/yr
AGUSTA, GA.	67,000	16	at Lg.	W & V	2/mo	30 min	8 & 12 1 & 3 mon	1,800/yr
BALTIMORE, MD.	925,000	19	Wd.	W	ea. mon	1 1/2 hr	5 pm ea. mon	6,500/yr
BRIDGEPORT CONN.	156,000	20	Wd.	W	2/mo	2 hr	8 pm	NONE
BUFFALO, N. Y.	505,000	6	at Lg 9 Wd	W	ea 2 wks	2-3 hr	2 pm Tues	13,500/yr
CHARLESTON, S. C.	80,000	16	at Lg.	W	2/mo	45 min	7 pm 2&4 Tues	1,200/yr
CLEVELAND, OHIO	855,000	33	Wd.	W	ea. mon	2-4 hr	7 pm mon	12,500/yr
JACKSONVILLE, FLA.	198,000	5	at Lg-14Wd	W	2/mo	3 hr	7:30pm 2 & 4 Tues	5,000/yr
KENOSHA, WISC.	76,000	18	Wd.	W & V	2/mo	3 hr	7:30pm 1 & 3 Mon	1,200/yr
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.	2,695,000	15	at Lg.	W	20/mo	2 1/2 hr	10:00am 5 ea wk	17,000/yr
MACON, GA.	128,000	15	at Lg.	W	Weekly	1 hr	6 pm	2,400/yr
MADISON, WISC.	154,000	22	Wd.	W	ea Tues	5 hr+	7:30pm Tues	1,800/yr
MERIDAN, CONN.	55,000	20	Wd.	W	1 or 2mo	2 1/2 hr	8 pm	900/yr
MILWAUKEE, WISC.	765,000	19	Wd.	W	lea 3 wk	4-5 hr	10-12-2	11,200/yr
NASHVILLE, TENN.	261,000	6	at-Lg.35 Wd	V	2/mo	2-4 hr	7:30pm	3,600/yr
NEW HAVEN, CONN.	151,000	33	Wd.	W	1/mo	2 hr	9 pm	NONE
NEWTON, MASS.	90,000	16	at-Lg.8 Wd	V	2/mo	5 hr+	7:45pm Mon	NONE
NORWALK, CONN.	68,000	16	Wd.	W & V	1/mo	4 hr	eves	600/yr
NEW YORK, N. Y.	8,080,000	10	at-Lg.27Wd	W	ea Tues	4 1/2 hr	1:30pm Tues	20,000/yr
PHILADELPHIA, PENN.	2,000,000	7	at-Lg.10Wd	W	ea. week	1-2hr	2 pm Thurs	18,000/yr
PROVIDENCE, R. I.	195,000	26	Wd.	W	2/mo	2 hr	8 pm	3,000/yr
RACINE, WISC.	95,000	18	Wd.	W	2/mo	2 hr	8 pm 1&3 Tues	2,500/yr
ROCKFORD, ILL.	136,000	20	Wd.	W	ea Mon	1 hr	7:30pm Mon	2,700/yr
ST. LOUIS, MO.	750,000	1	at-Lg.27 Wd	W& V	4/mo	1 1/2 hr	11:00am	7,500/yr
STANFORD, CONN.	101,000	40	Wd.	W	1/mo	3-4 hr		NONE
WALTHAM, MASS.	61,000	6	at-Lg. 9Wd	W	3/mo	4-7hr	8 pm 2 & 4 mon	2,700/yr
WATERBURY, CONN.	106,000	15	at-Lg.	W & V	2/mo	3 hr	8 pm	1,000/yr
WAUKEGAN, ILL.	62,000	16	Wd.	W & V	ea Week	1 hr	8 pm mon	50/Meet.
WAUWATOSA, WISC.	61,000	16	Wd.	W	2/mo	3 hr	1 & 3 Tue	3,000/yr

APPENDIX IV

ALBANY, NEW YORK
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
AGUSTA, GEORGIA
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS
BUFFALO, NEW YORK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
CHICOPEE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLEVELAND, OHIO
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA
KENOSHA, WISCONSIN
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS
LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS
MACON, GEORGIA
MADISON, WISCONSIN
MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
MASSACHUSETTS JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT
NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS
RACINE, WISCONSIN
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI
SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
STANFORD, CONNECTICUT
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT
WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS
WAUWATOSA, WISCONSIN
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

The Committee reviewed the rules of all of the above listed legislative bodies

APPENDIX V

TIME LIMITATION

Member may speak on a question for ten minutes and not again until all members have spoken. Subsequent speakers will then be limited to five minutes for each member, with each additional five minute period for each member being dependent on all other members desiring to speak on the question having had an opportunity to do so, and providing that in each instance there is an intervening speaker. Except that the mover of the question and the appropriate Committee chairman, in that order, shall each have five minutes additional time to close debate. (LOS ANGELES)

Member shall speak on the subject under discussion longer than five minutes, more than twice upon the same question, without consent of the council. *2/16/71 Efficiency Comm 2* AGUSTA

TIME LIMITATION: Not more than twice, the first time limit to five minutes and the second time no more than two minutes. (BUFFALO)

TIME LIMITATION: No Councilor shall speak more than twice, nor more than ten minutes at any one time... (LOWELL)

TIME LIMITATION: Not more than twice nor more than five minutes. *2/16/71 Efficiency Comm 3* (QUINCY)

TIME LIMITATION: no longer than ten minutes at any one time nor longer than fifteen minutes upon any one subject, without the consent of the council. (CLEVELAND)

TIME LIMITATION OF TEN MINUTES: Springfield, Mass. Lawrence, Mass. ATLANTA, Ga. Madison, Wisc.

That an individual Alderman's debate or discussion on a given matter before the Board be initially limited to five minutes and that he not be heard a second time until every member who wishes to speak has spoken.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE:...Such explanation shall not consume more than five minutes unless extended by the council. (CLEVELAND)

REPORTS

Every ordinance and committee report, except zoning..., shall be read when introduced and lie over until the next regular meeting of the council. (ROCKFORD, ILL.)

All committees shall report upon any matter referred to it not later than the next regular meeting following such reference... (WAUKEGAN, ILL)

Committees shall report within four weeks of the time a matter is referred to it. (CAMBRIDGE, MASS.)

No committee report shall be necessary on items that are unanimous in committee unless a report is requested by a board member.

ALL COMMITTEE REPORTS SHALL BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING. REPORTS SHALL BE ACCEPTED AS WRITTEN UNLESS ANY ONE MEMBER REQUESTS A PARTICULAR DOCKET ITEM BE SEPARATED FOR DEBATE, ROLL CALL VOTE OR OTHERWISE.

ARTICLE III, Section 2. Committee reports shall be given in the following order:

- a. Finance Committee on matters involving appropriations
- b. Land Use Committee
- c. Legislation and Rules Committee
- d. Finance Committee on matters not involving appropriations
- e. Public works committee on matters not involving appropriations
- f. Public Buildings Committee on matters not involving appropriations
- g. City Planning Committee
- h. Street Traffic Committee
- i. Franchises and Licenses Committee
- j. Education Committee
- k. Kenrick Fund Committee
- l. Special Committees

VOTING

Any six members may make a call of the house and require absent members to be sent for, but a call of the house can not be made after the voting has commenced. MILWAU

The yeas and nays shall be taken when called for by one-fourth of the members present. (BRIDGEPORT, CONN)... Three members. (CHICOPEE) ONE (ROCKFORD, ILL.)

Upon introduction of an order, etc, unless otherwise ordered by a two-thirds vote of the members, it shall be read by title and referred to committee. (BALTIMORE)

VOTES-HOW TAKEN: All questions shall be put in substantially this form: Those who are in favor of the question say Aye; those opposed, say No; and in doubtful cases or before the question is decided, any member may call for a division of the ayes and nays; and when the ayes and nays are called for the vote shall be recorded by the clerk. (RACINE, WISC.) a roll call vote shall be recorded upon request of any one member.

COMMITTEES

ARTICLE IV, Section 6.

- A. Finance Committee shall meet on the ~~Thursday~~ ^{Tuesday} preceding each reg. Bd. Meeting
- B. Public Works & Public Buildings Committees shall meet on the SECOND THURSDAY before the First Regular Board Meeting each month.
- C. Franchise & Licenses and Street Traffic Committees shall meet on the SECOND THURSDAY Before the Second Regular Board Meeting each month
- D. Land Use Committee shall meet on the SECOND MONDAY of each month.
- E. Legislation and Rules Committee shall meet on the FORTH MONDAY of each month
- F. City Planning Committee shall meet
- G. All other committees shall meet on the call of the Chairman, but if the Chairman fails to call a meeting within Ten days after a matter has been referred to such committee, any two members shall call a meeting
- H. Committees shall meet at 7:45 p.m., unless the committee shall otherwise determine.
- I. original C.
- J. original D.

