

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

BOARD ACTIONS

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Present: Ald. Albright, Baker, Blazar, Ciccone, Crossley, Danberg, Fischman, Freedman, Fuller, Gentile, Harney, Hess-Mahan, Lappin, Linsky, Merrill, Rice, Sangiolo, Schnipper, Shapiro, Swiston, Yates and Lennon

Absent: Ald. Johnson & Salvucci

#129-11(5) DIRECTOR OF ASSESSMENT ADMINISTRATION submitting for Board of Aldermen review and approval FY12 Municipal Property Tax Levy Distribution Percentages among residential, open space, commercial and industrial classes of Real Property.

A MOTION TO GO INTO A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WITH FINANCE PRESIDING TO CONDUCT THE TAX CLASSIFICATION PUBLIC HEARING WAS APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

THE TAX CLASSIFICATION PUBLIC HEARING WAS OPENED AND CLOSED

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE WITH 1 NAY A 174% SHIFT FOR A RESIDENTIAL FACTOR OF 91.1449 RESULTING IN A RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE OF \$11.17 AND A COMMERCIAL RATE OF \$21.33

A MOTION TO GO OUT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND ALLOW THE CHAIR OF FINANCE TO REPORT THE VOTE OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WITHOUT A WRITTEN REPORT WAS APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE.

BOARD APPROVED A 174% SHIFT FOR A RESIDENTIAL FACTOR OF 91.1449 RESULTING IN A RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE OF \$11.17 AND A COMMERCIAL RATE OF \$21.33 21 YEAS, 1 NAY (Ald. Linsky), 2 ABSENT (Ald. Johnson & Salvucci)

Clerk's Note: Elizabeth Dromey, the Director of Assessment Administration for the City of Newton, joined the Committee of the Whole and presented information on the FY2012 Tax Levy, residential factors, and scenarios for different tax shift percentages. The Chair of the Finance Committee noted that by choosing a tax shift of 174% this year, instead of recent past practice of setting the shift at 175%, would result in more money being able to be collected in taxes without going over the City's levy limit. Chief Financial Officer Maureen Lemieux joined the conversation to confirm that due to rounding errors in the scenarios, a shift of 174% would allow the city to collect \$103,000 more than a shift of 175%. A 174% shift would cost an

average residential tax payer about \$10.00 more per year and an average commercial tax payer \$100 less per year over selecting a 175% shift. She recommended the 174% shift.

Bob Halpin, the Director of the Newton/Needham Chamber of Commerce, spoke in favor of choosing a shift that did not overburden the commercial tax rate payers.

The Public Hearing was closed and a motion was made to approve a shift of 174% which was approved.

THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE THE POSTPONMENT OF THE FOLLOWING THREE ITEMS TO A DATE CERTAIN OF NOVEMBER 21, 2011:

#355-10 PRESIDENT LENNON and ALD. LAPPIN requesting a change to the rules of the Board of Aldermen to eliminate the Real Property & Reuse Committee. Issues regarding reuse of public buildings to be referred to the Public Facilities Committee and issues regarding reuse of City owned land would be referred to the Land Use Committee. Effective date of this change will be January 1, 2012. [11/26/2010 @ 11:59 AM]

PROGRAMS & SERVICES APPROVED AS AMENDED 6-0-1 (Linsky abstaining; Baker not voting)

ITEM CHARTERED BY ALD. SHAPIRO ON 11/07/11

#356-10 PRESIDENT LENNON and ALD. LAPPIN requesting a change to the rules of the Board of Aldermen to eliminate the Post-Audit Committee. All post audit/follow-up items will be discussed in the substantive committee that originally heard the item. Effective date of this change will be January 1, 2012.[11/26/2010 @ 11:59 AM]

PROGRAMS & SERVICES APPROVED 6-0-1 (Linsky abstaining, Baker not voting)

ITEM CHARTERED BY ALD. SHAPIRO ON 11/07/11

#357-10 PRESIDENT LENNON and ALD. LAPPIN requesting a change to the rules of the Board of Aldermen to eliminate the Committee on Community Preservation. All Community Preservation items will be referred to the Finance Committee. Effective date of this change will be January 1, 2012. [11/26/2010 @ 11:59 AM]

PROGRAMS & SERVICES APPROVED 7-1 (Linsky opposed)

ITEM CHARTERED BY ALD. SHAPIRO ON 11/07/11