



## Programs & Services Committee Agenda

### City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

7 PM  
Room 211

The Programs & Services Committee will hold this meeting as a hybrid meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 7 PM in Room 211 that the public may access in-person or virtually via Zoom. To attend this meeting via Zoom use this link: <https://newtonma.gov.zoom.us/j/83665055703> or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the following Meeting ID: 836 6505 5703

#### Items Scheduled for Discussion:

- #110-26 Request for pre-budget planning discussion**  
COUNCILORS KRINTZMAN, FARRELL, OLIVER, MALAKIE, IRISH, and CHARM requesting discussion among members of the Programs & Services Committee before FY26 budget process begins. A Pre-budget conversation will allow the Committee to consider expectations for department presentations and brainstorm questions before the City Council starts to schedule FY26 items (180 Days: 09/12/26).
- #113-26 Authorization to appropriate and expend \$300,000 to the Newton Communications Access Center, INC.**  
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, with one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) from Acct# 5516R114-590001, RCN CATV License Fees, and one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) from Acct# 5517R114-590001, Verizon CATV License Fees, to the Newton Communications Access Center, Inc.

---

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

**#76-26      Discussion about establishing a Commission to review compensation for the Mayor, City Council and School Committee**

COUNCILOR KRINTZMAN requesting discussion about establishing a Commission to review compensation for the Mayor, City Council and School Committee and make a recommendation to the City Council regarding any ordinance modification. The Commission should review the current salary of the Mayor, City Councilors and School Committee Members; evaluate the impact that salary has on the willingness of residents to seek elected office; and evaluate how the compensation reflects the workload of the various elected offices (180 days: 08/17/2026).

**#77-26      Review of Newton City Charter**

COUNCILORS KRINTZMAN, LUCAS, BLOCK, SILBER, ALBRIGHT, FARRELL, KALIS, ROCHE, DAHMUBED, GOLDEN, and BIXBY requesting discussion and review of the Newton City Charter that should include an evaluation of the structure, composition, role and duties of Newton's City Council and School Committee. The review should also include any other component of the Newton City Charter deemed appropriate. The review should be presented to the Newton City Council for its consideration (180 days: 08/17/2026)

**Action:      Programs & Services Held 8-0 on 03/18/26**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Josh Krintzman, Chair**



Marc C. Laredo  
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts  
Office of the Mayor

**#113-26**

Telephone  
(617) 796-1100

Fax  
(617) 796-1113

TDD/TTY  
(617) 796-1089

Email  
mayor@newtonma.gov

March 9, 2026

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

Dear Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable City Council requesting authorization to appropriate and expend \$300,000 from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund (the "Fund") to the Newton Communications Access Center, Inc. ("NewTV").

The single payment of \$300,000 from the Fund to NewTV will allow the station to balance their FY26 budget with level staffing, cover payments for fixed expenses, maintain a high level of overall service, and increase governmental services including meeting coverage.

The City of Newton derives revenues from franchise fees and capital payments made by Comcast, RCN and Verizon. These are allocated between the City and NewTV pursuant to a grant agreement between the City and NewTV. NewTV receives eighty percent (80%) of the franchise fee revenues and forty percent (40%) of the capital payments, while the City receives twenty percent (20%) of the franchise fee revenues and sixty percent (60%) of the capital payments.

On July 11, 2017, the City accepted G.L.c. 44, §53F¾, which established a separate revenue fund known as the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund (the "Fund"). Monies in the Fund are derived solely from the City's portions of franchise fee and capital payments made by the three cable operators in accordance with their franchise agreements. By statute, monies in the Fund shall only be appropriated for cable-related purposes consistent with the franchise agreements, including but not limited to (i) support of public, educational or governmental access cable television services; (ii) monitoring compliance of the cable operators with their franchise agreements; or (iii) preparing for renewal of the franchise agreements.

The \$300,000 in this docket item is consistent with the use of PEG Funds to support public, educational, and governmental access cable television services.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Mayor Marc C Laredo



# INVOICE

**TO:** City of Newton  
1000 Commonwealth Ave.  
Newton, MA 02459

**DATE:** February 24, 2026  
**INVOICE #:** PEG02242026  
**PAYMENT TERMS:** Net 30 Days

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT DUE
• PEG Services Support for FY26/27	\$300,000.00
	TOTAL DUE: \$300,000.00

Please make checks payable to NewTV

TO: Programs and Services Committee

FROM: Josh Krintzman

DATE: April 6, 2026

RE: PROPOSED CHANGES, Articles 6 & 7

---

On Wednesday, we will begin discussion of the [Newton City Charter](#). We will start with articles 6 & 7, which are fairly brief. Below I've explained some of the proposed revisions and provided links to some backup documents.

