



Public Safety & Transportation Committee Report

City of Newton **In City Council**

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Present: Councilors Ciccone (Chair), Cote, Downs, Noel, Grossman, Lipof, Auchincloss and Markiewicz

Also Present: Councilors Albright, Kelley, Greenberg and Krintzman

City Staff: Chief Bruce Proia, Newton Fire Department; Captain Anastasia, Newton Police Department and Jim McGonagle, Commissioner of Public Works

Others Present: Donald LaPlante, Don's Car Service; Tom Ayling, Operations Manager, VPNE Parking Solutions and Chief Rob Winsor, Lasell College

#580-18 Requesting new public auto license

DONALD LAPLANTE, 395 Lexington Street, Apt. 3, Auburndale, MA 02466 requesting **one (1) new public auto license** for Don's Car Service.

ACTION: **Approved 7-0, Councilor Grossman not voting**

NOTE: Captain Anastasia and Donald LaPlante joined the Committee for discussion on this item. The public auto application was attached to the agenda.

Captain Anastasia stated that Mr. LaPlante previously had two public auto licenses and turned one medallion in. This application is requesting a new public auto since time has lapsed and a renewal application was not received. Mr. LaPlante's vehicle is a 2017 Toyota Camry Sedan. He may purchase a different vehicle. Captain Anastasia stated that Mr. LaPlante is aware that he may not use his vehicle until it is inspected. He then stated that he has no concerns and can support this new public auto license request.

Without discussion, Councilor Markiewicz made a motion to approve this new public auto license. Committee members agreed 7-0, Councilor Grossman not voting.

#579-18 Requesting renewal of bus license for Lasell College

VPNE Parking Solutions, LLC, requesting **renewal of one (1) bus license** for Lasell College.

ACTION: **Approved 7-0, Councilor Grossman not voting**

NOTE: Captain Anastasia, Tom Ayling, Operations Manager, VPNE Parking Solutions and Chief Rob Winsor, Lasell College joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Captain Anastasia stated a complete bus license application was received. This was attached to the agenda.

Captain Anastasia stated that there are no changes from last year and all routes remain the same. He then stated that he has no concerns and can support this bus license renewal request.

Without discussion, Councilor Lipof made a motion to approve this bus license renewal. Committee members agreed 7-0, Councilor Grossman not voting.

#581-18 Requesting renewal of public auto license

DHANRAJ MAHASE, 60 Solon Street, Newton, MA 02461 requesting **renewal of one (1) public auto license** for Mahase Livery Services, LLC.

ACTION: **Approved 7-0, Councilor Grossman not voting**

NOTE: Captain Anastasia joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Captain Anastasia stated that Mr. Mahase's vehicle will be inspected in the spring. He then stated that he has no concerns and can support this public auto renewal request.

Without discussion, Councilor Noel made a motion to approve this public auto renewal. Committee members agreed 7-0, Councilor Grossman not voting.

#582-18 Requesting renewals of taxi licenses

MICHAEL ANTONELIS, 224 Calvary Street, Waltham, MA 02453, requesting **renewal of thirty-eight (38) taxi licenses** for Veterans Taxi of Newton, LLC.

ACTION: **Approved 7-0, Councilor Grossman not voting**

NOTE: Captain Anastasia joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Captain Anastasia stated that the vehicles owned by Veteran's Taxi all passed inspection. There are no changes to the vehicles. When Veteran's Taxi changes vehicles, they inform the Police Department. He then stated that he has no concerns and can support these taxi license renewals request.

Without discussion, Councilor Markiewicz made a motion to approve these taxi license renewals. Committee members agreed 7-0, Councilor Grossman not voting.

#583-18 Requesting renewals of taxi licenses

GEORGE MARRY, 50 Union Street, Newton Centre, MA 02459 requesting **renewal of one (1) taxi license** for Holden's Taxi Inc.

ACTION: **Approved 7-0, Councilor Grossman not voting**

NOTE: Docket items #583-18, 584-18 and 585-183 were discussed together. Please refer to docket item #585-18 for this report.

#584-18 Requesting renewals of taxi licenses

GEORGE MARRY, 50 Union Street, Newton Centre, MA 02459 requesting **renewal of two (2) taxi licenses** for Newtonville Cab Co. Inc.

ACTION: **Approved 7-0, Councilor Grossman not voting**

NOTE: Docket items #583-18, 584-18 and 585-183 were discussed together. Please refer to docket item #585-18 for this report.

#585-18 Requesting renewals of taxi licenses

GEORGE MARRY, 50 Union Street, Newton Centre, MA 02459 requesting **renewal of three (3) taxi licenses** for Newton Taxi Co.