PROCEDURES

All matters of whatever description which may require action by the city council shall be presented to the city clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday preceding each regular meeting. (CAMBRIDGE, MASS.)

No business shall be taken up out of order except by unanimous consent and without debate. (MADISON, WISC)

All orders etc. shall be read by title on the day introduced, unless such reading is dispensed with a two-thirds vote; and unless otherwise ordered by the council shall be referred by the presiding officer to the proper committee... (CLEVELAND (PHILADELPHIA))

Any member offering a motion, order or resolution which is referred to a committee shall be given a hearing on the same by the committee if he so requests. (BOSTON)

The practice of introducing resolutions of condolence and congratulatory resolutions... In lieu of such the clerk shall have prepared a resolution... to be sent. (CLEVELAND)

The maker of the motion shall be the first to speak on such motion. (BALTIMORE, MD)

The member who introduces an order, etc. shall have the right to speak first on such order, etc., if he so wishes. (BROCKTON)

Votes concerning the expenditure of more than \$50.00 shall be by roll call
Votes concerning zoning matters shall be by ~~roll~~ roll call.

When a matter has been LAID ON THE TABLE it shall become dead unless a motion to take from the table is made not one month after the next regular meeting... (LOWE)

A motion to table shall be debated only by the maker of the motion and by one proponent of the bill. (NASHVILLE, TENN) (recommit... person introducing such bill)

DEBATE MAY BE CLOSED at any time not less than one hour after a motion to that effect. debate on motion limited to ten minutes. (MASS SENATE)... NOT LESS THAN THIRTY MINUTES AFTER A MOTION... (Mass. House)

All ordinances, before being passed, shall be printed and a copy laid on the desk of each alderman for examination. (SOMERVILLE)

He shall decide all questions of order, subject to appeal, which appeal shall be decided without debate, except that the appellant may state the grounds upon which his appeal is based. (LOS ANGELES)

Any member may appeal to the council from a ruling of the President and if such appeal is duly seconded, the appellant may speak once solely on the question involved and the President may explain his ruling, but no other member shall participate in the discussion. (BUFFALO-11)

No member shall leave the Council chamber during sessions of the Council without permission from the President. (LOS ANGELES), (MILWAUKEE)

No member shall absent himself without leave unless there is a quorum without his presence. (MASS. SENATE)

No member shall leave a meeting without permission under penalty of \$5.00 (ROCKFORD)

PUBLIC HEARINGS: All public hearings, except those required by statute, shall be held in committee. (NEW BEDFORD)

In the presentation of any question by any person, corporation or organization, each side shall be heard not exceeding twenty minutes. X (LOS ANGELES)

The time devoted to public hearings at any meeting of the City Council shall not be more than three (3) hours at any one sitting... (Quincy -26)

No person shall be admitted within the rail in the City Council Chamber or in the member's lobby connected with said chamber at any meeting of the City Council, except upon permission of the President. (QUINCY - 6)

The Clerk of Committees shall act as secretary to the several committees, and keep a record of attendance and business transacted at their meetings. (QUINCY-38)

The President or any 4 members of the Council, may at any time call a special meeting of the Council... by written notice... 24 hours... (QUINCY -25)

The President may at any time call a special meeting of the Board upon such notice as he deems sufficient. (SOMERVILLE - 1.1)

That it will not be required that individual Aldermen sign articles of Incorporation, and that some stamping method be devised.

APPENDIX VI

APPENDIX VITIME STUDY

The following section is devoted to the four most recent meetings in an endeavor to determine where and how the board spends its time during Aldermanic meetings.

It was an attempt to faithfully record what actually took place and make some observations relevant to those actions.

R. J. Bullwinkle
ALDERMAN WARD 3

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

FINANCE

HOUSING

EXECUTIVE SESSION

HEARINGS

L+R

ST. TRAFFIC

JURORS

F+L

CITY PLANNING

COMMITTEE OF WHOLE: PROJECT TURNABOUT

TIME DISTRIBUTION

MEETING OF 2/1/71 (304 TOTAL MINUTES)

MEETING DURING OF FLECKERTMAN

ANALYSIS OF MEETING

ANALYSIS of DATA

#95-09
PAGE 2

MEETING: Feb. 1, 1971

ELAPSED TIME: 8:00 P.M TO 1:00 A.M

304 TOTAL MINUTES

DATA ANALYSIS:

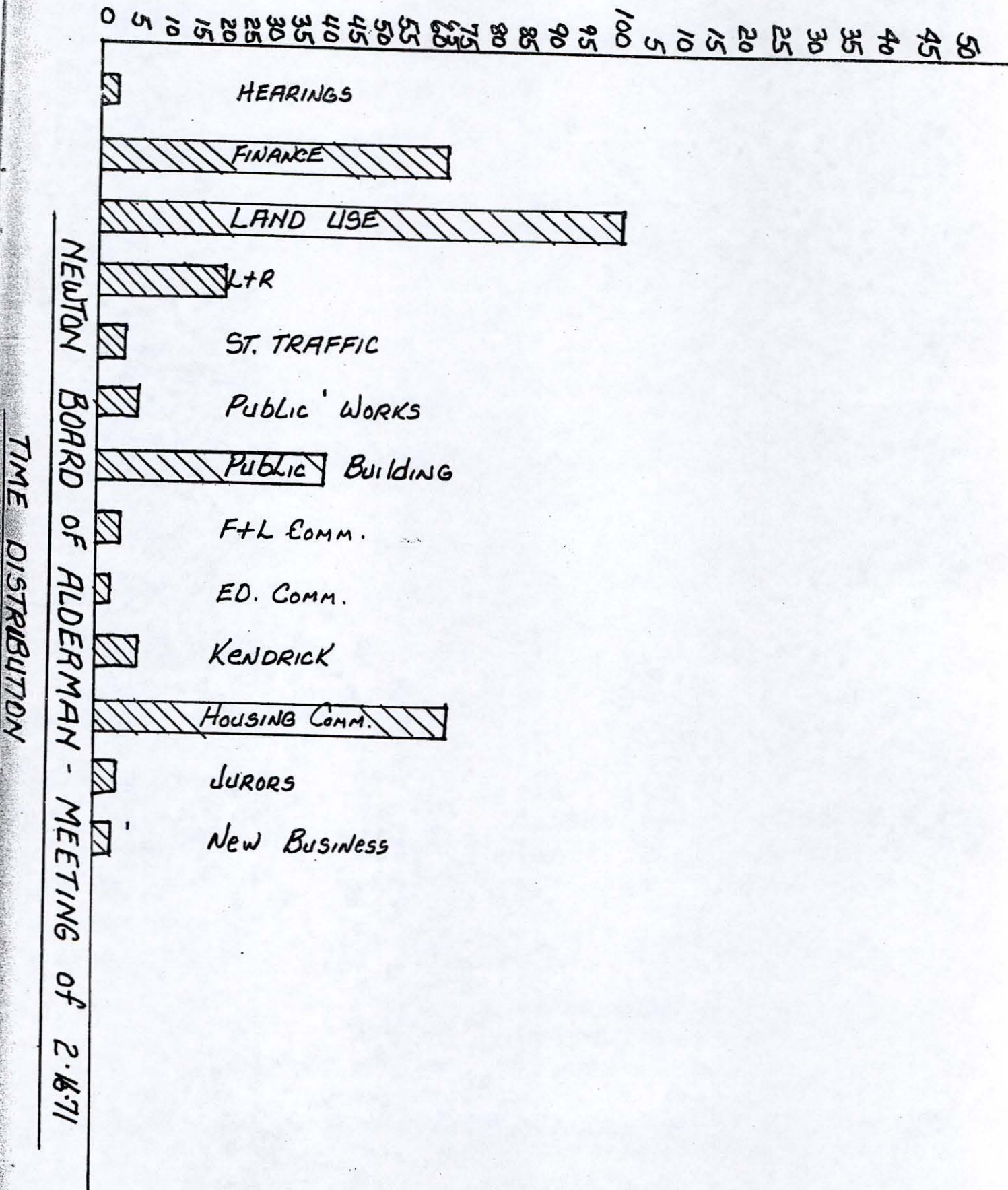
	<u>MINUTES</u>	<u>%</u>
(A.) Committee of the WHOLE (PROJECT TURNABOUT)	145	47
(B.) FINANCE Committee Report	47	15%
(C.) HOUSING Committee	37	12%
(D.) PUBLIC HEARINGS	29	10%
(E.) L+R. Committee	27	10%
(F.) STREET TRAFFIC COMM.	7	3%
(G.) DRAW JURORS	5	1%
(H.) F+L Committee	3	1%
(I.) MISC	5	1%
TOTAL TIME	<u>304</u>	100%

