

Budget Resolution #1
Additional Funds for Conservation Maintenance

Submitted by Ald. Baker, Danberg and Kalis

RESOLUTION OFFERED BY ALD. BAKER, DANBERG & KALIS REGARDING
CONSERVATION

Whereas the Conservation Planner for the City of Newton is responsible for assisting Conservation Commission oversight of the many acres of Conservation Land in the City, and

Whereas, currently, the City allocates only \$50,000 a year to take care of all these lands, including trail maintenance, public information, and enforcement of violations of regulations to protect the City's conservation lands.

NOW THEREFORE, this honorable Board of Aldermen resolves to request that his Honor the Mayor, add an additional \$25,000 to the budget for this account to help assure these vital City lands get the care they deserve.

APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
1 ABSTENTION

Budget Resolution #2
Inspectional Services Staffing

Submitted by Ald. Baker, Danberg and Kalis

RESOLUTION OFFERED BY ALD. BAKER, DANBERG & KALIS REGARDING
INSPECTIONAL SERVICES

Whereas the Department of Inspectional Services (“ISD”) is an important source of non-tax revenue for the City from the payment of various permits required for building and rebuilding in the City; and

Whereas ISD can be the source of much helpful information about development and the use of land in the City, even if some aspects are regulated by other agencies of the City, such as noise (Police); Tree removal (Parks and Recreation), among others; and

Whereas ISD is also charged with the enforcement of the state Building Code as well as Newton’s zoning ordinances, including special permits voted by the Board of Aldermen; and

Whereas Newton has continued to experience development pressures, including a number of projects which have been built without appropriate prior permits, or without complying with some of the permits issued;

Whereas neighboring Cities, such as Boston, have begun to add staff to assure enforcement of housing rules for students, some of whom also live in Newton; and

Whereas ISD’s ability to assure compliance with applicable land use requirements in Newton depends on a combination of public information about applicable ordinances and laws, follow up on permits granted, as well as diligent and vigorous enforcement when violations of law or permits are found.

NOW THEREFORE, this honorable Board of Aldermen, resolves to request that his Honor the Mayor, add funding sufficient to assure an additional official in the Department of Inspectional Services to assure adequate capacity in ISD to serve these needs.

APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
4 ABSTENTIONS

Budget Resolution #3
Law Department Staffing

Submitted by Ald. Baker

Whereas the Law Department performs important functions for the Board of Aldermen in reviewing and certifying proposed ordinances for legal form and character; and

Whereas the City has undertaken an important effort at recodifying the zoning portions of Newton's ordinances; and whereas at the same time other than this one have already been identified by the City Solicitor as work to be done in the upcoming year; and

Whereas, it is important that both members of the Board and the public we serve has confidence that any changes recommended to our ordinance have been thoroughly analyzed by both the Law as well as the Planning Department, and

Whereas the able attorneys with zoning experience in the Law Department are already hard at work on other responsibilities as well.

Now therefore this honorable Board requests His Honor the Mayor set aside additional funding to provide an additional assistant city solicitor to enable allocation of law department time so as to assure the careful review and certification of any proposed zoning amendments that may be proposed.

WITHDRAWN

Budget Resolution #4 Inspectional Services Staffing

Submitted by Ald. Hess-Mahan & Albright

RESOLUTION OFFERED BY ALD. ALBRIGHT AND ALD. HESS-MAHAN FOR ADDITION OF A FULL-TIME INSPECTOR AND INCREASE THE ADA/SECTION 504 ACCESS COORDINATOR TO A FULL-TIME POSITION\

Requesting that the Mayor fund additional staff in the Inspectional Services Department as follows.

1. One full -time inspector to ensure adequate enforcement of the state Building Code as well as Newton's zoning ordinances, including special permits voted by the Board of Aldermen;
2. One .5 FTE to increase the ADA/Section 504 Access Coordinator from a part-time to a full time position to adequately address the following needs identified in the City's "Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice," "Fair Housing Action Plan: Opening the Doors – Newton, A Welcoming Community," and "Ramping Up: Planning for a More Accessible Newton":
 - a. To ensure compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, prohibiting discrimination in public services based on disability;
 - b. To ensure compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, prohibiting discrimination in federally funded programs based on disability;
 - c. To ensure that housing, community facilities, and public accommodations in Newton are constructed consistent with the state and federal architectural access requirements for people with disabilities; and
 - d. To develop and implement a comprehensive and integrated plan to ensure compliance with state and federal architectural access requirements within all City departments and the Newton Housing Authority.

APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
3 ABSTENTIONS

Budget Resolution #5
Archivist Position at Historic Newton

Submitted by Ald. Albright & Fuller

Resolution regarding the Archivist at Historic Newton

Increase the archivist position at Historic Newton from .5 FTE to 1.0 FTE

Currently the archivist officially works .5FTE which does not cover the demand for her time.

Demands for information currently include:

- Researching historical information – requests from citizens and city staff
- mounting exhibits
- serving on various city committees such as the Historic Burying Grounds Committee, the Civil War Monument Committee
- supervising interns to organize collections and review contributed material

During this next year Historic Newton will be installing compact shelving, fire suppression and climate control in its archives as well as expanding storage space. All the archival material will need organization towards the goal of eventually having the entire collection catalogued and the pertinent parts scanned and up on line so the citizens of Newton have access to these important materials. The addition of .5 FTE time will make this possible.

Paying attention to Newton's History is essential and this is one important way the Board can help. To make the archivist full time would cost around another \$25,000 plus benefits.

APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
6 ABSTENTIONS

Budget Resolution #6
IT Comprehensive Plan

Submitted by Ald. Albright, Crossley & Laredo

Resolution regarding the Information Technology Department offered by Aldermen Susan Albright, Deb Crossley, Marc Laredo etc?

With the completion of the fiber network which will facilitate efficient transport of information throughout the city there must be a comprehensive plan for the use of Information Technology in the City of Newton that aligns with the mission of the Executive . Specifically the IT plan should address the ways that technology can be applied to enhance public safety, vibrant community life, environmental sustainability, economic development, and community engagement. While not specifically mentioned in the Mayor's desired outcomes the plan should address such elements as online permitting, applications, and payments for all city services. This plan must include the ways that each department can enhance its work to accomplish departmental goals especially as they relate to the mayors desired outcomes. There must be long and short term goals and measurable objectives.

A 1.0 planner/business analyst should be added to the IT department in order to assist the CIO in the creation of a city-wide IT plan. The business analyst must be able to interpret departmental needs into IT projects which meet these needs and prioritize these with the help of department heads. The CIO and business analyst should consider citizen focus groups as a necessary component of the needs assessment process as well as the formation of a new IT Advisory Committee so assist in the creation of the city's IT plan.

APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
2 ABSTENTIONS

Budget Resolution #7
Staffing in the Clerk's Office

Submitted by Ald. Johnson

Whereas, the ability of the Inspectional Services Department to undertake the enforcement of the conditions included in Special Permits is dependent on the Department having access to the Special Permits; and

Whereas, the special permits that the City has been issuing since the 1920s are archived in the City Clerk's Office and City Archives; and

Whereas, the process of pulling the Special Permits, scanning them, confirming that they have been registered at the Registry of Deeds, and up-loading them to Community Plus is a time-consuming task.

Now therefore, the Board of Aldermen requests his honor the Mayor increase the personnel line item in the Clerk of the Board's budget by \$55,000 plus benefits to add a new ~~Committee Clerk position~~ to add funds for staff in the office who will be devoted to this project until the project is complete.

APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
2 ABSTENTIONS