



Finance Committee Report

City of Newton In City Council

Monday, April 22, 2019

Present: Councilor Ciccone, Norton, Cote, Gentile, Rice, Noel, Grossman, and Lappin

Also present: Councilors Crossley, Downs, and Laredo

City staff present: David Koses (Chair of Traffic Council), Maureen Lemieux (Chief Financial Officer), and Sue Dzikowski (Comptroller)

#134-19 Non-resident parking permit fee for Newton Highlands Parking District
TRAFFIC COUNCIL CHAIR requesting an amendment to Chapter 17 Section 13(j) of the City of Newton Ordinances to add a non-resident parking permit fee for the new Newton Highlands Parking District.

Action: Finance Approved 8-0

Note: Traffic Council Chair David Koses presented the request to amend the ordinance to charge a \$200 fee for non-resident parking permits in the Newton Highlands Parking District. The Traffic Council unanimously approved the creation of the parking district and the recommended \$200 fee for the non-resident parking permit. Mr. Koses provided a detailed map (attached) of the parking district and explained that the district includes 18 non-resident parking permits at various locations, as shown on the map. There is one non-resident parking space for every 250' of parkable space. Once the district is established, the intent is to expand the number of streets in the parking district, which will increase the number of resident and non-resident parking permits available.

The Traffic Council will determine how the non-resident spaces are distributed among the businesses in the Newton Highland Parking District. The police issue the resident and non-resident parking permits, which are renewed annually. Each non-resident permit is specific to a license plate.

Residents of the streets included in the parking district are very excited about the parking district and happy that it includes non-resident spaces, as it will free up metered spaces and eliminate the need for Highland business employees to switch parking spaces. There are only five long-term spaces in the village and if that number were increased commuters would take all of them.

A Committee member asked if there was any appetite to approve a fee greater than \$200. The Chair responded that this is the first parking district with a non-resident fee greater than \$25, and he would like to start this fee on the lower end. The expectation is that there will be other parking districts created and they will also have non-resident parking permits. The Council can always amend the ordinance to increase this fee, if it is not in line with the other parking districts. No other Committee member commented on the fee. Councilor Noel moved approval of the fee at \$200, which carried by a vote of eight in favor and none opposed.

#148-19 Appropriation of \$240,000 for the Rainy Day Stabilization Fund

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate two hundred forty thousand dollars (\$240,000) from Free Cash to the Rainy Day Stabilization Fund. This appropriation when combined with interest earned throughout FY 2019 on the funds in this account and \$150,000 appropriated in the FY 2020 Mayor's proposed budget will allow the City to begin FY 2020 with a full 5% of the operating budget set aside in reserve.

Action: Finance Approved 8-0

Note: Chief Financial Officer Maureen Lemieux presented the request to appropriate \$240,000 from Free Cash to increase the Rainy Day Stabilization Fund (RDSF) balance to 5% of the operating general fund for Fiscal Year 2020. It is the goal of the City to maintain 5% of the operating budget in the RDSF. The Fiscal Year 2020 proposed budget is \$430,284,381; therefore, the City needs to raise the Rainy Day Stabilization Fund balance to \$21,514,219 to reach the 5% level, which requires adding \$890,000 to the fund.

The requested appropriation of \$240,000 combined with \$500,000 interest earned on the RDSF over Fiscal Year 2019 and the \$150,000 appropriation in the proposed budget will ensure that the City starts the fiscal year with the full 5% of the general fund budget. The Committee had no questions and Councilor Lappin moved approval of appropriation, which carried by a unanimous vote.

#117-19 Ordinance amendment regarding disposing of renewable energy revenue or credits

COUNCILORS CROSSLEY, LAREDO & GENTILE proposing an ordinance that would require the mayor to seek City Council approval prior to disposing of renewable energy sourced electricity revenue or credits generated on municipal property for non-municipal purposes.

Action: Finance Approved 8-0

Note: Councilors Crossley and Laredo joined the Committee to discuss the proposed ordinance to require that the Mayor seek City Council approval prior to disposing of renewable energy revenue or credits generated on City property for non-municipal purposes. The previous Mayor gave a portion of the City's renewable energy credits for non-municipal purpose without the City Council weighing in on disposing of the energy credits in this way. It was within the authority of the Mayor to do this, but many Councilors felt that the best practice would have been to discuss the disposal of the credits with the City Council.

