



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

We have hit the ground running in the new year! The City Council is eager to ensure that our residents are safe and thriving in 2025, so we have been hard at work. Here is a summary of what we've been up to in the New Year.

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Commemorations and Acknowledgements

- On December 17th, we passed a resolution congratulating Barbara Kerr on her 40 years of service to the Medford Public Library.
- On January 14th, we passed resolutions commemorating the lives of John Grenara and Ralph Evangelista with a moment of silence.
- On January 28th, we passed a resolution celebrating Lunar New Year.

General Business

- President Zac Bears and Vice President Kit Collins were both reelected to serve for the calendar year 2025.
- At the December 17th meeting, we approved a liquor license for Mrs. Murphy's, an Irish pub in Medford Square, to much applause and appreciation. At the January 14th meeting, we also approved a liquor license for The Establishment, in the space formerly occupied by The Porch.
- At the December 17th meeting, we approved our version of the rezoning of the Salem Street corridor to be sent to the Community Development Board for approval.

- At the December 17th meeting, we approved an appropriation request for \$100,000 from the Water & Sewer Capital Stabilization Fund to pay for Medford's lead line replacement rebate program, which helps residents replace lead pipes that carry water to their homes from the main water lines in the street.
- At the January 14th meeting, we passed the Welcoming City ordinance in its very final step, and it is now law. This means that the Medford Police Department will not participate in immigration and customs enforcement in non-criminal matters, to the extent allowable by state and federal law. We also passed changes to strengthen the Community Control Over Public Surveillance (CCOPS) ordinance in its final version, and it is now law, protecting Medford residents from undue surveillance by law enforcement.
- At the January 14th meeting, we passed a resolution requesting a budget line item for a part-time employee in the Recreation department to offer more activities for children with disabilities in Medford. We offer special thanks to the parent advocates who pushed for this: thank you for the work you do for your children and all the children of Medford!
- At the January 14th meeting, we appropriated the following budgetary items:

- \$146,000 of Community Preservation Act funds to Phase 2 of the Carr Park renovation.
- \$5 million for HVAC work at the Andrews Middle School.
- At the January 14th meeting, we approved a resolution to allow the Veterans' Services Director to use funds to incentivize landlords to rent to qualified veterans.

Governance Committee

- We have been diligently working through the Charter Study Committee's recommendations, as amended by the Collins Center at UMass Boston and Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn's office. So far, we have reviewed and offered amendments to the Preamble, Article 1, Article 2, and Article 9-6, including discussions regarding the change of City Council composition. The Committee also decided to take up discussion of compensation at its February 19th meeting. No final decisions have been made, and all edits will be discussed and finalized in a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

Planning & Permitting Committee

- The Salem Street Corridor rezoning was passed to the Community Development Board, which heard public comment on January 22nd, where it has been continued to a later date.

- This Committee is now discussing all residential zoning in Medford.

Public Works & Facilities Committee

- We met to hear an update on roads and sidewalks from Department of Public Works Commissioner Tim McGivern and City Engineer Owen Wartella after the passage of the property tax override that allowed for the hiring of a crew of three DPW employees to work to improve the condition of the streets and sidewalks in Medford. We also heard from the Commissioner on the possibility of a volunteer crew of tree planters, which would likely require hiring a volunteer coordinator.

Resident Services & Public Engagement

- We continue to offer listening sessions to the public. Recent sessions have included a meeting with the Arab-American Community at the Medford public library with Councilors Callahan and Lazzaro in December. Councilor Lazzaro will also be holding a listening session at the Medford Senior Center on January 30th and Councilor Leming will hold a listening session at the Medford Senior Center on February 27th.
- We began work on developing an Open Data Policy at our January 29th meeting.

Emily Lazzaro
Chair, Public Health & Community Safety