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Newton City Council

Committee of the Whole Agenda

POSTED
City Clerk

Thursday, November 10, 2022

The City Council will meet in a Committee of the Whole on Thursday, November 10, 2022, at 7:00 PM

The City Council will hold this meeting as a hybrid meeting on Thursday, November 10, 2022, at 7:00 pm. This meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting and in-person in the Chamber at City Hall. To view this meeting using Zoom use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81188105717> or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the following Meeting ID: 881 8810 5717

Referred to a Committee of the Whole

#482-22 Authorization to present the levy limit override and debt exclusion ballot questions to the voters

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting the following:

- (1) To present the following levy limit override and debt exclusion ballot questions to the voters in accordance with the procedure prescribed by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, Section 21C(g) and (k):
 - Shall the City of Newton be allowed to assess an additional \$9,175,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 for the purpose of funding municipal and school operating and capital expenses to support student needs, fund street and sidewalk paving and safety improvements, increase street tree planting and care efforts, improve park, athletic field, court and playground maintenance, address the space needs of the Horace Mann Elementary School, fund sustainability and climate resiliency actions, and increase Senior Services programming and operations?

Yes _____ No _____

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

- Shall the City of Newton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2 1/2, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to renovate or replace the Countryside Elementary School?
Yes _____ No _____
 - Shall the City of Newton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2 1/2, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to renovate or replace the Franklin Elementary School?
Yes _____ No _____
- (2) A request to call a special election to present the levy limit override and debt exclusion ballot questions to the voters and set a date of March 14, 2023 for such special election.
- (3) A request to appropriate from Budget Reserve the sum of two hundred and ten thousand dollars (\$210,000) for the purpose of funding the costs of a special election to present the levy limit override and debt exclusion ballot questions to the voters.

#484-22 Amendments to Sec. 27-10 to the City of Newton Ordinances

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an amendment to City Ordinance Sec. 27-10 increasing the income limit of the tax deferral program to match the current maximum allowable circuit breaker amount of \$93,000 for the local M.G.L c. 59 sec. 5cl. 41A tax deferral program.

#485-22 Requesting a Home Rule Petition

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting to seek Home Rule legislation allowing the City to increase the maximum real property tax exemptions and reductions for certain programs authorized under M.G.L c. 59 beyond that amount currently allowed by the state. The requested enhancements for the following tax assistance programs:

VETERAN - EXEMPTION - G.L. c. 59, sec. 5, cl. 22

Clause 22 authorizes an exemption for the real property taxes of qualifying veterans or spouses of veterans in the maximum amount of \$400. The maximum allowable exemption is requested to be increased to \$800.

VETERAN - EXEMPTION - G.L. c. 59, sec. 5, cl. 22

Clause 22 authorizes an exemption for the real property taxes of qualifying veterans or spouses of veterans in the maximum amount of \$500. The maximum allowable exemption is requested to be increased to \$1,000.

DISABLED VETERAN - EXEMPTION - G.L. c. 59, sec. 5, cl. 22E

Clause 22E authorizes an exemption for the real property taxes of qualifying veterans determined to have suffered total disability in the line of duty in the maximum amount of \$1,000. The maximum allowable exemption is requested to be increased to \$2,000.

BLIND PERSON - EXEMPTION - G.L. c. 59, sec. 5, cl. 37A

Clause 37A authorizes an exemption for the real property taxes of a blind person in the maximum amount of \$500. The maximum allowable exemption is requested to be increased to \$1,000.

SENIOR CITIZENS -EXEMPTION - G.L. c. 59, sec. 5, cl. 41C

Clause 41C authorizes an exemption for the real property taxes of seniors over the age of 65 in the maximum amount of \$1,000. The maximum allowable exemption is requested to be increased to \$2,000.

SENIOR CITIZENS - REDUCTION - G.L. c. 59, sec. 5K and VETERANS -REDUCTION - G.L.

c. 59, sec. 5N

Section 5K and 5N, respectively, authorize a reduction for the real property taxes of seniors over the age of 60 or veterans in exchange for volunteer services to the city. The statute permits a maximum reduction based on either 125 volunteer service hours or \$1,500. The City currently allows a reduction based on the maximum 125 volunteer service hours. It is requested that the maximum reduction in exchange for volunteer services be increased to 200 volunteer services hours or \$3,000.

ELDERLY SURVIVING SPOUSE, MINOR CHILD -EXEMPTION - G.L. c. 59, sec. 5, cl. 17D

Clause 17D authorizes an exemption for the real property taxes of a surviving spouse, a minor child whose parent is deceased, or seniors over the age of 70, in the maximum amount of \$219. It is requested that the maximum be doubled, increasing the exemption amount to \$438.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Albright, President