



Public Facilities Committee Report

City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

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

Also Present: Councilors Downs, Bowman, Wright, Oliver and Humphrey

City Staff Present: Chief Operating Officer Jonathan Yeo, Chief Financial Officer Maureen Lemieux, Commissioner for the Department of Public Works Jim McGonagle, Chief of Staff for the Department of Public Works Shawna Sullivan, Business Manager for DPW Jack Cowell, Senior Financial Analyst for DPW Perry Rosenfield and City Engineer Lou Taverna

#160-21 National Grid petition for grant of location in Beacon Street

NATIONAL GRID petition for a grant of location to install and maintain gas main in Beacon Street as follows:

- 1225' \pm of 8" plastic main in Beacon Street from the existing 6", LP plastic main at Glen Avenue to the existing 4", LP plastic at Union St to replace 660' \pm of 4" of LP cast iron, 275' \pm of 6", LP cast iron and 290' \pm of 4", LP bare steel main;
- 55' \pm of 6", LP plastic in the intersection of Beacon Street and Gray Cliff Road to replace 55' \pm of 4", LP cast iron main;
- 175' \pm of 4" LP plastic main in Cousens Circle from Beacon Street to the end of the main at #15 Cousens Circle to replace 175" \pm of 4" LP bare steel main;
- 55' \pm of 8" LP plastic in the intersection of Beacon Street and Grant Avenue to replace 55' \pm of 4" LP cast iron main;
- 55' \pm of 6", LP plastic main in the intersection of Beacon Street and Dalton Road to replace 55' \pm of 6" LP Cast iron main and
- 60' \pm of 8" LP plastic main in Union Street from Beacon Street to the existing 8", LP plastic main at #22 Union Street to replace 60' \pm of 6" LP cast iron main

This work is a part of the Cast iron Main Replacement Program. (Wards 6 & 7)

Action: Public Facilities Approved 8-0

Note: Mary Mulrone, National Grid Representative presented the above request for a grant of location in Beacon Street. She noted that this work is a part of National Grid's Cast Iron Main Replacement Program.

The Chair explained the attached questions and answers that the Committee asks of National Grid for every petition.

Councilors asked the following questions:

Q: Which side of Beacon Street is this work being done and will this disturb any of the outdoor dining options in this area?

A: Lou Taverna, City Engineer explained that the main is on the southside of Beacon Street where the Post Office is. He explained that he does not believe there is any outdoor dining on this side, and it stops at Union Street east of Langley.

Q: When will the rest of Union Street be replaced?

A: Mr. Taverna explained that National Grid would need to answer this question. He also noted that the City works with National Grid to schedule these repairs.

It was noted that the trench should be repaired as soon as possible to ensure safety for the bicyclists in the area.

The public hearing was opened and with no member of the public wishing to speak the public hearing was closed.

Councilor Danberg motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

#189-21 National Grid petition for grant of location in Commonwealth Avenue

NATIONAL GRID petition for a grant of location to install and maintain 160' +/- of 12" plastic main extending from the existing 8" cast iron main in front of #1466 Commonwealth Ave to #1488 Commonwealth Avenue. (Ward 3)

Action: Public Facilities Approved Subject to Second Call 8-0

Note: Mary Mulrone, National Grid Representative presented the above request for a grant of location in Commonwealth Avenue. The Chair referenced the attached questions and answers from National Grid.

The Chair noted that they are looking to have the Energy Coach be involved in petitions like this to see if there is a true need for this increase and to educate developers on all electric options.

Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operation Officer explained that Liora Silkes, the new Energy Coach has been working on developing communication packages with the building community so that in the future this communication came happen early in the development process.

Councilors asked the following questions:

Q: Is this work for the Teddy Bear Club?

A: It was noted that this work is for a single-family property near the Teddy Bear Club.

Q: Is a 12" plastic main the normal size for an extension like this?

A: Ms. Mulroney explained that they are trying to keep the integrity of the system. She further explained that the service going into the property is a 2" plastic low pressure gas service.

Q: Did the owner request this gas extension?

A: Ms. Mulroney explained that the owner did reach out to National Grid for this gas service. She explained that she believed that this was a newly constructed home and if it is not, she is unsure why the owner asked to be switched to gas. Mr. Taverna noted he is also unaware of why the customer asked for a gas service to be added to this property which does not currently have gas service.

Councilors made the following comments:

An item has been docketed to require a feasibility analysis that deals with electric versus gas by any builder or developers who are putting in new services or new construction/major renovation. The Committee should discuss this item at a future meeting which will help with navigating these petitions.

