



## City Council Reports Docket

January 6: Land Use  
January 7: Programs & Services, Public Facilities  
and Public Safety & Transportation  
January 12: Zoning & Planning and Finance

Page 9  
7:45 PM, Hybrid  
To be reported on  
Tuesday, January 20, 2026

The City Council will hold this meeting as a hybrid meeting in the City Hall Chambers  
Tuesday, January 20, at 7:45 PM. To view this meeting on Zoom use this link

<https://newtonma-gov.zoom.us/j/82846697617>

at the above date and time:

One tap mobile

US: +13092053325, 828 4669 7617

Land line

+1 309 205 3325 US

Webinar ID: 828 4669 7617

You may also:

1. Watch a live broadcast of the meeting on NewTV's government channel (Comcast 9, RCN 13, 614(HD), Verizon 33).
2. View a live stream on NewTV's Youtube channel at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvNeCjKA3PftuLLvfAh3cQ>

1

### City of Newton In City Council Items to be Acted Upon

#### Referred to the Land Use Committee

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

**Present:** Councilors Kelley (Chair), Leary, Block, Farrell, Golden, Irish, Lucas, and Roche; **Also Present:** Councilors Malakie, Wright, and Oliver

---

*The location of this meeting is accessible, and reasonable accommodation 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 at least two business days in advance of the meeting: [ADACoordinator@newtonma.gov](mailto:ADACoordinator@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.*

**#15-26 Request to exceed FAR and to extend a nonconforming front setback at 355 Walnut Street**

YEVGENYA ZISLIS petition for SPECIAL PERMIT/SITE PLAN APPROVAL, to construct a mudroom and entry landing, extending the nonconforming front setback and FAR at 355 Walnut Street, Ward 2, Newton, on land known as Section 24 Block 11 Lot 01, containing approximately 7,238 sq. ft. of land in a district zoned Multi Residence 1. Ref: Sec. 7.3.3, 3.2.3, 7.8.2.C.2, 3.2.11, and 7.8.2.C.2 of Chapter 30 of the City of Newton Rev Zoning Ord, 2017.

355 Walnut Street - <https://newtonma.viewpointcloud.com/records/902460>

**Action: Land Use Held; Public Hearing Continued 7-0 (Councilor Golden Not Voting)**

**#13-26 Request to amend Special Permit #216-88 to extend a nonconforming front setback for an automotive service station canopy and to amend Special Permit #305-82 to replace the existing free-standing sign and other waivers from the sign regulations at 14 Elliot Street**

EDWARD NEGOSHIAN petition for SPECIAL PERMIT/SITE PLAN APPROVAL, to raze the existing canopy and construct a new canopy and updated signage at 14 Elliot Street, Ward 5, Newton, on land known as Section 51 Block 25 Lot 03, containing approximately 8,470 sq. ft. of land in a district zoned Business Use 2. Ref: Sec. 7.3.3, 4.1.3, 7.8.2.C.2, 5.2.13.A, 5.2.13.B, and 5.2.8, of Chapter 30 of the City of Newton Rev Zoning Ord, 2017.

14 Elliot Street - <https://newtonma.viewpointcloud.com/records/861404>

**Action: Land Use Approved 8-0**

**#16-26 Request to exceed FAR and to allow three stories at 89 Redwood Road**

89 REDWOOD LLC petition for SPECIAL PERMIT/SITE PLAN APPROVAL, to raze the existing structure to construct a three-story single-family dwelling exceeding the maximum FAR at 89 Redwood Road, Ward 8, Newton, on land known as Section 82 Block 15 Lot 77, containing approximately 12,860 sq. ft. of land in a district zoned . Ref: Sec. 7.3.3, 5.2.13.A, 5.2.13.B, and 5.2.8, of Chapter 30 of the City of Newton Rev Zoning Ord, 2017.

89 Redwood Road - <https://newtonma.viewpointcloud.com/records/904907>

**Action: Land Use Held; Public Hearing Continued 8-0**

**Referred to Zoning & Planning Committee**

Monday, January 12, 2026

**Present:** Councilors Baker (Chair), Wright, Albright, Gordon, Oliver, Dahmubed, Getz, and Kalis

**#21-26 Discussion concerning ZAP Committee workplan for the new term**

COUNCILORS BAKER AND WRIGHT requesting a discussion with Zoning and Planning Committee concerning the work plan of the ZAP Committee for the new 2026-2027 term. (180 Days 07/30/2026).