### **Article 6 - ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS**

Article 6 of the Newton Charter is devoted to reorganization plans of the city executive departments. In the existing charter, the city council may propose reorganization of departments, abolish an agency, and establish new city agencies. Agency heads have always been appointed by the Mayor (with approval by the City Council).

Present practice is for the Mayor to have control over the executive departments.

Previously, recommendations were made to limit reorganization plans to those proposed by the Mayor.

However, because there are often budgetary implications involved with any reorganization (either savings generated or additional costs incurred) there was a belief that a reorganization should be conveyed to the City Council in advance of the beginning of the fiscal year.

Proposed changes to Article 6:

- Eliminate City Council generated reorganization plans
- Require the Mayor to submit a reorganization plan, by March 1st, if the re-organization is expected to affect the ensuing fiscal year's budget

### **Article 7 - PLANNING**

1. The Massachusetts Legislature passed a bill ([chapter 705 of the acts of 1975](#)), which has been amended and updated as recently as 2007. That law establishes the Newton Department of Planning and Development, the planning and development board and the community development authority. Largely, the act is focused on the implementation of the master plan, zoning changes and revisions.

The enabling language in the charter was proposed to be updated to reflect the current law. This proposal followed a professional recommendation that the charter should continue to make reference to the planning and development board, as the charter should account for this entity which is included in other provisions of Article 7. The professional recommendation also advised that the city charter

should eliminate the reference to the community development authority as that authority's purpose is more operational.

**Proposed enabling language (section 1) reads:**

**There shall be a planning and development board, and department of planning and development. The membership and term of office of the planning and development board shall be determined by ordinance. The mayor shall appoint the members of the board subject to council confirmation as provided in section 3-3 of this charter.**

2. Another question that was previously addressed was the frequency with which to refresh the comprehensive plan. The Charter Commission proposed that a new Mayor, within 2 years of taking office, either re-new or affirm the comprehensive plan. Absent a new Mayor, the recommendation was to refresh the plan within 8 years.

It is a pure policy choice about whether to require regular updates.

I hope that the committee can come prepared to discuss articles 6 and 7 of the [current charter](#) and proposed revisions.

Here are links to documents used by the Charter Commission on [article 6](#), [article 7](#), including [chapter 705 of the acts of 1975](#).

**PROPOSED CALENDAR OF CHARTER REVIEW**

**April meeting:**

Article 6 – Reorganizations Plans

- Remove council re-organizations?
- Require Mayor to submit re-organization plan impacting fiscal year, by March 1<sup>st</sup> (prior to start of fiscal year)?
- Other items?

Article 7

- Responsibilities of the Planning Board
- Comprehensive Plan
  - Should a new Mayor be required to submit a new comprehensive plan within 2 years of assuming office? (Or affirm support for the existing plan)
- Other issues / items?

**May Meeting**

Article 4 – School Committee

- Change the Inauguration Date?
- Should we update the charge of school committee?
- Should we modify the term limits for School Committee members?
- Should we amend the provisions related to vacancies on the School Committee?
- Other issues / items

**June Meeting**

Article 8

- Signatures required
- Preliminary Elections
- Special Elections

**Summer – public hearing?**

**September Meeting**

Article 5 – Budget procedures

- Is it possible (or recommended) to enhance the power of the City Council in the budget process?
- Should the city fund, separate “Counsel to the Council”?
- Must there be a regular Capital Inventory provided to the Council?
- How regularly should the Mayor provide / update the Capital Improvement Program?
  - Must it be provided to the Council in advance of the budget proposal?

**October Meeting**

Article 2 – LEGISLATIVE

- Change the Inauguration Date?
- Should we modify the provisions related to vacancies on the City Council?
- Should we propose an updated composition of the City Council?
- Term limits for City Councilors?

**November Meeting**

Article 3 – Executive

- Inauguration Date
- Should the citizens have a recall provision?
- Should there be term Limits?
- Must the charter require a:
  - Citizens Assistance Officer / Chief Administrative Officer
- Must the Mayor provide bi-annual updates on revenues
- Should we amend the provisions relating to Temporary or Permanent Vacancy in the office of Mayor?

**December meeting**

Article 11

- Require regular re-codification?
- Require regular Charter Review (by City Council)?
- Regulations / timing of taking effect

Article 12

- Transition sections
- Effective Dates

ARTICLE 6.

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS

~~SECTION 6-1. Reorganization Plans by City Council.~~

~~Except as otherwise provided by law or this charter, the city council may by ordinance: (i) reorganize, consolidate or abolish any existing city agency in whole or in part; (ii) establish new city agencies; and (iii) prescribe the functions of any city agencies. All city agencies under the direction and supervision of the mayor shall be headed and administered by officers appointed by the mayor.~~

~~SECTION 6-12. Reorganization Plans by Mayor.~~

(a) The mayor may ~~from time to time,~~ prepare and submit to the city council reorganization plans which may, subject to applicable law and this charter, reorganize, consolidate or abolish any city agency, in whole or in part, or establish new city agencies as the mayor considers necessary or expedient. The reorganization plan shall be accompanied by an explanatory memo which shall include: (i) reference to any ordinances to be repealed or modified; and (ii) a summary of proposed ordinance language changes to be put into effect by the plan.

