



Medford City Council Newsletter

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I hope Medford enjoyed its February — with the coldest winter we've seen in Massachusetts for a few years, City Council's been busy with meetings in the woefully under-heated Alden Memorial Chambers (the windows are being repaired at the moment). This month, we worked on editing the Charter and meeting in Planning and Permitting committee to extensively go over the new residential zoning amendments. Speaking of which, the city council has a new webpage to present the citywide rezoning process more clearly, which can be found at medfordma.org/zoning.

Note that the underlined words in this newsletter indicate links to meeting agendas, live recordings, and other relevant resources in the digital version of this document. To subscribe to future newsletters, go to bit.ly/medfordcitycouncilnewsletter.

Commemorations and Acknowledgements

- On [February 11th](#), we passed a [resolution](#) celebrating Black History month.
- On [February 11th](#), we passed a resolution in remembrance of [Dan Dill](#), who tragically passed away after being struck by a car on Mystic Valley Parkway. This was followed by testimony from his neighbors in favor of making the crossing safer for pedestrians.
- On [February 25th](#), we commemorated the life of former School Committee member [Robert Emmett "Bob" Skerry, Jr.](#)
- On [February 25th](#), we commemorated the life of [Ruth Youngblood](#).

General Business

- On [January 28th](#), we granted a number of CPA appropriation requests. We also discussed selling land on [McCormick Ave](#) to support the Affordable Housing Trust, but this was tabled for further discussion.

- On [January 28th](#), we discussed a [resolution](#) to make Council meetings more business friendly by prioritizing business licenses to be granted at the start of Council meetings.
- On [January 28th](#), we discussed [clarity](#) around the changes in residents' property tax bills that resulted from the recent override.
- On [February 25th](#), we passed an [\\$8,000,000](#) bond for the DPW to identify and repair lead sewer pipes on both residential and city property.
- On [February 25th](#), we passed minor technical zoning amendments to support a development on [20 Revere Beach Parkway](#).
- On [February 25th](#), we passed a Community Preservation Act appropriation to support the [Cross Street Cemetery Monument Restoration](#) project.
- On [February 25th](#), we passed a wage adjustment for the [Traffic Supervisors Union](#).

- On February 25th, we passed a home-rule petition to the state house that would require Tufts University to submit an institutional master plan.
- On March 4th, we voted to send a draft of a revised Charter draft to our regular meeting. After a lengthy discussion about research, community needs, and equity and access, we voted to amend the Charter Study Committee's proposed council composition of eight ward-based and three at-large Councilors to four district-based and five at-large Councilors.

Education & Culture Committee

- On February 25th, in the first-ever meeting of the Education and Culture Committee, we discussed the needs of parents of youth with disabilities in getting after-school programs to support their children, particularly where to place support staff.

Governance Committee

- On February 4th, the Governance Committee discussed further edits to the Charter. In particular, we focused on the Executive Branch, Administrative Organization, Financial Procedures, and Elections.
- On February 19th, the Governance Committee discussed the makeup of the School Committee, citizen participation mechanisms, and compensation. The committee voted to adopt the Charter Study Committee's

recommendation on compensation for elected officials. Additionally, we removed recall provisions for elected officials on two-year terms, raised the requirement to submit free petitions from 25 signatures to 100, and set the signature requirement for initiative petitions to 15 percent of registered voters. We also removed the mayor as chair of the School Committee while keeping them as a member.

Planning & Permitting Committee

- On January 29th, February 12th, and February 26th, we discussed drafts of our residential district rezoning map, part of our ongoing citywide rezoning process. The current proposal would not allow for building higher than three stories in residential districts.

Public Health & Community Safety Committee

- On February 4th, we discussed an ordinance draft to support gender-affirming care and reproductive rights in Medford, sending the latest draft to legal counsel for review.

Resident Services & Public Engagement

- On March 5th, we discussed an update to the Human Rights Commission Ordinance. We also offered an update on residents' concerns at a recent listening session at the senior center.

Matt Leming
Chair, Resident Services & Public Engagement