OBSERVATIONS:

- (1.) MEETING STARTED AT 8:00 P.M. - 15 MINUTES LATE
- (2.) 6 MEMBERS WERE NOT PRESENT AT 8:00 P.M.
- (3.) THE FIRST VOTE WAS TAKEN AT 10:55 P.M.
- (4.) AT 12:35 A BARE MAJORITY WAS AVAILABLE
- (5.) PROJECT TURNABOUT SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A SEPARATE MEETING
 CLEAR EXAMPLE OF
 - (A.) INCOMPLETE STAFF WORK
 - (B.) A LATE FILED ITEM WITH INSUFFICIENT TIME TO CONSIDER ITEM UNDER LESS HECTIC CIRCUMSTANCES.
 (IT TOOK W. WOLF - ACTING FIN. CH. 17 MINUTES TO MAKE INITIAL PRESENTATION.)
- (6.) D. JACKSON CHARTERED 800-70 WHICH SHORTENED 27 MINUTE LTR COMMITTEE.
 THE GAS STATION CLOSING TIME VERY CONTROVERSIAL.
- (7.) THE HOUSING COMMITTEE MET IN EXECUTIVE SESSION IN A HIGHLY CHARGED CONTROVERSIAL SESSION.
- (8.) PUBLIC HEARINGS (STREET/SEWER ACCEPTANCES - 85-6.7.8/71) UNUSUALLY LONG AT 29 MINUTES.
- (9.) ALL THE INGREDIENTS WERE PRESENT AND IN PLAY FOR A LONG MEETING. APPENDIX VII ④

MINUTES

316 = TOTAL #95-09 (STRS. -16 MIN.)



I. FINANCE Committee

62 (19%)

(A) 8⁰² To 8¹⁶ MULTI Service (SPECIAL)
DRUG CENTER (14)

LOU EGELSON TALKED (EXPLAINED
COMMITTEE VOTE) FROM 8⁰² TO 8¹³ (11)

W. CARMEN INTRODUCED RESOLUTION
IN FAVOR (3)
14

(B) 9⁰³ To 9²⁹ # ITEMS FINANCE (26)

- (1) Uhlein -
 - (1) JACKSON
 - (1) Uhlein
 - (4) R.J. Bullwinkel
 - (2) LACARIE
 - (1) HARRINGTON
 - (2) DIETZ
 - (14) Egelson
- 26

(C) 11¹⁰ To 11³² ITEMS FINANCE % # (22)

- (1) J. McDonnell
 - (2) E. DIETZ
 - (14) L. EGELSON
 - (4) RJB
 - (1) E. Uhlein
- 22

62 (of 326)
= 19% 62 MINUTES
TOTAL

ANALYSIS OF DATA

#95-09

MEETING OF 2.16.71

BOARD OF ALDERMAN

I. MEETING STARTED AT 8⁰⁰ P.M.

15 MINUTES LATE
ADJOURNED AT 1:26 A.M. 316 MIN. TOTAL (5 hrs. 16 min.)

II. 6 MEMBERS ABSENT AT 8⁰⁰ P.M

NO. 1. JOS MCDONNELL - CAME IN LATER

2 W. WOLF

4. A. SULLIVAN

5 H. WALLEN

6 E. DIETZ CAME IN LATER

8. A. BARKIN - CAME IN LATER

III	✓	⓪	TO	⓪	HEARINGS
	✓	2	8 ⁰⁰	8 ⁰²	FINANCE COMM. (MULTI-SERVIC DRUG CENTER)
	✓	14	8 ⁴²	8 ¹⁶	PUBLIC WORKS (ROOF)
	✓	6	8 ¹⁷	8 ²³	PUBLIC BUILDINGS (ROOF)
	✓	38	8 ²⁴	9 ⁰²	FIN. COMM REPORT
	✓	26	9 ⁴³	9 ²⁹	LAND USE "
	✓	99	9 ³⁰	11 ⁰⁹	FIN. COMM REPORT
	✓	22	11 ¹⁰	11 ³²	F+L COMM.
	✓	2	11 ³³	11 ³⁵	L+R "
	✓	24	12 ³⁶	12 ⁰⁰	STREET TRAFFIC
	✓	4	12 ⁰¹	12 ⁰⁵	ED COMM.
	✓	1	12 ⁰⁶	12 ⁰⁷	KENDRICK COMM.
	✓	7	12 ⁰⁷	12 ¹⁴	HOUSING COMM.
	✓	64	12 ¹⁵	1 ¹⁹	
	✓	3	1 ¹⁹	1 ²²	JURORS
	✓	4	1 ²²	1 ²⁶	New business

II. LAND USE 9³⁰ TO 11⁰⁹

99 (30%)

(A) 9³⁰ TO 9⁴⁹ 19 MIN
 MARRIOTT HOTEL
 FREEPORT

(B) 9⁵⁰ TO 10¹⁶ 26 MIN
 N. CORNER PARKING -
 COMMITTEE WORK ON FLOOR

(C) 10¹⁷ TO 10²¹ 4 MIN
 10⁵¹ TO 11⁰⁵ 14 MIN
 BRAE BURN

(D) 10²² TO 10³⁵ 13 MIN.
 RIGHT TO CHARTER

(E) CHALLENGE CHAIR
 ON HSNG
 10³⁵ TO 10⁵¹ 16

(F) ASSIGN HRNGS
7
 99 (of 326)
 30 %

III HOUSING COMM 12¹⁵ TO 1¹⁹ 64 (20%)
 (A) APPOINTMENTS
 CHALLENGES

IV PUBLIC BLDGS 8²⁴ TO 9⁰² 38 (11%)
ROOF (H. MANN)
 CHALLENGE ON COMM REPORT
 (SMALL WAS UP 6X ON ROOF)
 TOTAL 9 MINUTES

V L+R COMM 11³⁶ TO 12⁰⁰ 24 (27%)
 PETROLEUM

CHARTER COMM

KENDRICK COMM.	(12 ⁰⁷ TO 12 ¹⁴)	7	2%
PUBLIC WORKS	(8 ¹⁷ TO 8 ²³)	6	1%
STREET TRAFFIC	(12 ⁰¹ TO 12 ⁰⁵)	4	1%
NEW BUSINESS	(1 ²² TO 1 ²⁶)	4	1%
JURORS	(1 ¹⁹ TO 1 ²²)	3	1%
HEARINGS	(8 ⁰⁰ TO 8 ⁰²)	2	.5%
F+L	(11 ³³ TO 11 ³⁵)	2	.5%
ED COMM.	(12 ⁰⁶ TO 12 ⁰⁷)	1	

APPENDIX VI (9) :4 LOSS 96%

REVENUE

MINUTES

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100 5 10 15 20

PUBLIC HEARINGS

REPORT MAYOR'S OFFICE

Public Works

Public BUILDINGS

FINANCE COMM.

LAND USE COMM.

F+L COMM.

L+R COMMITTEE

CITY PLANNING

STREET TRAFFIC

EDUCATION COMM

ADJOURN

MISC

MEETING of 3.1.71

(263 TOTAL MINUTES)

4 hrs. 23 min.