ACTION: **Approved 7-0, Councilor Grossman not voting**

NOTE: Captain Anastasia joined the Committee for discussion on docket items #583-18, 584-18 and 585-18.

Captain Anastasia stated that Mr. Marry's vehicles will be inspected in the spring. He then stated that he has no concerns and can support these taxi licenses renewals.

Without discussion, Councilor Noel made a motion to approve these taxi license renewals. Committee members agreed 7-0, Councilor Grossman not voting.

#598-18 Requesting ordinance amendments regarding resident sticker and visitor permit date

CAPTAIN ANASTASIA, requesting the following ordinance amendments: ***Sec. 19-200. Resident sticker and visitor permit; municipal lot parking program and Sec. 19-201. Resident sticker and visitor permit parking program.*** By DELETING: Resident and visitor parking permits expire December 31 of each year and INSERTING: Resident and visitor parking permits are valid from July 1 to June 30 of each year.

ACTION: **Approved as Amended 7-0, Councilor Grossman not voting**

NOTE: Captain Anastasia joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Committee members were provided with revised draft language, attached to this report. Captain Anastasia stated that he is only requesting change to Sec. 19-200 (A) (5) (c). Resident sticker and visitor permit; municipal lot parking program. Resident parking stickers shall expire on December 31 of each year, except for municipal parking lot permits which shall expire on June 30 of each year rather, rather than December 31 of each year.

Without discussion Councilor Downs made the motion to approve as amended this request. Committee members agreed 7-0, Councilor Grossman not voting.

Referred to Public Safety & Transportation and Finance Committees

#607-18 HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer the sum of ninety-five thousand eight hundred forty-four dollars and fifty-one cents (\$95,844.51) from the Fire Pumper Replacement Account to the Following Fire Department accounts:

| | |
|---|----------|
| Automobiles/Light Trucks | \$60,000 |
| Training Expenses | \$10,000 |
| Housekeeping Equipment | \$15,000 |
| Public Buildings Repair and Maintenance | \$10,000 |

ACTION: **Approved 6-0-1, Councilor Downs abstaining and Councilor Grossman not voting**

NOTE: Chief Proia joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Chief Proia stated that the \$95,000 is funding from the 2017 Fire Pumper Engine 3 account. He is requesting the following:

\$60,000 will replace the Shift Commanders Vehicle which was totaled in a Thanksgiving evening auto accident.

\$10,000 is to cover the City's portion of a Health and Wellness Grant that the City was awarded from the assistance to Firefighter Grant Program.

\$15,000 to purchase gear lockers for station #2. The lockers the firefighters are currently using are donated high school lockers.

\$10,000 to install extractors and dryers for stations 1 and 2.

Without discussion, Councilor Lipof made a motion to approve this request. Council members approved 6-0-1, Councilor Downs abstaining and Councilor Grossman not voting.

#578-18 **Shorten the duration of the winter parking ban**
COUNCILORS ALBRIGHT, COTE, KELLEY, GREENBERG, CICCONE, LIPOF, AUCHINCLOSS, RICE, DOWNS, KRINTZMAN, NOEL, AND NORTON, requesting to shorten the duration of the winter parking ban to begin on December 15 (instead of November 15) and end on April 1 (instead of April 15).

ACTION: **Approved 7-0-1, Councilor Grossman abstaining**

NOTE: Captain Anastasia, Commissioner McGonagle and Councilors Albright, Kelley, Greenberg and Krintzman joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Chair Ciccone stated that an email was received in support of this request from Commissioner McGonagle, attached to this report.

Council members and others present expressed their questions and suggestions:

Questions:

- If tickets have been issued thus far, do they have to be paid? Councilor Ciccone answered yes.
- If the City has the technology to notify residents of a declared snow emergency, then why

implement an overnight parking ban? It was noted that a significant number of residents will not know of a declared snow emergency. They should take some sort of responsibility by checking the City's web page and registering telephone numbers for a reverse 911 call.

- Is data available on the number of residents who are not registered?

Suggestions:

- A suggestion was made to include notification in the tax bill, water bill or Newton Tab alerting residents and all of locations where they may park during declared snow emergencies.

It was stated that reverse 911 calls are very helpful.

Chair Ciccone stated that if this item is approved, the City Council will take an action on December 17, 2018, followed by a twenty-day waiting period before implementation.

