



# 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

Welcome to the March edition of the Medford City Council Newsletter! Spring is here, and your City Council has been hard at work on a wide range of legislative items — from charter reform and public safety to zoning updates and budget planning. Read on to see what we've been up to this month.

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](https://bit.ly/medfordcitycouncilnewsletter).

## Commemorations and Acknowledgements

- The Council celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary of [Richard and Cheryl Montecalvo](#), recognizing their decades of love and community contribution (3/25).
- A resolution was passed in remembrance of [Maxwell Liner](#), honoring his life and community impact (3/11).

## General Business

- [March 11](#):
  - The Council held public hearings on proposed zoning changes, including updates to the [Salem Street Neighborhood Corridor District](#) and the city's [Green Score ordinance](#). The Salem Street Corridor District is a local rezoning of buildings along Salem Street, while the Green Score provides incentives for developers to make buildings more environmentally friendly. Both of these have now gone through the entirety of their public meetings (four in committee, then a City Council meeting, then the Community Development

Board, then a final City Council meeting) and will be incorporated into our zoning.

- Resolutions were passed supporting a fair contract for [Tufts University lecturers](#) and developing a [public engagement plan](#) for the FY2026 budget.
- A [joint resolution](#) set a schedule for the FY2026 budget process, starting with Council recommendations in March and culminating in a May submission from the Mayor.
- The Council passed [accelerated repair statements of interest](#) for the Roberts, Brooks, and Missituk roofing and HVAC systems.
- [March 25](#):
  - Council submitted its [FY2026 budget recommendations](#) to the Mayor, after discussions with the community and among councilors.
  - A zoning hearing was held for [10 & 20 Revere Beach Parkway](#), and amendments to the Neighborhood and Urban Residential districts were referred to the Community Development Board.
  - The Council received a [financial update](#) from the Mayor's office, including a small number of appropriation requests from free cash for the Fire Station

planning and the Assessor's state-mandated 2026 re-valuation.

- The Council approved an MWRA grant for the replacement and repair of lead pipes.

#### Committee of the Whole

- The Council held several Committee of the Whole sessions to advance discussions on key issues:
  - A major milestone in the City Charter review process was reached, with the revised charter approved and sent back to the mayor (3/4, 3/11).
  - Pedestrian and bicycle safety were addressed, with calls for improvements to critical crosswalks and traffic infrastructure (3/11).
  - FY2026 Budget Planning began in earnest, including a joint session with the School Committee to align financial priorities and timelines (3/18, 3/19).

#### Governance Committee

- As part of the city charter reform process, the Governance Committee's proposed amendments were reviewed in several public meetings (3/4, 3/11). Topics included council composition, mayoral powers, and structural updates to reflect modern best practices in municipal government.

#### Planning & Permitting Committee

- The Council held two zoning-related public hearings: First, for proposed zoning amendments for the Salem Street Neighborhood Corridor District (3/11), and, second, for continued discussions on comprehensive zoning ordinance updates, including accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and Medford Square revitalization (3/26).

#### Public Health & Community Safety Committee

- The Council held a number of meetings on the Gender Affirming Care and Reproductive Healthcare Ordinance, final edits were made and it was approved and voted out of Committee (4/1).

#### Resident Services & Public Engagement

- Discussions included:
  - Modernization of the Human Rights Commission ordinance to expand its mission and structure (3/5).
  - Continuing to coordinate listening sessions to improve resident engagement with the City Council.
  - More coordinated public outreach during the City Council budget season (4/2).

Thank you very much,

Anna Callahan

Chair, Public Works & Facilities Committee