RJB

3-2-71

I. MEETING STARTED AT 7:59 P.M.
ADJORNED AT 12:22 AM = 263 MIN

II. 7 ALDERMEN ABSENT AT 7:59 P.M.
① J. McD; ② W. Wolf ③ M. JEFFERSON (CAME IN LATER) ④ A. SULL
⑤ E. UHLEIN; ⑥ SID SMALL AND MIKE LIPOF

III

	MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARINGS - 7 ⁵⁹ TO 8 ³⁶	= 37
REPORTS FROM MAYOR'S OFFICE 8 ³⁷ - 8 ³⁸	= 1
PUBLIC WORKS (#) 8 ³⁸ - 8 ⁴³	= 5
PUBLIC BUILDINGS 8 ⁴⁴ - 8 ⁵⁵	= 12
FINANCE COMM. 8 ⁵⁶ - 9 ⁵⁷	= 61
LAND USE COMM. 9 ⁵⁷ - 10 ⁰⁰	= 3
FINANCE COMM. (w/o #) 10 ⁰¹ - 10 ⁰⁴	= 3
F+L COMM. 10 ⁰⁵ - 10 ⁰⁶	= 1
L+R. COMM. 10 ⁰⁷ - 11 ⁴⁶	= 99
CITY PLANNING 11 ⁴⁷ - 11 ⁴⁸	= 2
STREET TRAFFIC 11 ⁴⁹ - 11 ⁵⁵	= 6
ED. COMM 11 ⁵⁶ - 12 ²¹	= 25
ADJOURN 12 ²²	= 1
MISC	8
	<hr/> 263

ANALYSIS of DATA (3.1.71 MEETING)

I. THIS MEETING HAD THESE MAJOR AREAS
of CONTROVERSY

MIN

37 (A.) PUBLIC HEARINGS

61 (B.) MULTI-SERVICE CENTER (FINANCE)

99 (C.) GAS STATION CLOSING HOURS
(L+R)

25 (D.) EDUCATION COMM. REPORT
222 JUNIOR COLLEGE PROBLEM
263

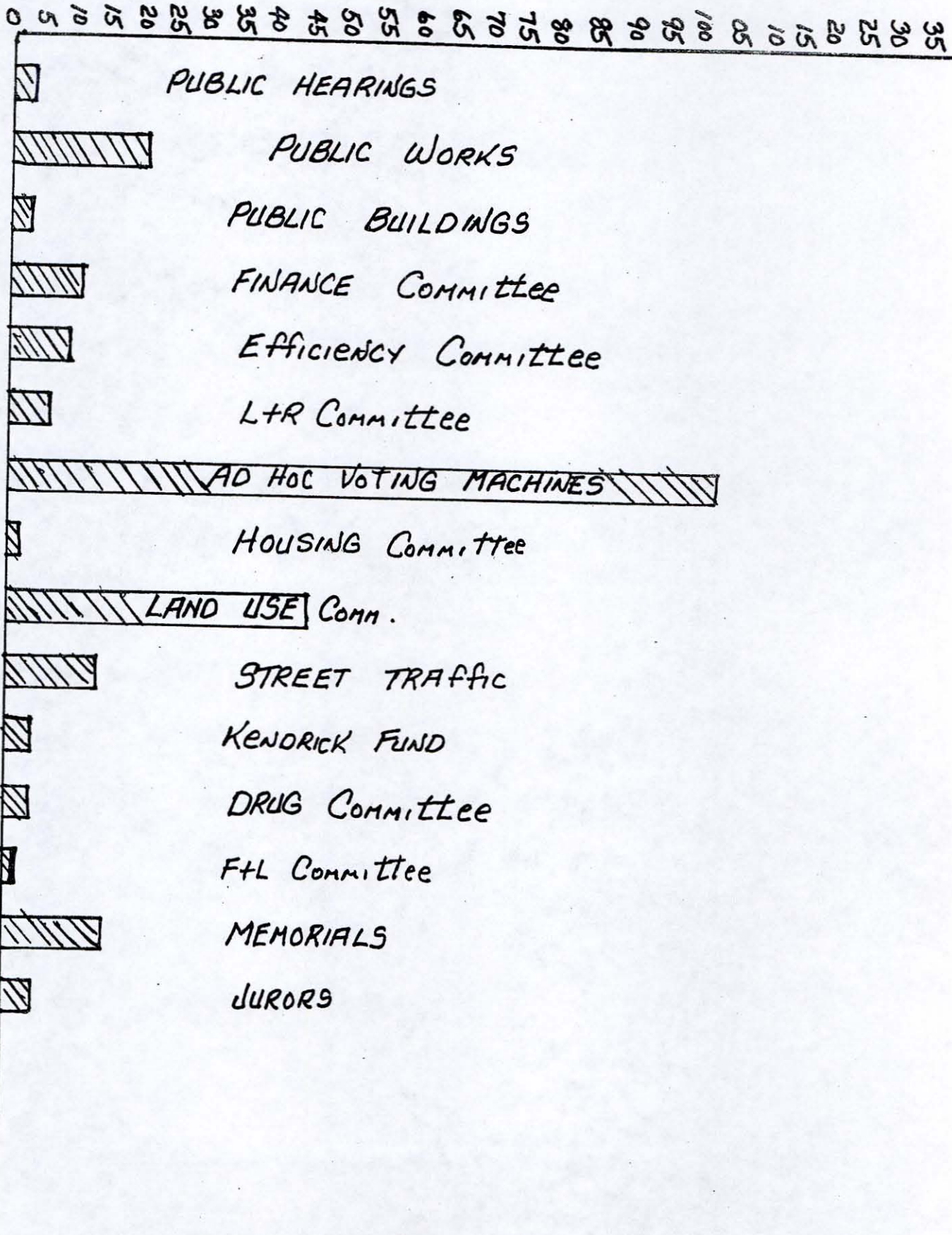
II. AGAIN TOO MANY "LONG" ITEMS ON
SAME NITE. SOME PRE-SCHEDULING WILL HELP.

III. DATA INDICATES SAME ALDERMAN GENERALLY
UP ON MANY SUBJECTS MANY TIMES.
WILL DISCUSS AT PRESENTATION TIME.

MINUTES

263 TOTAL

(4 hours
23 minutes)



Newton Board of Alderman

Meeting of 3.15.71

TIME DISTRIBUTION

MEETING: 3.15.71

ELAPSED TIME: 8: ⁰⁴ P.M. TO 12: ²⁷ A.M.

263 TOTAL MINUTES

DATA ANALYSIS:

	MINUTES	%
A.) Public Hearings	2	
B.) Public Works	23	
C.) Public Buildings	2	
D.) Finance Comm.	13	
E.) AD HOC VOTING MACHINE	107	
F.) EFF. COMM.	12	
G.) LAND USE	47	
H.) F+L	1	
I.) L+R	8	
J.) STREET TRAFFIC	15	
K.) KENDRICK FUND	4	
L.) DRUG	4	
M.) HOUSING	1	
N.) MEMORIALS	17	
O.) JURORS	3	

OBSERVATIONS:

- (1.) MEETING STARTED AT 8:⁰⁴ P.M. - 19 MINUTES LATE
- (2.) SIX ALDERMAN WERE NOT IN CHAMBER AT 8:⁰⁴ P.M. (NAMES ON REQUEST.)
- (3.) FIRST VOTE AT 8:²³ P.M. (21Y - ON - 3 ABS)
LAST VOTE TAKEN AT 12:¹³ A.M. (10Y 6N 8 ABS)
- (4.) AD HOC COMMITTEE ON VOTING MACHINES
(8:²⁴ - 10:¹¹ = 107 MINUTES)
- (5.) LAND USE COMMITTEE TOOK
47 MINUTES 10:¹² - 10:⁵⁹

- A series of probed questions
- (6.) IT IS OBVIOUS FROM DATA RECORDED THAT SOME ALDERMAN ARE ON THEIR FEET TOO OFTEN FOR TOO LONG WITHOUT ADDING ANYTHING IN DEPTH TO MANY DELIBERATIONS. NEED STRONGER MONITORING FROM THE CHAIR.

SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS - APPENDIX VI

I. The BOARD opening hour should change to : A.) 8:00 P.M.

OR

B.) 7:00 P.M.

ALMOST every meeting did NOT begin before 8:00 P.M. AND generally with a bare quorum. AN EARLIER START might change habits

II. The meetings should CONCLUDE AT 12:15 A.M. with the LAST 15 MINUTES (12:00 TO 12:15) devoted to jurors, when NECESSARY. (Rarely over 16 IN Chambers after 12^m)

III.

A CLARIFICATION of rules AND procedures TO AVOID ACRIMONIOUS CONTENTIONS over the LEGALITY of procedures which create HORRENDOUS DELAYS AND LARGE AMOUNTS of ill-will.

IV.

A STRONGER gavel AND quicker cloture AFTER ALDERMAN HAS HAD SECOND SAY ON ARGUMENT.

V.

