



Public Facilities Committee Agenda

City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

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

City Staff: Commissioner of Public Works Jim McGonagle, Chief Operating Officer Jonathan Yeo, Director of Sustainable Materials Management Waneta Trabert

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#19-23 Increase Curbside Mattress Recycling Fees

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an increase in the curbside mattress recycling fee from the current \$50 to \$60 in order to make the City whole to cover the cost being charged by the service provider, GGY Transport LLC dba Tough Stuff Recycling, for curbside collection service.

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

Note: Director of Sustainable Materials Management Waneta Trabert explained that when the initial \$50 fee was passed, the contract for the service had not been finalized. She continued, saying that it the State failed to notify vendors prevailing wage applied to the service, resulting in a \$10 increase per item collected. Ms. Trabert added that even finalized contracts are now being amended to reflect this development. She concluded by stating that the City is unable to absorb the additional \$10 per item collected.

Councilors asked the following questions:

Q: Is the \$10 increase in fee large enough increase to last multiple years?

A: Ms. Trabert stated that this contract is locked in for two years starting in December of 2022 and that the fee will not increase during this period.

Q: Will the incoming legislature pass an extended producer responsibility that would help communities cover these costs in the future?

A: Ms. Trabert stated that she is optimistic that it will happen. She added that she is heavily involved in the effort at the state level to get this passed. Ms. Trabert also stated that a potential law would

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cover the processing of these materials, but the curbside pickup fee would still fall on the City or the residents. She added that this fee would be much smaller than what is presently in effect.

Councilors made the following comment:

It was stated that the prudent course of action is to approve this item immediately. They added that if the State Legislature passes a law that will affect the cost of the of the processing fee then the Committee can always meet and lower the fee.

Councilor Laredo motioned to approve the item, which passed unanimously.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#18-23 Acceptance of \$2,027,000 MassWorks Program Grant

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to accept and expend the sum of two million and twenty-seven thousand dollars (\$2,027,000) in grant funding from the MassWorks Program for the Pettee Square Improvement Project (Oak Street at Chestnut Street) in order to reimburse the City for final engineering design, engineering services during construction, resident repudiation services, and construction services of the intersection improvements at Pettee Square.

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

Note: Commissioner of Public Works Jim McGonagle stated that this project was initially approved by the City Council in August of 2021, adding that they expected to receive the MassWorks grant shortly after, but did not. Commissioner McGonagle added that this project has been fully vetted and approved in various departments, and they have now been awarded the grant from MassWorks.

Councilors asked the following questions

Q: When this project was initially proposed, was the plan to use ARPA funding or was there another funding source from the City to supplement this grant?

A: Commissioner McGonagle stated that the goal was to have MassWorks fund the entire project. It appears now that the State is looking for communities to provide funding to supplement these grants.

Q: Would this have been bonded if the City didn't have one-time access to ARPA funds?

A: Commissioner McGonagle stated that if we were funding this project with City funds, then it most likely would have been bonded.

Councilors made the following comments

A Councilor stated that this project is a big win for the Upper Falls community and that they hope all Committee members will vote to approve the item.

COO Jonathan Yeo noted that the Mayor is using \$1.1 million in ARPA funds to supplement this grant, which is a requirement.

The Committee was reminded that the MassWorks grant funding for the Pettee Square project, which the Committee had just voted to accept, would only be available in the future to communities that adopt the MBTA Communities Act. This is a zoning ordinance that provides for at least 1 district of reasonable size in which multi-family housing is permitted as of right. Failure to comply with these multifamily zoning requirements would make a community ineligible for funds from Housing Choice Grants, Local Capital Fund Projects, and MassWorks grants.

Councilor Crossley motioned to approve the item, which passed unanimously.

#9-23 Reappointment of Howard Goldberg to the Designer Selection Committee

PRESIDENT ALBRIGHT reappointing Howard Goldberg, 27 Theodore Road, Newton Centre 02459 to the Designer Selection Committee for a term of office to expire December 31, 2023. (60 days: 3/4/23)

Action: Public Facilities Approved 8-0

Note: With no questions or concerns from the committee, Councilor Kalis motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

#10-23 Reappointment of Amy L. MacKrell to the Designer Selection Committee

PRESIDENT ALBRIGHT reappointing Amy L. MacKrell, 12 Dexter Road, Newtonville 02460 to the Designer Selection Committee for a term of office to expire December 31, 2023. (60 days: 3/4/23)

Action: Public Facilities Approved 8-0

Note: With no questions or concerns from the committee, Councilor Norton motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

#11-23 Reappointment of Carol S. Schein to the Design Review Committee

PRESIDENT ALBRIGHT reappointing Carol S. Schein, 82 Garland Road, Newton 02459 to the Design Review Committee for a term of office to expire December 31, 2023. (60 days: 3/4/23)

Action: Public Facilities Approved 8-0

Note: With no questions or concerns from the committee, Councilor Kalis motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alison M. Leary, Chair