Without further discussion, Councilor Lipof made a motion to approve shortening the duration of the winter parking ban to begin on December 15 (instead of November 15) and end on April 1 (instead of April 15). Council members agreed 7-0-1, Councilor Grossman abstaining. Councilor Grossman stated that she abstained as she missed the discussion. She then expressed concern in Ward 7 regarding Boston College student parking. She stated that December 15 allows students to park on residential roads the entire semester.

#554-18 Proposal to end winter parking ban on select streets in Wards 2 and 3.

COUNCILORS ALBRIGHT, NORTON, COTE, BROUSAL-GLASER AND KELLEY, proposing to end the winter parking ban on select streets in Wards 2 and 3.

HELD 6-0, Councilors Lipof and Noel not voting on 11/07/18

ACTION: HELD 8-0

NOTE: Captain Anastasia, Commissioner McGonagle and Councilors Albright, Kelley, Greenberg and Krintzman joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Councilor Albright stated she has been working with the IT Department on the GIS system in order to determine if residents have driveways or not. Some residents pave their front and side yards in order to have their vehicle removed from the street. In these Wards, approximately 85-90% of homes have driveways. It is the approximate 10% of residents without driveways we are trying to assist. The proposal to end the winter parking ban on select streets in Wards 2 and 3 may be a benefit to residents. A pilot program with a defined map of homes of residents would determine if eliminating the winter parking ban would work or not. She then stated that she will review the defined map with Chief MacDonald, Newton Police Department.

Councilor Kelley stated that fifty to sixty years ago, the City created and implemented the overnight winter parking ban partly due to lack of technology. Now, some neighboring towns including Waltham, Watertown, Wellesley, Needham, Rockport, Boston and Somerville do not have a winter parking ban, they call for a snow emergency when all vehicles must be removed from the roads. Some neighboring towns implement parking taking turns parking on odd/even sides of the road. Councilor Kelley suggested implementing a trial for one winter in Wards 2 and 3 and later revisit determining residents

are or are not compliant. She then suggested providing maps to residents on locations where they may park including the municipal parking lots.

Committee members and others present expressed their concerns, suggestions and questions.

Concerns:

- It was said that in the Lasell College area, Ward 4, it would be difficult to implement a program like this on a street by street basis because people store cars on Lexington Street for days. Chair Ciccone stated that the City has a vehicle abandonment vehicle policy after 72-hours when the police observe this.
- Data has not been provided to support the most logical decision. Now that the winter overnight parking is in effect, it is difficult to collect data.
- Large buildings need large parking lots to accommodate the necessary parking rather than patrons, residents and employees parking on residential roads.
- The public safety issues are serious. We must share parking on roads and in front of homes.

Suggestions:

- It was suggested to address Boston College and Lasell College areas separately.
- A suggestion was made that precinct clarity and balance are necessary.
- Perhaps attempt implementing a pilot program.
- A suggestion was made to implement a special permit program for residents without driveways or who may have more vehicles than a driveway can accommodate.

Questions:

- It was asked who is the appropriate person to define map areas?
- It was asked if West Newton Hill is an appropriate location to include? Councilor Kelley answered that this location does not appear to be an issue for residents. Councilor Albright stated that Wards 2-1, 3-1, 3-3 and 3-4 may be considered.
- Is it possible to identify residents with permits by their license plate? Captain Anastasia answered that the Police Departments hand held machines do not have the technology to do this. In July 2019, the Police Department will review with the vendor technology available including the possibility of changing from pay by space to pay by license plate.
- Is there a way to address the needs without making a complete change?

Captain Anastasia stated that Police Department Chief MacDonald is not in favor of this request, there are many issues. Enforcement would be very difficult. Precinct borders would have to be very clear to enforce. Education is necessary. The municipal parking lot permits are not valid during snow emergencies. Municipal parking lots are not convenient for residents, often it is too far to walk and not realistic.

Councilor Kelley stated that input will be gathered through a survey addressing the pros and cons of implementing this request. She then said that other locations may be available for resident parking including schools. Moving forward; there is a lot to be learned and solutions remain necessary.

Without further discussion, Councilor Auchincloss made a motion to hold this item. Committee members agreed 8-0.

At approximately 8:30 p.m., Councilor Auchincloss made a motion to adjourn. Committee members agreed 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chair

#598-18 Draft (redline) for discussion:

Sec. 19-200 (A) (5) c)

Resident parking stickers shall expire on December 31 of each year, except for municipal parking lot permits which shall expire on June 30 of each year.



RUTHANNE FULLER
MAYOR

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November 28, 2018

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

Councilors:

I write to request that your Honorable Council docket for consideration a request to transfer the sum of \$95,844.51 from Acct # 34AA210J-58504, 2017 Fire Pumper Replacement to the following Fire Department accounts.

\$60,000 to Acct # 0121006-58501 Automobiles/Light Trucks to replace the Shift Commanders Vehicle (C2) that was totaled in a Thanksgiving Eve auto accident,

\$10,000 to Acct # 0121008-5319 Training Expenses to cover the City's portion of the Health and Wellness Grant,

\$15,000 to Acct # 0121005-585171 Housekeeping Equipment for gear lockers for Station 2, and

\$10,000 to Acct # 0121005-52407 Public Building Repairs & Maint for the installation of extractors and dryers for stations 1 and 2.

The City has purchased the Pumper and was fortunate to have funds remaining in the account. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

RECEIVED
Newton City Clerk
2018 NOV 29 PM 5:00
DAVID A. OLSEN, CMO
NEWTON, MA 02459



Bruce A. Proia
Chief

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

1164 Centre Street, Newton Center, MA 02459-1584
Chief: (617) 796-2210 Fire Prevention: (617) 796-2230
FAX: (617) 796-2211 EMERGENCY: 911



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

November 28, 2018

Maureen Lemieux
CFO
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Ave
Newton, MA 02459

Maureen,

With this letter, The Newton Fire Department is requesting to transfer \$60,000 of the special appropriation funding from our 2017 Fire Pumper Engine 3 account number 34AA210J-58504, (there is currently \$95,844.51 remaining) into our small vehicle account number 0121006-58501. This request is to replace the Shift Commanders Vehicle (C-2) which was totaled in a Thanksgiving Eve auto accident. The Shift Commanders Vehicle responds to over 2,500 calls a year and is responsible for the entire City during their 24 hour shift. It runs 24-7, 365 days a year.

In addition, we are requesting to docket \$10,000 from the 2017 Fire Pumper account # 34AA210J-58504 to cover for City's portion of a Health and Wellness Grant that we were awarded from the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program (AFG). This will allow all 186 Firefighters to enter in the program. If approved, the budget account number for the \$10,000 to be transferred into is 0121008-5319.

With the additional remaining funding from the 2017 Fire Pumper Engine 3 account number 34AA210J-58504, we request \$15,000 to purchase gear lockers for Station 2. The lockers the Firefighters are currently using are donated high school lockers and are not meant to store Firefighter gear they are not properly ventilated. If approved, the budget account number for the \$15,000 to be transferred into is 0121005-585171.

The final \$10,000 from the account would be used for installation of extractors and dryers for station 1 and 2. This will be a great help with the removal of carcinogens on Firefighter gear which is the most important to Firefighter health. If approved, the budget account number to the \$10,000 to be transferred in is 0121005-52407.

Thank you for your consideration to this request

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BR".
Bruce Proia
Chief of Department

#578-18 DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES

Sec. 19-174 (b) *Other Vehicles*: From ~~November-December~~ 15th through April 1st ~~15th~~, it shall be unlawful for any vehicle, other than one acting in an emergency, to be parked on any street, way, highway, road parkway, or private way dedicated or open to the use of the public for a period of time longer than one hour between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Danielle Delaney

To: Danielle Delaney
Subject: FW: PS&T Docket item #578-18

From: James McGonagle <jmcgonagle@newtonma.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, December 4, 2018 4:56 PM

To: Allan Ciccone Jr.

Cc: Jacob D. Auchincloss; Susan Albright; James R. Cote; Andrea W. Kelley; Maria Scibelli Greenberg; Richard Lipof; John Rice; Andreae Downs; Joshua Krintzman; Brenda Noel; Emily Norton

Subject: PS&T Docket item #578-18

Good evening Councilor,

I am writing in support of docket #578-18 **"Shorten the duration of the winter parking ban COUNCILORS ALBRIGHT, COTE, KELLEY, GREENBERG, CICCONE, LIPOF, AUCHINCLOSS, RICE, DOWNS, KRINTZMAN, NOEL, AND NORTON, requesting to shorten the duration of the winter parking ban to begin on December 15 (instead of November 15) and end on April 1 (instead of April 15)".**

DPW has no operational issues with shortening the duration of the winter parking ban throughout the City, the only request would be the ability to continue to declare a snow emergency during a winter weather event regardless of the time of year.

Thank you,

Jim

Jim McGonagle
Commissioner
Department of Public Works
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Ave.
Newton Centre, MA 02459
Office: 617-796-1009
jmcgonagle@newtonma.gov

When responding, please be aware that the Massachusetts Secretary of State has determined that most email is public record and therefore cannot be kept confidential.