Mayor Fuller is supportive of the proposed ordinance. The attached draft language was provided by Andrew Lee in the Law Department and was reviewed by the Co-director of Sustainability Ann Berwick. The draft language is straight forward and brings the Council into the decision-making process.

There was a question as to whether the proposed language should be incorporated into the City Charter. Councilor Crossley explained that the Law Department feels that it is too specific for the Charter

and is best dealt with as an ordinance. There were no further questions and Councilor Lappin moved approval, which carried by a vote of eight in favor and none opposed.

The Committee adjourned at 9:00 PM and all other items before the Committee were held without discussion. Draft Council Orders for the above items that are recommended for City Council action are attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard J. Gentile, Chair

Newton Highlands Parking District



Program Description

Goal: Make parking regulations more consistent in the neighborhood, and issue Newton Highlands Parking Permits that override posted time limit.

Cost/vehicle of Newton Highland Parking Permit for abutting residences: \$25/yr.

Each abutting residence may receive 2 free visitor placards.

Cost of Newton Highlands Nonresident Parking Permit: \$XYZ/year.

Managed by the Newton Traffic Bureau.

STREETS INCLUDED IN THE NEWTON HIGHLANDS PARKING DISTRICT:

Street	# of Nonresident Newton Highlands Permits Available
Lincoln (E of Bowdoin)	4
Lincoln (Bowdoin to Woodward)	6
Lincoln (W of Woodward)	6
Columbus	1
Bowdoin (Lincoln to Erie)	1

LEGEND

- █ No Parking Any Time (Black)
- █ 1-hr limit, 8am-6pm, Mon-Sat except Holidays or by Newton Highlands Permit (Purple)
- █ 2-hr limit, 8am-6pm, Mon-Sat except Holidays or by Newtonville Highlands Permit (Red)
- █ Loading Zone 1pm-6pm M-F
- █ 2-hour metered parking

Map date: April 22, 2019

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. B-

2019

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWTON AS FOLLOWS:

That the Revised Ordinances of Newton, Massachusetts, 2017, as amended, be and are hereby further amended with respect to **Chapter 19. MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC.** and **Chapter 17. FEES FOR LICENSING AND PERMITS; AND CIVIL FINES GENERALLY** as follows:

By adding to Section 17-13(j) Neighborhood district non-resident permits (Sec. 19-202(2)(3), the following new provision:

Newton Highland Village Parking District.....\$200.00

Approved as to legal form and character

ALISSA O. GIULIANI
City Solicitor

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Adopted
22 yeas 0 nays 2 absent (Councilors Ciccone and Gentile)

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
Approved:

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON
City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER
Mayor

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

2019

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chair Leonard J. Gentile, the sum of two hundred forty thousand dollars (\$240,000) be and is hereby appropriated from Free Cash to the Rainy Day Stabilization Fund.

FROM: Free Cash
(01-3497)..... \$240,000

TO: Rainy Day Stabilization Fund
(22A-3322A)..... \$240,000

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Approved

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON
City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER
Mayor

Date _____

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. B-

2019

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWTON AS FOLLOWS:

That the Revised Ordinances of Newton, Massachusetts, 2017, as amended, be and are hereby further amended with respect to **Chapter 2. ADMINISTRATION.** add a new section as follows:

Sec. 2-8. Disposition of solar energy revenue.

(a) Definitions: For purposes of this section, the following term shall be defined as follows:

Renewable energy generating source: has the meaning set forth in M.G.L.c. 25A, § 11F(b), as amended from time to time.

(b) Any value received by the city from the operation of a renewable energy generating source located on city owned property shall be allocated only to electricity accounts that are in the name of the city or a city department, or to the general fund, as appropriate, unless otherwise approved by the City Council.

Approved as to legal form and character

ALISSA O. GIULIANI

City Solicitor

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Adopted

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT _____

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON

City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER

Mayor