

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2006

7:45 PM
Room 222

At this meeting, the committee will discuss and establish its priorities for the 2006-2007 term. It will consider the following:

1. Financial/budget initiatives, including
 - a. Executive Department response to the report by Alderman Parker's task force on proposals for revenue enhancement and cost containment;
 - b. Consideration of possible ordinance requiring development and submission to the aldermen every five years of a zero-based or task-cost budget;
 - c. Use of such disciplinary tools as the Citistat program and municipal benchmarking to evaluate the city budget;
 - d. Ald. Johnson and Parker's proposal to create a Citizen Financial Advisory Committee
2. Aldermanic research-support initiatives, including
 - a. Program for training personnel in the office of the Clerk of the Board in internet-based research tools such as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts web site, and the Massachusetts Municipal Association web site and Google;
 - b. Establishment of a volunteer Citizens' Research Support Group to provide expert assistance to aldermen in developing and dealing with various docket items;
 - c. Enhanced use of the City Comptroller to provide expert support to the Board of Aldermen.
3. Board of Aldermen management initiatives, including
 - a. Perceived problems in the effective functioning of the Board;
 - b. Suggested remedies for such perceived problems.

4. Aldermanic communications initiatives, including
 - a. Work with IT Department, possible outside consultant, and outside volunteers to improve the aldermanic web page;
 - b. Efforts to increase and improve communications by the Board to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Alderman Verne Vance, Chairman