



Medford City Council Newsletter

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Welcome to the first Medford City Council Newsletter! It's been an incredibly exciting first 100 days of this 2024-2025 City Council term. We passed the first-ever two-year Governing Agenda for the Medford City Council, a new Budget Ordinance to establish an open and transparent budget process as the law of the City of Medford, and we've launched our new Agenda and Minutes software to make access to our meeting agendas and packets more transparent than ever.

In future newsletters, we will provide updates from the past month of different significant activities of Medford City Council. Because this is also our first newsletter, we will summarize the different activities from previous months as well.

To subscribe to future newsletters, email the City Clerk at ahurtubise@medford-ma.gov.

Commemorations and Acknowledgements

- We passed a resolution commemorating the Holy Month of Ramadan
- We passed a resolution acknowledging April 30, 2024, as National Animal Therapy Day in the City of Medford
- We passed a resolution honoring and Commemorating the Service of Former Mayor Jack McGlynn in the WWII 'Ghost Army'
- In February, we passed a resolution commemorating Black History Month.

General Business

- We launched a new Council agenda and minutes [online public portal](#) to improve transparency.
- At the January 9th meeting, we passed the City Council's [Governing Agenda](#), which lays out major projects the City Council is planning.

- We voted to establish a new committee structure for City Council, with the following seven committees: Administration & Finance, Education & Committee, Governance, Planning & Permitting, Public Health & Community Safety, Public Works & Facilities, and Resident Services & Public Engagement.
- At the January 9th meeting, we passed a [Solid Waste Ordinance](#).
- At the February 20th meeting, we approved the adoption of MGL c.59, §5, Clause 22G Related to Real Estate Tax Exemptions for Qualifying Veterans, ensuring City is maxing out real estate tax exemption for qualifying seniors and veterans.
- At the March 12th regular meeting, we voted to establish a Stabilization Fund.
- At the April 9th meeting, we passed a [leaf blower ordinance](#), which will phase out gas-powered leaf blowers over a four-year period in favor of electric ones.

- At the April 17th meeting, preparing for a long budget season, we began the annual budget process by hearing from the Council on Aging, Medford Community Media, and Veterans Affairs.
- In collaboration with local Medford environmental community groups, we voted to support "Make Polluters Pay" state legislation.
- In collaboration with local Medford community groups, Medford became the third City in Massachusetts to pass a resolution in support of a ceasefire in Israel and Gaza.
- Began the process of updating and amending our Zoning Ordinances, with the City's zoning consultant, Innes Associates Ltd., which has worked with the City of Medford previously, including on our Comprehensive Plan.
- At the February 14th meeting, held an initial meeting about a Rent Stabilization home rule petition, which if passed would ask the State to give the City of Medford the permission to enact a Rent Stabilization ordinance.
- At the February 28th meeting, discussed the implementation of the housing stability notification ordinance, which was passed in 2023, and informs tenants of their legal rights and housing resources at the beginning and end of any lease, and informs homeowners of the same in the event of a foreclosure.

Administration & Finance Committee

- At the March 26th meeting, this committee approved linkage fees updates in committee and then regular session. Linkage fees are fees paid by developers for roads, parks, police, and other costs. These updates formally request the Community Development Board and the Office of Planning, Development, and Sustainability to update linkage fees for the first time since 1990. They would also add an additional linkage fee for the Affordable Housing Trust.
- This committee is finalizing the draft budget ordinance, which for the first time creates a timeline and meetings schedule for updates and communications between the City Council and Mayor's Office during the annual budget development process, which requires a strict timeline for communicating with the City Council on the development of the City budget.

Governance Committee

- At the March 26th meeting, this committee reviewed process errors and accountability in the November election.
- This committee is currently discussing pro-democracy reforms to City Council as well as Charter Review updates.

Planning & Permitting Committee

- At the January 9th meeting, this committee passed a resolution to explore adoption of a Good Landlord Tax Credit.

- At the March 12th regular meeting, sent a paper to committee to discuss the creation of a home-rule petition for a real-estate transfer fee. This will ask the state for permission to craft an ordinance that taxes certain high-end real estate transactions, of no more than 2%, which will go into the new Affordable Housing Trust.

Public Health & Community Safety Committee

- At the February 13th meeting, this committee began discussions on forming a Warming Shelter for the homeless population in Medford, similar to that in Malden.

Public Works & Facilities Committee

- This committee is currently discussing road and sidewalk renovations according to the City's pavement, sidewalk, and assessment studies.

Resident Services & Public Engagement

- At the March 13th meeting, this committee motioned to craft a social media policy for the Medford City Council's communications strategy.
- At the April 2nd regular meeting, to make City Council more inclusive, passed a resolution to establish listening sessions for different groups around Medford. We met on April 23rd to discuss which groups to reach out to for these sessions.

Matt Leming
Chair, Resident Services & Public Engagement

