

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

MONDAY, MAY 8, 2006

**7:00 P.M. – NOTE EARLY START FOR BUDGET REVIEW
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

7:30 P.M. -- COMPTROLLER/RETIREMENT BOARD

8:00 P.M. -- ASSESSING

8:30 P.M. -- TREASURER/COLLECTOR/PARKING CLERK

NEW BUSINESS:

******ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:***

(see Comptroller's "First Call Item" Report – Attached)

#207-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting the following transfers of funds to cover FY06 Health Insurance Costs:

FROM:	Human Resources; Severance Benefits (0110901-5158002).....	\$31,151
	Retirement Board; Non-contributory Retirement Benefits (0110491-5708).....	\$39,325
TO:	Health Insurance Benefits (0110491-57HLTH).....	\$70,476

#208-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting establishment of a revolving fund in the Fire Department with an annual expenditure limit of \$10,000. Said fund would be collected from the sale of surplus Fire Department equipment and vehicles. The Department would be authorized to expend such funds for the purchase of new and used equipment or vehicles as well as for the repair of existing vehicles.

#209-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$1,800 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of replacing the condenser in the refrigerator in the City Hall cafeteria.

#210-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the sum of \$2,541, received as grant funds from the Commonwealth Sewer Rate Relief fund for the purpose of defraying the costs of the Hillside Road sewer extension project.

#211-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to expend the sum of \$5,500 from Library E-rate Receipts for the purpose of purchasing printers for the Library's public access computers.

*****ALSO SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:**

REFERRED TO PUB. SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#212-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$175,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of supplementing the Police Department overtime account.

PS&T APPROVED 7-0-1 (Linsky abstaining) ON 5/3/06

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#213-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$23,310 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the energy accounts in the Fire Department in addition to inter-departmental transfers totaling \$353,590 to supplement energy accounts in various other City departments.

PUB. FACILITIES APPROVED 7-0 (Gentile not voting) ON 5/3/06

REFERRED TO ZONING & PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#195-06 ALD. HESS-MAHAN, MERRILL, BAKER offering a RESOLUTION to Congress to provide FY2007 funding level of no less than \$4.35 billion in formula funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program.

*****ITEM NOT YET SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:**

REFERRED TO CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

#214-06 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$100,000 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for purposes of funding the Angino Farm De-Leading historic preservation project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

*****ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:**

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

#165-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, in accordance with Section 5-1 of the City of Newton Charter, submitting the FY07 Municipal/School Operating Budget totaling \$295,437,277, passage of which shall be concurrent with the FY07-FY11 Capital Improvement Program.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUBMISSION: 4/18/06

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#187-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$20,307 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of purchasing equipment for seven new recruits in the Fire Department.

PS&T APPROVED 6-0 (Linsky, Fischman not voting) ON 5/3/06

*****ITEMS NOT YET SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:**

REFERRED TO CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

- #458-05 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$55,675 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for purposes of studying and planning the restoration of the Crafts Street Stable Exterior Building Historic Preservation Study.
CMTE. ON COMM.PRES. APPROVED AS AMENDED @ \$65,675 4-0-3 (Linsky, Lappin, Parker abstaining) on 1/24/06

REFERRED TO CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

- #142-06 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$33,400 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for the purpose of funding the *Albemarle Park Central Corridor Design* open space and recreation project in Newtonville.
CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 8-0 ON 4/25/06

REFERRED TO CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

- #143-06 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$25,100 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for the purpose of funding the *Cheesecake Brook Greenway Design* open space project in Newtonville
CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 8-0 ON 4/25/06

REFERRED TO CMTE. ON COMMUNITY PRESERV. AND FINANCE

- #188-06 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$92,080 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for purposes of funding the *Upper falls & Newton Highlands Playground Strategic Design* recreation project.
CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 8-0 ON 4/25/06

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #23-06 ALD PARKER AND LINSKY requesting that the City adopt §19 of MGL Chapter 32B to allow retiree coalition bargaining of health care benefits
PROG. & SERV. NO ACTION NECESSARY 4-0-2 (Parker, Merrill abstaining; Sangiolo not voting) on 3/8/06.

REFERRED TO ZONING & PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #168-02 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the Board of Aldermen establish new civil fines under Section 20-21 of the City of Newton Ordinances for the violation of various environmental provisions enforced by the Conservation Commission.
ZONING & PLANNING APPROVED 6-0 ON 12/13/04

#29-06 ALD. JOHNSON AND PARKER requesting creation of a Citizen Financial Advisory Committee to work with city officials and staff to facilitate bench markers, strategic planning and other initiatives to improve the financial operation of the City.
(President's Note: While not formally referred to the Long Range Planning Committee, this item might usefully be discussed there in light of prior discussions of similar issues.)

#91-06 COMPTROLLER providing interim reports on the financial condition of various City funds and account groups.

REFERRED TO PROG. & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#264-03(3) ALD. JOHNSON AND BAKER requesting update on the work of the Taxation Aid Committee established by the Board of Aldermen in March 2004 in administering aid to the elderly taxation fund.