REduNDANCY of ARGUMENTATION - Self-discipline by ALDERMAN

APPENDIX VII

Newton Board of Aldermen
Analysis of Voting Agreement

	<u>Most Frequent Support</u>	<u>Least Frequent Support</u>
Ball	Tennant, Barkin, Lipof	Walen, Harrington, Bauckman
Barkin	Ball, Tennant, Lipof, Crosby	Walen, McDonnell, Magni
Bullwinkle	Sullivan, McDonnell, Cohen, Harrington, Jefferson, Magni	Walen, Dietz, Uehlein
Carmen	Bullwinkle, Crosby, Jefferson	Walen, Uehlein, Jackson
Cohen	Lipof, Small, Dietz, Magni	Jackson, Walen, Egelson, McDonnell
Concannon	Jefferson, Harrington, Bullwinkle	Walen, Dietz, Small, Bauckman
Crosby	Ball, Barkin, Lipof	Walen, Magni, McDonnell
Dietz	Lipof, Bauckman, Crosby	Concannon, McDonnell, Harrington, Walen
Egelson	Ball, Sullivan, Bauckman	Walen, Cohen, Small
Harrington	Concannon, McDonnell, Bullwinkle	Wolf, Walen, Uehlein
Jackson	Tennant, Barkin, Crosby, Jefferson, McDonnell	Walen, Cohen, Sacks
Jefferson	Concannon, Bullwinkle, Crosby	Walen, Bauckman, Cohen
Lipof	Tennant, Barkin, Ball	Walen, McDonnell, Harrington
Magni	Bullwinkle, Sullivan, McDonnell, Cohen, Concannon, Jefferson	Walen, Wolf, Sacks
McDonnell	Bullwinkle, Sullivan, Harrington, Jefferson	Walen, Dietz, Bauckman
Sacks	Wolf, Lipof, Ball	Walen, Magni, Harrington

Newton Board of Aldermen
Analysis of Voting Agreement, p. 2

	<u>Most Frequent Support</u>	<u>Least Frequent Support</u>
Small	Cohen, Magni, Bullwinkle	Walen, Jackson, Egelson, Uehlein
Sullivan	Bullwinkle, McDonnell, Crosby	Walen, Dietz, Bauckman
Tennant	Ball, Lipof, Barkin	Walen, Harrington, McDonnell, Sullivan
Uehlein	Wolf, Lipof, Crosby Dietz, Sacks	Harrington, Small, Walen McDonnell
Walen	Barkin, Crosby, Uehlein	McDonnell, Carmen, Con- cannon, Harrington
Bauckman	Dietz, Wolf, Ball, Tennant	Harrington, McDonnell, Walen
Wolf	Lipof, Tennant, Uehlein	Walen, Magni, Harrington, Jackson, Small

Comments. The above analysis is based on 47 of the 246 votes recorded in 1970. The votes, which I considered most crucial during the year, include Sale of Victory Field, increase of Day School bond, Mental Health Center funding, Cold Springs landtaking, purchase of two street sweepers, funding for Charter Commission, high school bonds, high school parking lot, sale of lots to Myrtle Baptist Church, Freeport, rubbish contract for private contractors, special election for Wd 5, NCDF, Moore-Hedlund property dispute, and others.

The votes were tabulated by Mr. Horace L. Varian, Jr.

Harry Crosby
Albion T. Large
Ward Seven

NEWTON BOARD OF ALDERMEN

1970

Analysis of Voting Agreement

	Absences	Ball	Barkin	Bullwinkle	Carmen	Cohen	Concannon	Crosby	Dietz	Egelson	Harrington	Jackson	Jefferson	Lipof	Magni	McDonnell	Sacks	Small	Sullivan	Tennant	Uehlein	Walen	Wolf	Mauckman
Ball	3	-	33	26	19	25	21	32	22	32	16	25	25	33	21	19	30	22	20	34	25	11	21	18
Barkin	20	36	-	25	24	20	23	33	26	25	22	26	24	33	19	17	25	21	23	34	25	18	23	24
Bullwinkle	5	29	24	-	29	31	30	28	18	26	31	21	31	29	31	35	25	25	37	29	18	11	20	19
Carmen	57	21	25	30	-	18	20	30	22	14	25	17	30	26	21	28	24	25	25	25	15	8	25	21
Cohen	23	28	21	25	21	-	21	22	26	12	16	11	21	30	26	29	18	38	21	22	16	12	16	19
Concannon	23	22	23	31	27	21	-	24	14	18	34	23	35	26	28	26	23	17	25	25	23	12	21	17
Crosby	33	33	32	29	30	24	27	-	29	24	26	24	31	32	20	23	25	27	31	31	28	15	27	26
Dietz	61	22	27	21	21	25	16	29	-	19	18	18	19	30	20	20	23	35	26	21	24	14	24	5
Egelson	27	31	24	26	19	14	18	24	14	-	21	22	22	23	17	23	29	16	22	25	22	11	34	21
Harrington	5	20	19	30	24	16	32	27	14	20	-	18	29	17	22	31	15	20	29	20	13	10	7	5
Jackson	27	26	27	21	17	21	23	24	18	22	19	-	24	22	20	24	14	15	22	29	22	14	21	20
Jefferson	23	26	24	31	30	18	23	31	19	21	29	21	-	26	25	29	23	23	26	26	20	13	24	20

The above chart shows the number of votes cast in support of each alderman for the 47 most crucial votes. The first column shows number of votes cast for each of the 246 votes cast during 1970. Example: Alderman Barkin supported Alderman Ball 26 times, Egelson 19 times, Harrington 14 times, Jackson 27 times, Jefferson 21 times, Lipof 33 times, Magni 19 times, McDonnell 30 times, Sacks 24 times, Small 21 times, Sullivan 34 times, Tennant 25 times, Uehlein 18 times, Walen 23 times, Wolf 24 times, Mauckman 11 times.

1970 EN 101 #95-09

Analysis of Veter Agreement, P. 2

	Absences	Bail	Barkin	Bullwinkle	Carmen	Cohen	Concannon	Crosby	Dietz	Egelson	Harrington	Jackson	Jefferson	Lipof	Magni	McDonnell	Sacks	Small	Sullivan	Tennant	Uehlein	Walén	Wolf	Bauckman
Lipof	15	33	34	27	22	27	27	31	30	21	17	22	26	-	22	15	29	25	25	35	24	15	28	28
Magni	27	20	20	30	22	24	24	20	21	18	22	19	24	21	-	27	15	32	24	23	18	10	14	19
McDonnell	47	19	16	32	27	16	27	22	14	22	30	23	30	15	27	-	19	22	32	20	16	4	21	14
Sacks	49	29	28	20	23	18	22	26	25	18	15	16	24	30	14	18	-	18	24	28	27	13	31	24
Small	44	22	22	28	27	30	20	27	27	15	20	14	21	26	29	22	18	-	27	23	15	13	17	21
Sullivan	35	28	25	36	27	22	24	30	17	28	27	18	27	24	22	31	21	25	-	25	19	9	22	17
Tennant	13	37	34	29	27	25	22	30	25	28	20	24	29	36	23	20	30	23	20	-	25	13	26	27
Uehlein	67	25	25	18	16	18	21	27	27	23	13	19	22	28	18	16	27	15	19	25	-	16	29	25
Walén	175	12	17	10	9	12	9	16	15	10	9	12	9	15	10	4	11	12	9	14	16	-	11	15
Wolf	90	27	27	21	25	15	23	28	28	26	17	17	27	29	14	21	32	17	22	29	29	11	-	28
Bauckman	11	28	27	19	21	21	20	24	33	25	15	17	20	27	18	15	26	19	19	28	26	15	29	-

APPENDIX - VII

Ken Parker
Alderman-At-Large, Ward 6
965 Walnut St.
Newton, MA 02461
(617) 965-3723 • ken@kenparker.org

TO: Ald. Vance, Chair, Long Range Planning Committee

FROM: Ald. Parker *KRP*

DATE: January 31, 2007

RE: Board of Aldermen Survey Results

CC: Full Board
Mayor Cohen

Hi Verne,

Per your request, attached please find a complete set of results of the Aldermanic Survey conducted by the Long-Range Planning Committee (through our informal subcommittee). We received forty-four responses to the survey. Of those forty-four, twenty-three provided their address and the other twenty-one were submitted anonymously. Included among the attached documents, please find (1) a summary of all forty-four responses; (2) a summary of the twenty-three responses that included addresses, and (3) complete text of all of the answers received to open-ended questions.

