



# Medford City Council Newsletter

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Welcome to the Medford City Council's third newsletter! We've had an incredibly productive June, including passing the FY25 budget on June 11th much earlier than previous years showing the city's new Budget Ordinance in action. In a historic first, the Council listened to the calls of thousands of residents and approved the placement of three ballot questions to raise revenue to fund Medford Public Schools and a DPW street repair crew as well as pay for bonds to build a new Fire Station on the November 2024 General Election ballot for Medford voters to consider for approval. The Zoning Update Project advanced its first set of zoning ordinance changes, while setting out a clear work plan for the next 12 months to transform Medford's zoning and bring housing production, walkable multi-modal neighborhoods, climate resiliency, and to massively increase economic development in Medford. Additionally, City Council meetings are now being livestreamed on the [@CityOfMedfordMass](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCityOfMedfordMass) YouTube channel.

To subscribe to future newsletters, go to [bit.ly/medfordcitycouncilnewsletter](https://bit.ly/medfordcitycouncilnewsletter).

## Commemorations and Acknowledgements

- We passed a resolution commemorating Memorial Day.
- We rescheduled our June 18th meeting in order to celebrate Juneteenth indoors due to the heat wave — thank you to DEI Director Frances Nwajei, the West Medford Community Center, Down by the Riverside, Inc., Glen David Andrews, and many others for organizing such a successful commemoration!
- We passed a [resolution](#) congratulating the organizers of Medford Porchfest.
- We passed a [resolution](#) congratulating the graduates of Medford High School class of 2024.
- We passed a [resolution](#) recognizing Jewish American Heritage Month.
- We passed a [resolution](#) recognizing Asian American and Pacific Island Heritage Month.
- We passed resolutions congratulating [Sylvia DiPlacido](#), [Janice DePace](#), and [Donna Laskey](#) on their retirements from decades of public service to the City and Schools

- We passed a [resolution](#) congratulating Tom Lincoln on his 30 years of service as to Medford leading the efforts to preserve and restore the Medford Brooks Estate.
- We passed a [resolution](#) sending our condolences to the family of former Medford Police Department Detective Lauren Kane.

## General Business

- At the [June 11th](#) meeting, we passed a [City Budget](#) of approximately \$218 million.
- At the [June 11th](#) meeting, we allocated \$1.75 million in ARPA funding for the Medford Public School system, bringing the total allocation for MPS to \$77.75 million.
- At the [June 11th](#) meeting, we voted to place three measures on the ballot for the November elections: (1) a [Prop 2.5 Override](#) for \$3.5 million, which will give \$3 million to level fund Medford Public Schools and \$500,000 to the Department of Public Works for more road and sidewalk repair staff; (2) a [Prop 2.5 Override](#) for \$4 million that will allow for [investment into arts](#)

and vocational programs to the Medford Public School System, as well as salaries for teachers and paraprofessionals; and (3) a debt exclusion to fund a new headquarters for the Medford Fire Department.

- At the June 11th meeting, we passed a resolution to recognize and discuss the Stop the Stigma Campaign, which humanizes our neighbors with substance use disorder.
- At the May 28th meeting, We heard an update from the Brooks Park Tenant Association, which is being evicted from their property on 208 Main Street and Brook Park Apartments.
- At the June 25th meeting, we appointed six people to the new Affordable Housing Trust, one person to the Community Preservation Committee, two to the License Commission, and one to the Medford Housing Authority.
- At the June 25th meeting, we approved an annual Community Preservation Committee budget request.
- At the June 25th meeting, we appropriated free cash to fund a feasibility study for the new Medford High School as part of the Massachusetts School Building Authority grant process.
- At the June 25th, meeting we created a Capital Stabilization Fund and Water and Sewer Stabilization Fund and appropriated free cash reserves and retained earnings reserves to those two funds, as well as the General Stabilization Fund established earlier this year to provide the City with access to reserve funds throughout the fiscal year and join the ranks of 97% of MA cities and towns that have a stabilization fund.
- At the June 25th meeting, we approved the new South Street Historic District Ordinance for its first reading.

#### Administration & Finance Committee

- At the May 21st meeting, we discussed the resolution for a commercial vacancy tax, a potential home rule petition, and mechanisms to disincentivize vacant commercial storefront properties in Medford.

#### Planning & Permitting Committee

- At the May 22nd meeting, we discussed the many zoning-related recommendations of both Medford's Comprehensive Plan and Climate Plan and how they can best be incorporated into the Zoning Update Project.

- At the May 28th regular meeting, we passed the first round of zoning updates from the Zoning Update Project, including revisions to definitions around our zoning ordinance.
- At the June 12th committee meeting, we discussed the Zoning Update Project, the Council's priorities of what policies and plan recommendations to implement, and a draft timeline of work and what elements of the project should be started first.
- At the June 25th regular meeting, we referred to the Planning and Permitting Committee a resolution regarding licenses, permits, and zoning of methadone clinics, in order to account for these factors in future zoning changes.
- At the June 25th Planning and Permitting Committee Meeting, we reviewed the Zoning Update Project's timeline and work plan for the next 12 months as well as drafts of a mapping analysis to look at different key data about Medford.

#### Public Health & Community Safety Committee

- We discussed the draft for the Wildlife Feeding Ordinance, focusing particularly on how to handle certain situations like leaving food out for trap, neuter, and release programs.

#### Public Works & Facilities Committee

- At the June 25th regular meeting, we referred to this committee a resolution to host a discussion of MassDOT Plans for the Medford Square/Main Street Intersection.

#### Resident Services & Public Engagement

- We referred to this committee a resolution to create a residents' guide for City Council procedures and processes.
- As part of our monthly listening sessions, on May 31st, Councilors Leming and Lazzaro met with constituents from the Senior Center.
- On June 19th, Councilors Callahan and Leming had a listening session with constituents from the Portuguese-speaking community.

Zac Bears  
Council President  
Chair, Administration & Finance Committee