REFERRED TO PUB. SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#455-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of
(21-05.2) \$6,000 from the Riverside Traffic Mitigation Fund for the purpose of funding the installation of a radar-controlled speed limit sign at the intersection of Concord and Grove Streets. (#65-05)

REFERRED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE BY FULL BOARD ON 1/18/05:

#134-04(2) TRAFFIC COUNCIL requesting public input regarding the following proposed changes to Washington Street between the Wellesley town line and Route 128: re-stripe Washington Street for four 12'-wide travel lanes and a parking lane on the south side between Concord Street and the ramps to/from Route 128; "No Parking" on the northerly side; "No Parking" on the southerly side from the Wellesley town line to Concord Street; add two to four 15-minute metered parking spaces in front of the Lower Falls Post Office; add 2-hour meters for the remainder of the southerly side to a point near #2278 Washington Street (Ward 4)

REFERRED TO ZONING & PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#364-04 ALD. SANGIOLO & HARNEY requesting a RESOLUTION to His Honor the Mayor to ask that the City acquire, whether by eminent domain or by purchase, the two parking lots associated with the St. Bernard's property for the purpose of providing commuter parking.
**ZONING & PLANNING APPROVED AS AMENDED 8-0 ON
9/13/04**

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES & FINANCE COMMITTEES

#55-02 ALD. YATES requesting that the water/sewer discount rate be made available to homeowners who receive Fuel Assistance, Supplementary Security Income, Food Stamps, Supplementary Disability Income, General Relief, Low Income Sewer and Water Assistance, School Breakfast and Lunch and other income based State and Federal programs.

PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 6-0 on 6/16/04

#209-05 ALD. STEWART requesting that the Mayor provide the Board of Aldermen with a list of all salaried City employees who receive additional compensation (other than overtime) along with an explanation of the exact reasons for said additional payments.

#206-00(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to expend \$35,000 from Hebrew College pursuant to provisions of Special Permit #66-98(3) and a Traffic Mitigation Agreement between the City and Hebrew College, to be used toward the cost of traffic improvements, studies or transportation programs selected by the City for the purpose of mitigating potential impacts of the Hebrew College project on Herrick and Langley Roads or improving traffic and flow in the Herrick Road area. Note: #206-00, approved 6/5/00, authorized acceptance of these funds; #206-00(3), approved 6/19/00, requested implementation of accounting measures to track future expenditures; #206-00(2), the actual expenditure, was held in Committee on 6/19/00 to allow Board review of proposed mitigation measures and costs on a case-by-case basis.

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

#428-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY07-FY11 Capital Improvement Program pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter which requires Board of Aldermen approval of a plan to finance \$179,120,279 of new local projects over the next several years:

SUMMARY

PUBLIC WORKS (City-Funded)	\$ 12,544,000
PUBLIC WORKS (Grant/Fee Funded)	\$ 53,255,000
PUBLIC SAFETY.	\$ 3,910,289
PUBLIC BUILDINGS	\$ 5,420,420
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	\$ 92,415,000
PARKS AND RECREATION	\$ 8,807,410
OTHER	\$ 2,768,160
TOTAL	\$179,120,279

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- # 35-06 ALD. JOHNSON AND HESS-MAHAN requesting discussion with the School Department and School Committee members regarding the results of the studies addressing compensation for management and executive personnel and organizational structure of central administrative salaries.
PROG. & SERV. HELD 5-0 (Sangiolo not voting) ON 3/2/06

REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV., PUB. FAC. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #309-01 ALD. PARKER requesting increase in the income eligibility level of the 30% water/sewer discount for low-income senior citizens.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #160-05 ALD. HARNEY, SANGIOLO, PARKER AND HESS-MAHAN requesting an independent audit and possible appointment of an independent commission to investigate the Newton South construction project.
PF AND FINCOM HELD IN COMMITTEE ON FLOOR OF THE BOARD ON 11/21/05

REFERRED TO PROG & SERV, ZAP AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #119-06 ALD. SALVUCCI requesting revocation of the Community Preservation Act (accepted by the Board of Aldermen as item #64-01(2) on 7/9/01 and approved by public vote at the 11/6/01 election) by vote by the Board of Aldermen and referral to the voters of Newton, pursuant to GL chapter 44B, Sec.16.
PROG. & SERV. HELD 5-0 (Sangiolo not voting) ON 3/22/06 FOR 4/19/06 PUBLIC MEETING

REFERRED TO PUB. SAFETY/TRANS. PROG.& SERVICES & FINANCE

- #273-04(2) ALD. GENTILE requesting home rule legislation to reclassify the two "dedicated fire apparatus mechanic" positions from Group 1 to Group 2 in the State Retirement System.
PS&T DENIED 5-1-1 (Lennon opposed; Samuelson abstaining) on 2/8/06

REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV., PUB. FAC.AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #453-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$150,000 be appropriated from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding a space needs study for the elementary schools throughout the City.
PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 4-0-1 (Sangiolo abstaining; Baker not voting) ON 3/22/06

#92-06

ALD. HESS-MAHAN AND VANCE proposing that the FY07 interest rate for real estate tax deferrals under Clause 41A be determined and set, at an interest rate lower than 8%, as authorized by Chapter 136 of the Acts of 2005; and requesting enactment of an ordinance to reflect such interest rate.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman