



Medford City Council Newsletter

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Welcome back to fall! We hope everyone had a great summer. The city council meets less regularly over the summer, so this month's newsletter will cover our summer months. We have been working on the Wildlife Feeding Ordinance, continuing to do our deep dive into zoning with Innes and Associates, and we took steps to update how and how often we change our Linkage Fees.

Don't forget that City Council meetings are now being livestreamed on the [@CityOfMedfordMass](#) YouTube channel.

To subscribe to future newsletters, go to bit.ly/medfordcitycouncilnewsletter.

Commemorations and Acknowledgements

- On July 23rd we sent our condolences to the family of longtime Medford Public Schools Teacher Robin Irving
- On September 10th we gave our condolences to the family of Frank Zizzo
- On September 10th we recognized and celebrated September as National Recovery Month.
- On September 17th we celebrated the importance of the Chevalier Theater and Gene Mack Gym.

General Business

- At the September 17th meeting we approved spending from our newly created Capital Stabilization Fund. These funds will support the Spring St and Central Ave traffic signal safety improvement project, as well as help fund a new electric refuse truck.
- On September 10th we sent a Home Rule Petition to the State House requesting an update to our 1989 Linkage

Fee program. This update would change how often the city is required to do a study from every 3 years to every 10 years, and it would automatically update linkage fees in the interim years based on inflation.

- On September 10th we approved the Wildlife Feeding Ordinance for first reading. It will have two more readings in city council meetings before potentially being approved. The Wildlife Feeding Ordinance is one of the new tools the administration hopes to use to reduce our rodent issues.
- On September 10th we established an Electric Vehicle Charging Revolving Fund. This allows Medford to ensure the upkeep of our electric vehicle charging stations.
- On September 10th we agreed to the Refunding Loan Order – this lets the city refinance bond debt at a better rate when one is available.
- On September 17th we allowed Panda Express to expand their hours. They will now be open until midnight Monday through Thursday and until 1am Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

- On July 23rd, we did not move forward to pay for a second independent audit of the city, since we already have an independent audit done every year.

Governance Committee

- At the September 17th City Council meeting, we referred to the Governance Committee a resolution to begin its work on reviewing the City Charter as the Charter Study Committee finalizes its recommendations. The City Charter is the governing document of Medford, covering such fundamental areas as Medford's system of government and the composition of and powers delegated to City Council and School Committee.

Planning & Permitting Committee

- Over the summer we continued our ongoing zoning overhaul with Innes and Associates. We worked on updating definitions, we looked at

Mystic Ave and Salem St corridors, and soon we will begin to look at other corridors and squares. One of the sessions over the summer included dozens of maps that helped visualize our city, with everything from demographics to permeable surfaces to assessed property value and more.

Public Health & Community Safety Committee

- The City Council is working very hard to address the rodent problem in the City. During the August 13th Public Health & Community Safety Committee meeting, we worked on the Wildlife Feeding Ordinance. This will ensure that residents do not feed unwanted wildlife, and it only allows the city to step in if there is a nuisance. It will help us reduce our issues with rats and other unwanted animals. It specifically allows people to have bird feeders. To further address these issues, at the September 17th Public Health & Community Safety Committee meeting, we worked on the overgrowth and rodent control ordinances.

Anna Callahan
Chair, Public Works & Facilities Committee