In reviewing the responses, I noticed two interesting patterns:

1) Respondents generally indicated that they thought the Board of Aldermen should continue to do what it does now and should add additional duties and responsibilities, while many also indicated a desire to see a reduction in the size of the Board. There is an obvious contradiction inherent in this set of opinions: how are fewer Aldermen to do more work?

2) Many of the comments indicate a frustration with the Board's responsiveness to the public, including our communication and our independence from the Mayor.

The distribution of responses was very similar in both sets (all responses or those with addresses). In terms of Aldermanic priorities, the three highest in both samples were:

- Advocating on behalf of constituents;
- Questioning and when necessary standing up to the Mayor; and
- Informing constituents of important developments

The lowest priority items in both samples were:

- Assisting constituents in dealing with City Departments; and
- Solving neighborhood problems through facilitation and mediation.

The highest response rate for a given answer to any question was that a large majority of respondents (82% of those providing addresses and 70% overall) rated the Board's role in setting the City budget as being "very important."

The answers to open-ended questions include a number of suggestions for improving Board communication and effectiveness that we may want to consider.



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Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Results Summary Show All Pages and Questions

Export...

Filter Results

To analyze a subset of your data, you can create one or more filters.

Edit Filter... Total: 44
Visible: 23

Share Results

Your results can be shared with others, without giving access to your account.

Configure... Status: Enabled
Reports: Summary Only

1. Responsibilities of the Board

1. The Board of Aldermen serves as the legislative branch of Newton's government and is therefore responsible for passing laws to protect the quality of life of Newton residents. In recent years, the Board has enacted legislation to protect trees, to prohibit smoking in public places, and to limit light pollution.

	1	2	3	4	5	Response Total
Importance (1 = very important; 5 = irrelevant)	50% (11)	23% (5)	5% (1)	5% (1)	18% (4)	22
Effectiveness (1 = very effective; 5 = totally ineffectual)	11% (2)	6% (1)	33% (6)	28% (5)	22% (4)	18
					Total Respondents	22
					(filtered out)	16
					(skipped this question)	6

2. As Newton's legislative branch, the Board of Aldermen is also responsible for passing laws to regulate parking and traffic. In recent years the Board has passed many two-hour parking limits and enacted other restrictions.

	1	2	3	4	5	Response Total
Importance (1 = very important; 5 = irrelevant)	27% (6)	27% (6)	27% (6)	5% (1)	14% (3)	22
Effectiveness (1 = very effective; 5 = totally ineffectual)	10% (2)	14% (3)	33% (7)	14% (3)	29% (6)	21
					Total Respondents	22
					(filtered out)	15
					(skipped this question)	7

3. The Board of Aldermen is also Newton's zoning and special permit granting authority, responsible for setting land use policy. The Board has passed ordinances to limit construction of "monster homes" in Newton and has granted special permits for projects like the Terraces and the Residences at Chestnut Hill. Please rate the Board's work in this area.

	1	2	3	4	5	Response Total
Importance (1 = very important; 5 = irrelevant)	52% (11)	24% (5)	5% (1)	5% (1)	14% (3)	21
Effectiveness (1 = very effective; 5 = totally ineffectual)	10% (2)	14% (3)	24% (5)	38% (8)	14% (3)	21
					Total Respondents	21
					(filtered out)	14

(skipped this question) 9

4. Another of the Board's responsibilities is oversight over the City budget. While the Mayor must initiate spending requests, the Board of Aldermen has the authority to approve, to reject, or to cut the Mayor's appropriation request. The Board also has fiscal oversight of other financial operations of the City. For example, during this year's budget process, the Board of Aldermen passed resolutions asking the Mayor to restore the following proposed cuts: a 37.7% reduction in funds for maintenance of public buildings, a reduction of two police officers, and an information technology position, as well as asking that the library book purchasing account that the Mayor has level-funded for three years get an inflation increase.

	1	2	3	4	5	Response Total
Importance (1 = very important; 5 = irrelevant)	82% (18)	0% (0)	5% (1)	0% (0)	14% (3)	22
Effectiveness (1 = very effective; 5 = totally ineffectual)	0% (0)	25% (5)	30% (6)	20% (4)	25% (5)	20
					Total Respondents	22
					(filtered out)	15
					(skipped this question)	7

5. Another fiscal responsibility of the Board of Aldermen is approving taxes and fee increases. The Mayor recently requested a \$25 per household fee for doing work on the City's storm drains, which was approved by the Board of Aldermen. In addition, the Board has voted to tax commercial properties at a higher rate than residential properties each year. Please assess the Board's work in this area.

	1	2	3	4	5	Response Total
Importance (1 = very important; 5 = irrelevant)	43% (9)	14% (3)	14% (3)	10% (2)	19% (4)	21
Effectiveness (1 = very effective; 5 = totally ineffectual)	15% (3)	20% (4)	25% (5)	10% (2)	30% (6)	20
					Total Respondents	21
					(filtered out)	16
					(skipped this question)	7

2. Priorities and Other Roles of the Board

6. Each member of the Board must set his or her own priorities for the amount of time spent working on neighborhood issues, acting as a communication conduit with City departments, and advocating on behalf of constituents. Please rank the following Board activities with respect to whether Board members should be spending more or less time on them.

	Very Important - Much More Time and Effort Needed	Important - Somewhat More Time and Effort Needed	Of Moderate Importance - No Change Needed	Somewhat Unimportant - Spend Less Time on this	Not Important - Don't Waste Time on this at all	I have no idea	Response Average
Assisting constituents in dealing with City Departments	39% (9)	22% (5)	22% (5)	9% (2)	4% (1)	4% (1)	2.14
Organizing and attending neighborhood meetings	52% (12)	13% (3)	30% (7)	0% (0)	4% (1)	0% (0)	1.91
Developing ideas to help City government run more efficiently	57% (13)	13% (3)	22% (5)	4% (1)	0% (0)	4% (1)	1.73
Questioning and when necessary standing up to the Mayor	65% (15)	9% (2)	17% (4)	0% (0)	4% (1)	4% (1)	1.64
Advocating on behalf of constituents	64% (14)	27% (6)	5% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	5% (1)	1.38
Informing constituents of important developments	65% (15)	22% (5)	9% (2)	0% (0)	0% (0)	4% (1)	1.41
Solving neighborhood problems through facilitation and mediation	50% (11)	18% (4)	18% (4)	5% (1)	5% (1)	5% (1)	1.90
						Total Respondents	23

(filtered out) 12
 (skipped this question) 9

7. What is the Most Important thing that the Board currently does and should continue to do?

[View](#) Total Respondents 10
 (filtered out) 3
 (skipped this question) 31

8. What is the Most Important thing that the Board currently does not currently do but should start doing?

[View](#) Total Respondents 16
 (filtered out) 6
 (skipped this question) 22

9. What is the Least Important thing that the Board currently does that should be discontinued?

[View](#) Total Respondents 10
 (filtered out) 4
 (skipped this question) 30

10. What would you like to see the Board of Aldermen do differently to help improve the operation of Newton's government?

[View](#) Total Respondents 13
 (filtered out) 5
 (skipped this question) 26

11. Please provide us with any other thoughts or ideas that you would like to share.

[View](#) Total Respondents 10
 (filtered out) 1
 (skipped this question) 33

3. Demographic Information

12. Do you currently have a child/children in the Newton public schools?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes. View	30.4%	7
No, I do not have school-age children. View	52.2%	12
No, I have school-age children, but I choose to send them to private/parochial school. View	0%	0
View Other (please specify) View	17.4%	4
Total Respondents		23
(filtered out)		0
(skipped this question)		21

13. To make sure that only Newton residents are answering the survey, please provide your name and address.

<input type="button" value="View"/>	Total Respondents	23
	(filtered out)	0
	(skipped this question)	21

14. If you would like to be informed about future surveys on issues facing the City of Newton, please provide your email address (optional).

<input type="button" value="View"/>	Total Respondents	5
	(filtered out)	0
	(skipped this question)	39

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Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Results Summary Show All Pages and Questions

Export...

Filter Results

To analyze a subset of your data, you can create one or more filters.

Edit Filter... **Total:** 44
Visible: 44

Share Results

Your results can be shared with others, without giving access to your account.

Configure... **Status:** Enabled
Reports: Summary Only

1. Responsibilities of the Board

1. The Board of Aldermen serves as the legislative branch of Newton's government and is therefore responsible for passing laws to protect the quality of life of Newton residents. In recent years, the Board has enacted legislation to protect trees, to prohibit smoking in public places, and to limit light pollution.

