



Medford City Council Newsletter

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Happy Fall! Medford City Council's been active in the days leading up to the 2024 election as we unanimously endorsed Question 2, which would repeal the MCAS as a high school graduation requirement, and we hosted a five-hour Q&A session about the upcoming local ballot measures, Questions 6, 7, and 8. We have also been engaged in our rezoning process, discussing updates to the Mystic Ave Corridor, as well as other infrastructure improvements to the City, from replacing water heaters in elementary schools to hosting discussions on plans to update the intersection of Main and Mystic.

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Commemorations and Acknowledgements

- At the October 15th meeting, we commemorated Sarah Bradlee Fulton Day.
- At the October 15th meeting, we commemorated the life of City Messenger Larry Lepore, who passed away on October 14th.

General Business

- On October 15th, we held a four-hour-long QA session on the upcoming ballot questions. These measures are to fund a new fire headquarters (Question 6), put \$3 million to level-fund the Medford Public School System and \$500,000 into the Department of Public Works (Question 7), and invest \$4 million in the Medford Public Schools (Question 8).
- On October 15th, we denied National Grid's proposed amendments to an existing grant of location on Main Street. The City Council's existing grant requires that the street be paved curb-to-curb. National Grid had requested an amendment that the street only be paved from one curb to the median curb.

- After discussions on October 2nd and October 15th, we approved, on October 15th, stabilization fund requests to replace a water heater at the Brooks Elementary School (\$267,000), a roadway patching (\$112,728), the replacement of 40-year-old light poles in City Parking Lots (\$105,000), repairs to the elevator in City Hall (\$75,000), and repairs at Brooks Estate (\$75,000).
- On October 1st, we hosted a discussion about Tufts' plans to disinvest from the Neighborhood Fellows Program.
- On October 1st, we unanimously passed a resolution to support Question 2, which would remove the MCAS test as a graduation requirement for high school students.

Governance Committee

- On October 9th, we started discussions of the City Charter Review process, including setting a timeline as we expect to receive the Charter Study Committee's recommendations. The Governance Committee anticipates meetings to review the recommendations over the next few months, reporting out a new proposed

Charter in the spring, and holding a non-binding, city-wide public vote in November 2025.

Planning & Permitting Committee

- On September 25th, we discussed re-zoning on the Mystic Ave. corridor.
- On October 9th, we held another zoning overhaul update with Innes and Associates as we discussed definitions of different housing terms and further discussed incentive zoning on Mystic Ave.

Public Health & Community Safety Committee

- At the October 8th meeting, we held further discussions on revisions of the Overgrowth and Rodent Control ordinances. At the October 16th meeting, we continued our discussions of ordinances introduced in previous Councils on an ordinance to protect rights to

reproductive healthcare and gender-affirming care. At the October 16th meeting, we requested information from department heads on the feasibility of installing permanent sanitary facilities in public spaces.

Public Works & Facilities Committee

- On October 1st, we hosted a discussion of MassDOT's plans for the Medford Square/Main Street Intersection, addressing, in particular, the Bicycle Commission's concerns.

Resident Services & Public Engagement

- On September 24th, we created a Residents' Guide to the City Council, explaining the Council's meeting procedures and how residents can participate. This was approved at the October 1st regular meeting.

Matt Leming
Chair, Resident Services & Public Engagement