**Action: Zoning & Planning Held 8-0**

- #23-26      Request for ordinance amendments to change oversight of the Economic Development Commission and for discussion on transition of the City's economic development functions and staff to the Mayor's Office**  
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting to amend City Ordinance Section 22-95 to remove staffing responsibility for the Economic Development Commission from the Planning Department and relocate the Commission ordinance from Chapter 22 to Chapter 7; and further requesting a discussion on the transition of the City's economic development function and staff from the Planning Department to the Mayor's Office

**Action:**      **Zoning & Planning Approved 8-0**

**Referred to Programs & Services Committee**

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

**Present:** Councilors Krintzman (Chair), Malakie, Farrell, Charm, Micley, Oliver, Bixby, and Baker

- #32-26      Reorganization plan to create a new Arts and Culture Department**  
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting, pursuant to Section 6-2 of the City Charter, a reorganization plan for the establishment of a new Arts and Culture Department. The proposed reorganization includes ordinance amendments to Chapter 2 to insert a new Article VII, beginning at Section 2-249, to create the department and set forth its functions and structure, as well as amendments throughout the Revised Ordinances to rename the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

**Action:**      **Programs & Services Approved 7-0 (Councilor Baker not voting)**

- #25-26      Appointment of Meryl Kessler as the Director of Newton's Arts and Culture Department**  
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR appointing Meryl Kessler as the Director of Newton's Arts and Culture Department pursuant to Section 3-3 of the City Charter. (30 Days: 01/31/2026)

**Action:**      **Programs & Services Approved 8-0**

**Referred to Public Safety & Transportation Committee**

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

**Present:** Councilors Lucas (Chair), Greenberg, Wright, Block, Irish, Roche, Golden and Silber

**#18-26 Requesting renewal of public auto license**  
DONALD LaPLANTE, 395 Lexington Street, Auburndale, MA 02466  
requesting renewal of one (1) public auto license for Don's Car  
Service.

**Public Safety & Transportation Approved 8-0**

**#37-26 Class 2 Auto Dealer License**  
NEW ENGLAND MOTOR MART, INC.  
1211 Washington Street  
West Newton, MA 02465

**Public Safety & Transportation Approved 8-0**

**#36-26 Class 2 Auto Dealers License**  
MOTORCARS OF BOSTON INC.  
1191 Washington Street  
West Newton, MA 02465

**Public Safety & Transportation Approved 8-0**

**#38-26 Class 2 Auto Dealer License**  
GRAND AUTO SALES  
1235 Washington Street  
Newton, MA 02465

**Public Safety & Transportation Approved 8-0**

**#39-26 Class 2 Auto Dealer License**  
APEX MOTORS GROUP  
280 California Street  
Newton, MA 02458

**Public Safety & Transportation Approved 8-0**

**#19-26 Class 1 Auto Dealer License**  
VILLAGE MOTORS GROUP INC D/B/A HONDA VILLAGE  
371 Washington Street  
Newton, MA 02458

**Public Safety & Transportation Approved 8-0**

**Referred to Public Facilities Committee**

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

**Present:** Councilors Kalis (Chair), Albright, Dahmubed, Getz, Gordon, Grossman, Kelley, and  
Leary

- #12-26**      **Eversource petition for a grant of location on Rumford Avenue**  
EVERSOURCE ENERGY petitioning for a grant of location to install one new jointly owned pole 866/6A on the south side of Rumford Avenue, approximately 450 feet west of Lexington Street.  
<https://newtonma.portal.opengov.com/records/904688>
- Action:**      **Public Facilities Held 7-0-1 (Councilor Gordon Abstaining); Public Hearing Closed**

**Referred to Finance Committee**

Monday, January 12, 2026

**Present:** Councilors Grossman (Chair), Bixby, Charm, Greenberg, Krintzman, Malakie, Micley, and Silber

- #24-26**      **Requesting authorization to transfer \$300,000 to fund new positions in the Mayor's Office**  
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer a total of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) from Acct# 0140120-511002 (\$100,000), Acct# 0110952-511001 (\$100,000), Acct# 0110162-513040 (\$50,000), and Acct# 0110162-512001 (\$50,000) to Acct# 0110320-511001 Executive Office, Full Time Salaries for the purpose of funding two new critical management positions, Chief of Community Services and Chief of Staff, as well as temporary funding for a period of overlap for a new Chief Financial Officer.
- Action:**      **Finance Approved 8-0**