

31 suggestions from the Citizen Advisory Group for improving Newton's financial situation

Recommendations

1. Control employee compensation costs
2. Join the state health insurance plan
3. Fund health care obligations for retirees (\$22 million)
4. Consolidate Parks and Recreation and Public Works departments
5. Move payroll from weekly to biweekly
6. Ensuring that old systems (such as HVAC) are replaced on time, so they are not costing the city money to run.
7. Outsource more of city services for cost savings
8. Adjust purchasing and bidding processes
9. Reduce number of firefighters required on shift during the winter
10. Revisit the importance of having fire fighter call boxes
11. Adjust how the city plows its streets
12. Increase IT spending for long-term savings
13. Consolidate IT services
14. Allow money to be shared between departments
15. Hire a budget analyst
16. Pursuing energy savings initiatives
17. Increase appropriate user fees
18. Introduce fee for trash pickup
19. Increase parking revenue
20. Increase building permit fees

21. Increase fees for community education and Parks and Recreation programs

22. Increase cell tour revenue

23. Increase private donations for the city
24. Sell or lease municipal property
25. Pursue more money from tax exempt properties
26. Increase capital spending

27. Institute new capital investing procedures

28. Create a process for prioritizing capital projects

29. Inventory all municipal capital assets
30. Hire a capital asset manager
31. Consolidate municipal and school maintenance

Response from city

- Proposed for FY10
 Under discussion with unions
 Long-term issue
- Under review
 Not much cost savings
- Long-term issue
 Under review
 Under review
- Under review
- Under review
 Under review
 Not enough money
 Under review
 Might be against the law
 Under review
 In progress, long-term
 Department Heads to decide
 Long-term issue
 Under review
 Inspectional Services to decide
- Each department to decide
 Pursing, no revenue expected for FY10
- Long-term issue
 Long-term issue
 Under review
 Long-term issue, no immediate cost-savings
 Long-term issue, no immediate cost-savings
 Long-term issue, no immediate cost-savings
- Under review
 Under review
 Under review