	1	2	3	4	5	Response Total
Importance (1 = very important; 5 = irrelevant)	46% (17)	22% (8)	3% (1)	11% (4)	19% (7)	37
Effectiveness (1 = very effective; 5 = totally ineffectual)	13% (4)	10% (3)	29% (9)	32% (10)	16% (5)	31
Total Respondents						38
(skipped this question)						6

2. As Newton's legislative branch, the Board of Aldermen is also responsible for passing laws to regulate parking and traffic. In recent years the Board has passed many two-hour parking limits and enacted other restrictions.

	1	2	3	4	5	Response Total
Importance (1 = very important; 5 = irrelevant)	28% (10)	25% (9)	28% (10)	6% (2)	14% (5)	36
Effectiveness (1 = very effective; 5 = totally ineffectual)	6% (2)	9% (3)	36% (12)	18% (6)	30% (10)	33
Total Respondents						37
(skipped this question)						7

3. The Board of Aldermen is also Newton's zoning and special permit granting authority, responsible for setting land use policy. The Board has passed ordinances to limit construction of "monster homes" in Newton and has granted special permits for projects like the Terraces and the Residences at Chestnut Hill. Please rate the Board's work in this area.

	1	2	3	4	5	Response Total
Importance (1 = very important; 5 = irrelevant)	43% (15)	29% (10)	6% (2)	6% (2)	17% (6)	35
Effectiveness (1 = very effective; 5 = totally ineffectual)	6% (2)	13% (4)	29% (9)	29% (9)	23% (7)	31
Total Respondents						35
(skipped this question)						9

4. Another of the Board's responsibilities is oversight over the City budget. While the Mayor must initiate spending requests, the Board of Aldermen has the authority to approve, to reject, or to cut the Mayor's appropriation request. The Board also has fiscal oversight of other financial operations of the City. For example, during this year's budget process, the Board of Aldermen passed resolutions asking the Mayor to restore the following proposed cuts: a 37.7% reduction in funds for maintenance of public buildings, a reduction of two police officers, and an information technology position, as well as asking that the library book purchasing account that the Mayor has level-funded for three years get an inflation increase.

	1	2	3	4	5	Response Total
Importance (1 = very important; 5 = irrelevant)	70% (26)	5% (2)	8% (3)	5% (2)	11% (4)	37
Effectiveness (1 = very effective; 5 = totally ineffectual)	0% (0)	19% (6)	32% (10)	23% (7)	26% (8)	31
Total Respondents						37
(skipped this question)						7

5. Another fiscal responsibility of the Board of Aldermen is approving taxes and fee increases. The Mayor recently requested a \$25 per household fee for doing work on the City's storm drains, which was approved by the Board of Aldermen. In addition, the Board has voted to tax commercial properties at a higher rate than residential properties each year. Please assess the Board's work in this area.

	1	2	3	4	5	Response Total
Importance (1 = very important; 5 = irrelevant)	43% (16)	16% (6)	8% (3)	5% (2)	27% (10)	37
Effectiveness (1 = very effective; 5 = totally ineffectual)	12% (4)	19% (6)	19% (6)	16% (5)	34% (11)	32
Total Respondents						37
(skipped this question)						7

2. Priorities and Other Roles of the Board

6. Each member of the Board must set his or her own priorities for the amount of time spent working on neighborhood issues, acting as a communication conduit with City departments, and advocating on behalf of constituents. Please rank the following Board activities with respect to whether Board members should be spending more or less time on them.

	Very Important - Much More Time and Effort Needed	Important - Somewhat More Time and Effort Needed	Of Moderate Importance - No Change Needed	Somewhat Unimportant - Spend Less Time on this	Not Important - Don't Waste Time on this at all	I have no idea	Response Average
Assisting constituents in dealing with City Departments	37% (13)	20% (7)	26% (9)	9% (3)	6% (2)	3% (1)	2.24
Organizing and attending neighborhood meetings	46% (16)	20% (7)	26% (9)	3% (1)	6% (2)	0% (0)	2.03
Developing ideas to help City government run more efficiently	49% (17)	23% (8)	20% (7)	3% (1)	3% (1)	3% (1)	1.85
Questioning and when necessary standing up to the Mayor	63% (22)	14% (5)	14% (5)	0% (0)	6% (2)	3% (1)	1.68
Advocating on behalf of constituents	64% (21)	24% (8)	6% (2)	0% (0)	3% (1)	3% (1)	1.50
Informing constituents of important developments	59% (20)	21% (7)	15% (5)	0% (0)	3% (1)	3% (1)	1.64
Solving neighborhood problems through facilitation and mediation	47% (15)	25% (8)	16% (5)	3% (1)	6% (2)	3% (1)	1.94
Total Respondents							35
(skipped this question)							9

7. What is the Most Important thing that the Board currently does and should continue to do?

[View](#) Total Respondents 13

(skipped this question) 31

8. What is the Most Important thing that the Board currently does not currently do but should start doing?

[View](#) Total Respondents 22

(skipped this question) 22

9. What is the Least Important thing that the Board currently does that should be discontinued?

[View](#) Total Respondents 14

(skipped this question) 30

10. What would you like to see the Board of Aldermen do differently to help improve the operation of Newton's government?

[View](#) Total Respondents 18

(skipped this question) 26

11. Please provide us with any other thoughts or ideas that you would like to share.

[View](#) Total Respondents 11

(skipped this question) 33

3. Demographic Information

12. Do you currently have a child/children in the Newton public schools?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes. [redacted]	30.4%	7
No, I do not have school-age children. [redacted]	52.2%	12
No, I have school-age children, but I choose to send them to private/parochial school.	0%	0
View Other (please specify) [redacted]	17.4%	4
Total Respondents		23
(skipped this question)		21

13. To make sure that only Newton residents are answering the survey, please provide your name and address.

[View](#) Total Respondents 23

(skipped this question) 21

14. If you would like to be informed about future surveys on issues facing the City of Newton, please provide your email address (optional).

[View](#) Total Respondents 5

(skipped this question) 39

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What is the Most Important thing that the Board currently does and should continue to do?

1. Spend money wisely
2. discuss and disagree about topics
3. Budget Oversight
4. Discuss important issues relating to maintainance and safety of city streets, sidewalks, and streetlights.
5. I object to the choice of language in #6. The language "Not Important - Don't Waste Time on this at all" is very biased. My opinion is not that they should not "waste their time" on this, but that this is not appropriate use of their authority. In the first question, it can certainly be useful for an alderman to advocate on behalf of a citizen, but I don't think it contributes to a strong, effective, positive form of government. Citizens need to work directly with city departments if they have a problem, and it is disruptive to have Aldermen interfering all the time. If a citizen is having difficulty, they can contact their aldermen, who should notify the Mayor that the department is not working effectively with the citizens. The Mayor can then discuss the concern with the department head. This is the APPROPRIATE channel to resolve a problem. In the forth question "Questioning and when necessary standing up to the Mayor" again, it is not that I think it is a waste of time, I consider it inappropriate and ineffective for aldermen to "Stand up to the mayor," but the only option the survey gives me is to choose "Not Important - Don't Waste Time on this at all." This is not the opposite of "Very Important - Much More Time and Effort Needed."
6. Check on city spending and Mayor's misuse of CPA funds.
7. taking control of hte school budget and re doing the newtonnorth HS as a renovation
8. approve site plan 5a for nnhs
9. I can't think of one this body does well.
10. Make the mayor responsible for his actions
11. Scrutinize the Mayor's budget proposals, requests for transfer of funds during the FY, and monitor the spending requests for the Newton School budget.

- 12.** I am not in favor of removing ANY of the responsibilities of the Board. If anything the Board members need to have more accountability to the constituents.
- 13.** Communicate directly with the citizens regarding the Newton North H.S. project. Appoint a Project Manager with a fixed budget and full decision making authority. Citizens who object to decisions made by the Project Manager would have to settle their objections in court. Put the "Go-NoGo" decision before the citizens of Newton in a citywide election.

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What is the Most Important thing that the Board currently does not currently do but should start doing?