It was noted that the Energy Coach should reach out as soon as possible to the property owner to discuss the costs of extending the gas main.

The public hearing was opened and with no member of the public wishing to speak the public hearing was closed.

The Committee discussed voting this item subject to second call to be able to discuss this petition with the Energy Coach, be able to find out what services the property owner already has and what the status of the project is.

Mr. Yeo noted that he can get the information from the Inspectional Services Department regarding the status of the Building Permit.

Councilor Kelley motioned to approve subject to second call which passed unanimously.

#190-21 Eversource Energy petition for a Grant of Location on Highland Avenue
EVERSOURCE ENERGY petitioning for a grant of location to relocate one pole (JO Pole #207/19) 21' ± in an easterly direction to in front of #164 Highland Avenue (Ward 3).

Action: **Public Facilities Voted No Action Necessary 8-0**

Note: The Chair noted that Eversource has requested to withdraw this petition. Eversource will refile this petition at a later date.

With no questions or concerns from the Committee, Councilor Kelley motioned no action necessary which passed unanimously.

Chair's Note: *There was a scrivener's error in the account number for the following item which has been corrected and is reflected in the attached draft Council Order.*

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#198-21 Transfer \$400,000 to the Transportation Network Improvement Program
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer the sum of four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) from FY21 salary savings from the Department of Public Works, Street Maintenance Division Acct# 0140120-511002 Full-Time Wages to Acct #01C401142-579500 Department of Public Works-Transportation Network Improvement Program.

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 8-0**

Note: Jim McGonagle, Commissioner of Public Works presented the request to transfer \$400,000 to the Department of Public Works Transportation Network Improvement Program. Commissioner McGonagle explained that these funds are coming from salary savings in the DPW streets division. The Transportation Network Improvement Plan includes paving, ADA accommodations, bike accommodations and mobility improvements throughout the City. These funds will be used in the upcoming work in FY22.

With no questions or concerns from the Committee, Councilor Crossley motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

The Committee then began their discussion on the DPW Budget. The report for the DPW Budget can be found at the following link when available.

<https://www.newtonma.gov/government/city-clerk/city-council/council-standing-committees/public-facilities-committee>

The Committee adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alison M. Leary, Chair

All Grants of Location must answer the following in detail:

- a. Are there any leaks on this road? If yes, how many?
- b. If not, why is the gas main being extended or replaced?
- c. Is it in response to upcoming roadwork or new development?
- d. Is capacity increasing? If yes, why?

Requested by the Commissioner: when NGrid engineers develop the GOL plans these standard questions be answered in a written format & submitted w/ the GOL package.

WO#996281 – 631-731 BEACON ST, NEW, & 11-15 COUSENS CIR

- a. No
- b. To install the gas main further away from the existing one and avoid disturbing the island in the intersection.
- c. Yes. Paving from Centre St to Town Line. Gas work to be completed beforehand.
- d. We are sizing up from 4" & 6" Cast Iron to 8" Plastic because of Gas Operations analysis on the Low Pressure System. Normal main replacement in Beacon and side street intersections.

WO#1393109 – 1488 COMMONWEALTH AVE, NEW

All Grants of Location for the City of Newton must answer the following in detail:

- A. Are there any leaks on this road? If yes, how many?
 - None. (MNEW wo# so leaks are not driving force)
- B. If not, why is the gas main being extended or replaced?
 - New, Customer driven request to extend the gas main and installation of new gas service to the home at #1488 Commonwealth Ave, NEW.
- C. Is it in response to upcoming roadwork or new development?
 - No
- D. Is capacity increasing? If yes, why?
 - No

Requested by the Commissioner: When NationalGrid engineers develop the GOL plans these standard questions need to be answered in a written format & submitted with the GOL package.

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Public Facilities Committee through its Chair Alison M. Leary and the Finance Committee through its Chair Rebecca Walker Grossman, to transfer the sum of four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) from FY21 salary savings from the Department of Public Works, Street Maintenance Division Acct# 0140120-511002 Full-Time Wages to Acct #01C40112-579500 Department of Public Works- Transportation Network Improvement Program be and is hereby approved as follows:

FROM:	DPW Street Maintenance Division-Full Time Wages (0140120-511002).....	\$400,000
TO:	Accelerated Roads Program- Undistributed (01C40112-579500)	\$400,000

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Approved
DRAFT

(SGD) NADIA H KHAN

Acting City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER

Mayor

Date: _____