



Medford City Council Newsletter

Isaac B. "Zac" Bears, Council President | Kit Collins, Council Vice President
 Anna Callahan | Emily Lazzaro | Matt Leming | George A. Scarpelli | Justin Tseng

The Medford City Council has made some great strides in the past few weeks. We are excited to share what we have been working on in the Council Chambers.

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Commemorations and Acknowledgements

- We passed a resolution congratulating members of the Center for Citizenship and Social Responsibility in 5th grade at the Brooks Elementary School for their ingenuity in completing a project to arm USPS letter carriers with safety whistles.
- We passed a resolution congratulating former Councilor Rick Caraviello on the Honor of being named the 2024 Citizen of the Year by the Medford Chamber of Commerce
- We passed a resolution congratulating Medford High School and Middle School orchestras for winning medals at the MICCA concert festival. The high school orchestra then performed two pieces at our May 14th regular meeting. They played beautifully!

General Business

- At the April 30th meeting, the final vote was taken to make the budget ordinance into law. This new ordinance requires that the City Council and public be involved earlier in the budgeting process.
- In alignment with the new budget ordinance, we have met many times in Committee of the Whole to hear city departments' budget proposals and a narrative about what each department has been up to over

the past year. These meetings are a new practice for the city and they are the result of the budget ordinance that just became law this April, though we have been implementing the meetings ahead of the official finalizing of the ordinance.

- At the April 30th regular meeting, we approved extended hours for Snappy Patty's in West Medford Square, to stay open until 1am on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. This was approved with 30- and 60-day reviews.
- At the April 30th meeting, we passed a resolution to support state PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) legislation (S.1836/H.2963).
- At the April 30th meeting, we approved the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate \$287,500 to phase II of the restoration of Thomas Brooks Park.
- At the May 14th meeting, we approved extended hours for Pinky's Pizza on Fridays and Saturdays from 11pm to 12am, pending 30- and 60-day reviews.
- At the May 14th meeting, we approved the recommendations of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) administrator for the City of Medford to appropriate funds to organizations serving Medford residents. The organizations receiving CDBG funding this year are The Community Family, Magan Transport, Medford

Council on Aging, Medford Public Schools, Mystic Valley YMCA/Mystic Community Market, S.C.M. Community Transportation, The Welcome Project, West Medford Community Center, Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD), and Housing Families. Not only is it gratifying to be able to support the good work of valuable community organizations in this way, but it is also nice that the Council and residents were able to hear from representatives from each organization during the Committee of the Whole on this topic. We appreciate hearing about the good work that is being done by our partners in the community.

- Vice President Kit Collins presented the annual surveillance report per the Community Control over Public Surveillance (CCOPS) ordinance at the May 14th meeting.

Planning & Permitting Committee

- This committee has continued meeting regularly to discuss the overhaul of Medford's zoning with consulting firm Innes Associates.

Public Health & Community Safety Committee

- On April 9th, the Committee met to review the 2023 Annual Surveillance Report offered by Chief Buckley. This report was on body-worn cameras, the

only surveillance technology currently in operation in Medford.

Public Works & Facilities Committee

- This Committee met on April 24th for a very comprehensive Pavement Management Plan Update. We appreciate hearing from the Department of Public Works and the Engineering Department on what measures are being taken to mitigate pavement deterioration and how upkeep is being done across the city.

Resident Services & Public Engagement

- This Committee has been meeting regularly to hammer out the details of the City Council Social Media policy and the distribution plan for the newsletter. We also discussed how to make sure the listening sessions will reach as many groups of residents across the city as possible and established that the first City Council listening session will take place at the Medford Senior Center on May 31st at 10:00AM.
- At the May 14th regular meeting, we voted to send a paper to Committee on incentivizing landlords to rent apartments to qualified veterans.
- Councilor Justin Tseng presented a plan to modernize the Human Rights Commission's enabling ordinance.

Emily Lazzaro
Chair, Public Health & Community Safety
Committee