1. Stop funding the Mayors pet projects. Knock the crown off his head and make him work with the board.
2. Individual Aldermen should make serious and effective efforts to inform their constituents on their respective activities and successes or failures at the aldermanic meetings. Letters could be sent out on a quarterly basis and /or via email.
3. Act indepenedently of the Mayor. Several Aldermen seem to be "owned" by the Mayor-Schnipper, Baker, Gentile, Hess Mahan, Burg, Samuelson, and Weisbuc. It is frustrating to talk to these people and know that they will vote as they are told.
4. Questioning the Mayors efforts on Behalf of the citizens and employees of the city
5. improve the quality/maintennance of our buildings
6. Consider reducing the size of the board to a more reasonable size.
7. I think the board is doing fine-my alderman is wonderful, she tries!!! Unfortunately it's the city employess and department and agencies resposible for enforcing the laws and following through that fall short! For instance what good are zoning laws if they are not enfirced? What good are overnight parking bans if no one is ticketed? ETC!!! Newton is not the city it used to be that is for sure (Lifelong resident).
8. start getting on the mayor to negotiate outstanding contracts.stand up to the mayor
9. Respect the voters wish, as they have voted for the board to be cut down in size.
10. The board has done an abysmal job communicating with residents on construction projects that affect them. I live very close to the Woodland T stop and had absolutely no warning of the huge construction project there. Calling City Hall about it got me details on zoning and pretty much nothing else. Certainly not the best way to keep your constituents informed and involved.

- 11.** I can't speak for the entire Board but I know that my alderman is not controlling traffic or road and sidewalk upkeep in my neighborhood. The intersection at Center and Walnut is a mess. There should be a left arrow at the light when traveling north on Center and you can see the road lines. Even after they are painted they are pathetic in quality to other towns.
- 12.** cost of retirement and health care over time - what are the long term trends and costs better govt - this stupid form, which is poorly designed is an example; the total lack of expertise and control over school cap funding projects (mr parnell seems to be, to put it charitably, inept) actually make the city work
- 13.** cut the board
- 14.** zoning enforcement
- 15.** Keep your eye on our shifty Mayor
- 16.** Needs to be smaller, needs to be involved in reigning in school spending and promoting accountability in the school administration, recuse itself from consistent, troubling conflicts of interest. i could go on and on.....
- 17.** Insure enforcement of the city's laws
- 18.** Listen to citizen's concerns about the ne wNewton North High School and force the architects to come up with a redesign for a scaled down version taht addresses neighborhood concern about traffic flow.
- 19.** The BOA should start working for the people and not for Mayor Cohen. Too many members of the board follow what the mayor wants and ignores constituents. The board should question Mayor Cohen on many of his questionable practices---fom forcing NNHS down people's throats to not giving timely info about his election commissioner.
- 20.** Actively proposing items to include or change in the Mayor's proposed Budget, before he submits it to the Board.
- 21.** Listen to the people of Newton. The Board members tend to deliver on their own personal agendas. They should be held more accountable to the needs and desires of the tax payers. There is absolutely no accountability.
- 22.** Initiate proceedings to reduce the number of alderman to 16: 8 ward aldermen elected by citizens of their ward and 8 ward aldermen elected by citywide vote.

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What is the Least Important thing that the Board currently does that should be discontinued?

1. Funding for, and providing office space for, the bogus Newton Human Rights commission.
2. Vote on national and international issues.
3. Light Ordinance
4. resolutions-ineffective and a waste of time
5. Members of the board should encourage city employees to do their job without interference from the aldermen. The board should be more respectful of the professionals that have been hired by the city and should not try and tell them how to perform their job.
6. Nothing.
7. to much time on an issue
8. arguing
9. Pass resolutions about national/world events.
10. Promoting the reelection of candidates both inside and outside the city. stop issuing on issues they have nio control over.
11. They waste taxpayer dollars and time by pontificating for hours on the chamber floor. Too much talk not enough action.
12. Allowing individual aldermen to take up time at Public Hearings before the Board, the Parks and Rec Commission, the Conservation Commission, etc. while the "public" has to sit there and listen to aldermen! At a "public hearing" aldermen should sit there and LISTEN... not take up the time supposedly reserved for public input to elected officials. Aldermen have voluntarily run for and been elected to do their jobs, and are paid for it. Members of the public should be given priority to participate during evening meetings when they wish to speak, so they can go home at a reasonable hour and get up and go to work the next day.

13. If you are going to parcel out tasks to other committees, these committees need to be elected officials. The idea of giving, say, the Traffic Council, the power to vote in or pass on proposals will only work if the Traffic Council becomes an elected body. I am not in favor of giving individuals/local government branches more power than they currently have.

14. No response.

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What would you like to see the Board of Aldermen do differently to help improve the operation of Newton's government?

1. Have 2 ward alderman and 1 at large alderman per ward.
2. Provide a summary reprise of main aldermanic decisions to respective constituents. these could be sent at little cost via email.
3. Stand up to the Mayor. Run for Mayor/
4. Facilitate the change in the City Charter to have each School Committee member be elected from thier Ward instead of city wide, so they better represent the concerns of the schools in there districts
5. Take a stronger stand when you disagree with the mayor
6. All the aldermen should do a better job listening to concerns of citizens. Frequently they have their own adjenda and if it is different from that of the citizens that have elected them they are not interested in spending time to hear the arguments of those who hold a different opinion.
7. Follow up and make sure the laws are enforced...of course that's the mayors job isn't it? SO MUCH FOR COHEN!
8. stand up to the mayor
9. Help make it smaller. We voted to cut down the size of the board of alderman. Respect our wishes and this democracy.
10. reduce its size
11. Keep your eye on our shifty Mayor
12. shrink itself or scale back the lifetime health benefits that ten year or longer members enjoy. do a better job of watching where housing developments spring up and advocate for students in those areas. give themselves less incentive to hang around long term.
13. Reduce its size

- 14.** Decrease the number of Aldermen
- 15.** They should change direction on the NNHS project. They should require the Gund architects to develop a new plan that is less expensive, less grandiose, and less intrusive to the neighbors. A plan that utilizes Lowell Ave for flow traffic as much as Walnut St.
- 16.** Less talking, more listening and more action on behalf of their constituents.
- 17.** 1. Listen to people 2. Respond to concerns 3. Legible website with easy to find information 4. Post the results of all votes 5. Take on more leadership 6. Stop pushing personal agendas and acting out of their own personal financial benefit 8. Allow some time for the public to speak at Aldermanic meetings - like Selectmen meetings 9. Read the proposals that are on the agenda and research things that you don't understand
- 18.** Do more work in the committees. Each committee should bring to the full board truly completed work having a clear idea of its chances for enactment.

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Please provide us with any other thoughts or ideas that you would like to share.

1. The Newton Democratic Committee is a dangerous left wing organization that no credible politician should belong to.
2. The mayor has to go! The aldermen as they behave now as his lackeys are irrelevant.
3. The board is too large. The city should find a way to make it a more reasonable size, as almost every other community in MA has done. Newton does not benefit from a board this size.
4. I think you get some serious alderman that want to do a good job. Like anything--some people take on positions they cannot handle. No matter how good the alderman is, no matter how many laws they get passed, no matter how much they advocate for their neighborhoods, if the city does not do their job---it's all a waste of money!
5. Sickened by the Alderman's refusal to cut down the size of the board. Its too big. Also more noise should be made against the Mayors gross attempts to misuse CPA funds for the plastic turf at Newton South High.
6. Overall, communication between the city and school board and the citizens is poor
7. The board is too large and therefore it becomes complicated to get things done within the City. We are a large City we need a board that will address OUR concerns not those of the insiders. The School Committee and the Education Center need to remember who they work for and stop granting themselves pay raises when school buildings at every level are fall down around them.
8. One party(DEMOCRATIC) Board representation has resulted in many people in this city being ignored or marginalized. The poor outcomes and downward spiral of the city(crumbling schools, fire houses, Needham St, parks and streets are the result of too big a legislative body spending too much time debating and not enough time acting. many of the aldermen are long time members. they have no one but themselves to blame. they know it and in coming weeks, months, and years, it will become apparent to anyone else who has'nt bothered to pay attention.
9. Both Mayor Coehn and the BOA have lost the trust of the Newton public. It is time for the BOA to act on behalf of residen ts and taxpayers and not for their political gainn or favor with the mayor and the school committee.

10. I think this city has a very big problem with enforcement issues. I had to check 4 and 5 on a number of items, because there is absolutely no evidence that a number of things that may have passed the Board of Aldermen have actually happened. Take the question concerning trees - what did they pass? There have been a number of blights in the past few years that have either killed off or are killing off trees. None of them have been replaced and the city took no action whatsoever.

11. Proceedings of the Board should be available on the city's web site.

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