



Public Facilities Committee Agenda

City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

7:00 PM

Room 204

The Public Facilities Committee will hold this meeting as a hybrid meeting on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 7:00PM that the public may access in-person or virtually via Zoom. To view this meeting using Zoom use this link: <https://newtonma.gov.zoom.us/j/87085033611> or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the following Meeting ID: 870 8503 3611.

Items Scheduled for Discussion:

- #30-26 Appointment of Alejandro Valcarce as Commissioner of Public Buildings**
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR appointing Alejandro Valcarce as the City's Commissioner of the Public Buildings Department pursuant to Section 3-3 of the City Charter.
- #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>
Public Facilities Held 7-0-1 (Councilor Gordon Abstaining) on 01-07-26; Public Hearing Closed
- #33-26 Requesting discussion regarding Day Street, Fuller Street, and Commonwealth Avenue intersection redesign**
COUNCILORS BLOCK, GENTILE, KRINTZMAN, FARRELL, and WRIGHT requesting a discussion to consider the road and "bump out" redesign recently constructed at the intersection of Day Street, Fuller Street, and Commonwealth Avenue, and whether an

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 or (617) 796-1253. The city's TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711.

alternative design would improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers (180 Days: 07/11/2026).

#34-26

Request for review and clarification of public way improvements requiring City Council approval

COUNCILORS BLOCK, MALAKIE, and FARRELL requesting to review Sec. 26-51 "Public Way Improvements Constituting Specific Repairs" and consider defining with greater clarity what is meant by "major construction work" and/or whether this section should apply to "all construction work" requiring City Council approval, and whether abutters should be notified of any construction work done under this section (180 Days: 07/11/2026).

Respectfully submitted,

David Kalis, Chair of the Public Facilities Committee



Marc C. Laredo
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts

Office of the Mayor

#30-26

Telephone
(617) 796-1100

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(617) 796-1113

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RECEIVED

2025 DEC 22 AM 9:24

CITY CLERK

NEWTON, MA 02459

January 1st, 2026

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Honorable City Councilors:

I write to request that your honorable Council approve the appointment of Alejandro Valcarce as the City's Commissioner of the Public Buildings Department. Alex has worked for the Public Buildings Department for the last fourteen years. Serving as the Deputy Public Buildings Commissioner since 2015, Alex has successfully managed hundreds of millions of dollars in capital projects, supervised thousands of contractors and consultants, and has provided oversight and support of the department staff. Alex has been a dedicated and exemplary leader, earning the respect of his staff and his colleagues in government. Alex has his master's degree in architecture, and he's a registered architect in the state of Massachusetts. Prior to coming to the City of Newton, Alex spent eighteen years working in the private design and engineering sector, including many years as an associate principal for Arrowstreet, Inc an award winning, Boston-based architecture and design firm.

Alex has established himself as trustworthy, respected, and hardworking leader in the community. Our residents have come to appreciate his calm collaborative demeanor, and his can-do spirit.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Marc Laredo
Mayor

(f) **Delivery of crusher run or gravel.** The commissioner of public works may, upon request by any one owner of an abutting estate on any private way, provide and deliver crusher run or gravel, in quantities as he in his discretion shall deem appropriate, for use by the residents for filling potholes, depressions and ruts in such private way. The cost of providing such material shall be borne entirely by the city.

(g) No cash deposit shall be required for repairs made pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section.

(h) Temporary repairs performed by the city pursuant to subsection (c), (d) or (e) of this section shall be subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The city shall be liable in an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for bodily injury, death or damage to personal property caused by defective repairs made by the city to private ways.;
- (2) A person so injured or damaged shall, within thirty (30) days thereafter, give to the city clerk, mayor, or collector-treasurer, written notice of the name and residence of the person injured, and the time, place and cause of said injury or damage;
- (3) In no event shall the city be liable for bodily injury, death or damage to personal property caused by reason of a defect or want of repair in any private way.

(i) Petitions for temporary repairs submitted pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section must contain the following statement:

- (1) The undersigned agree to keep said private way open to the public use for the period of years that is the life of the repairs pursuant to this petition. (Ord. No. S-314, 6-20-88; Ord. No. S-335, 10-17-88; Ord. No. T-216, 2-18-92; Ord. No. V-289, 3-20-00; V-289, 3-20-00; Ord. No. X-111, 11-15-04)

Sec. 26-51. Public way improvements constituting specific repairs.

Major construction work on public ways that falls within one or more of the subsections below shall be deemed "specific repairs" which require approval by the city council pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 82, § 17:

(a) design changes which would result in a significant change of the flow of vehicular traffic, such as adding or deleting a bump-out, traffic island or changing the width of the roadway portion of a way so as to result in a deletion or addition of one or more travel or turning lane(s);

(b) Projects that include the addition, relocation, or removal of vertical deflections in a public roadway surface constructed for the primary purpose of reducing vehicle speeds. Such devices include, but are not limited to: speed humps, raised crosswalks, and raised intersections;

Prior to approval of projects under (a) and (b), the city council shall review the recommendations of the commissioner of public works; and

(c) work that is privately funded and estimated by the city engineer to cost a sum greater than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00).
(Ord. No. U-20, 6-6-94; Ord. No. X-69, 12-15-03; Ord. No. Z-81, 2-22-11; Ord. No. A-119, 11-20-17)

Secs. 26-52—26-64. Reserved.

ARTICLE III.