(b) Every reorganization plan shall, upon receipt by the clerk of the council, be referred to an appropriate committee of the city council which shall, not more than 30 days later, hold a public hearing on the matter and shall, not later than the second regular meeting of the city council following the hearing, report either that it approves or disapproves of the plan. A reorganization plan shall become effective 90 days after the date it is received by the city council unless the city council has prior to that date voted to disapprove the reorganization plan or unless a later effective date is specified in the plan. A reorganization plan presented by the mayor to the city council under this section ~~may shall~~ not be amended by the city council but shall either be approved or rejected as submitted. ~~Reorganizations plans and~~ shall not be subject to charter objection as provided in subsection (c) of section 2-9.

(Referendum of 11-04-75; Acts of 1992, Chap 174.)

~~(c) The mayor shall provide notice, not later than March 1, to the city council of any reorganization plan reasonably expected to affect the ensuing fiscal year's budget.~~

~~SECTION 6-23. Publication of Reorganization Plan.~~

~~An~~ ~~The city clerk shall maintain an~~ up-to-date record of any reorganization plan adopted under this article ~~shall be kept on file in the office of the city clerk,~~ and copies of all such plans shall be included as an appendix in any publication of the ordinances of the city.

ARTICLE 7.  
PLANNING

Sec. 7-1. Department of Planning and Development.

There shall be a department of planning and development and a planning and development board. The membership and term of office of the planning and development board shall be determined by ordinance. The mayor shall appoint the members of the board subject to council confirmation as provided in Section 3-3(a).~~Department of Planning and Development.~~

Sec. 7-2. Comprehensive Plan.

(a) Content—There shall be a comprehensive plan containing the plan elements described in section 81D of chapter 41 of the General Laws; provided however, that the city may also undertake planning activities relating to particular services or specific geographic areas within the city as the mayor or city council shall determine. setting forth in graphic and textual form policies to govern the future physical development of the entire city. The plan shall cover the entire city and all of its functions and services or shall consist of a combination of plans governing specific functions and services or specific geographic areas.

(b) Adoption— Within 2 years of the swearing in of a new mayor or not less frequently than every 8 years, the mayor shall submit a comprehensive plan, including the recommendations from the planning and development board, to the city council. Upon receipt ~~from the mayor of a proposed comprehensive plan or a proposed modification of the existing plan,~~ the city council shall refer the proposal to the planning and development board which shall, within a time specified by the city council, report its recommendations on the proposal. ~~After receipt of a proposed comprehensive plan and~~ the recommendations of the planning and development board, the city council shall hold at least 1 public hearing on the proposed comprehensive plan ~~or the proposed modification of the comprehensive plan~~ and shall, by resolution, adopt the same comprehensive plan with or without amendments. ~~The city council may thereafter from time to time modify the comprehensive plan.~~

The mayor may submit to the city council modifications to the comprehensive plan as the mayor deems necessary. The city council shall, by resolution, adopt the modifications with or without amendments.

~~(c) Effect—The ordinances of the city, including but not limited to the zoning ordinances, shall reflect the comprehensive plan. Within 2 years after the adoption of a comprehensive plan or not less frequently than every 8 years, the city council shall review the city's ordinances for consistency with the comprehensive plan, and shall involve resident and professional assistance as the council deems appropriate. serve as a guide to all future action by the city council concerning land use and development regulations, urban renewal programs and expenditures for capital improvements.~~

Sec. 7-3. Implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

(a) Land Use and Development Regulations—In accordance with the General Laws, the city council may by ordinance adopt land use and development regulations including, but not limited to, an official map and zoning regulations reflecting the intent of the city's comprehensive plan.

~~(b) Urban Renewal—In accordance with the General Laws, the city council may by ordinance provide for redevelopment, rehabilitation, conservation and renewal programs for the alleviation or prevention of slums, obsolescence, blight or other conditions or deterioration.~~

~~(b) Action by the City Council—Before acting on any proposed ordinance concerning land use and development regulations, urban renewal or expenditures for capital improvements, where if the proposed ordinance involves a matter covered addressed by in the comprehensive plan, the city council shall refer the proposal to the planning and development board which shall, within a time specified by the city council and prior to the public hearing on the proposed ordinance, report its recommendations in writing its recommendations to the city council on the proposed ordinance in accordance with section 5 of chapter 40A of the General Laws. Upon adopting any such ordinance, the city council shall make findings and report on the relationship between the ordinance and the comprehensive plan and the comprehensive plan shall be deemed to be amended in accordance with the findings and report.~~