



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 spent many days of May meeting in Committee of the Whole to hear budget presentations from each City department head, which has been a great opportunity to learn what each department has been up to over the last year and what their goals are for the coming one. With Medford's first budget overrides being implemented recently, there are some changes to the budgets of Medford Public Schools and the Department of Public Works, and we did not have to hear about major cuts to those budgets, thankfully!

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

- We passed a resolution commemorating the passing of Mr. William "Shayne" Hoarty, a beloved retired Medford firefighter on May 13th.
- Also on May 13th, we recognized Food Allergy Awareness Week.
- At the May 27th meeting, we recognized the Medford Middle School and High School Orchestras for winning medals at the MICCA concert festival and they came to City Hall and performed a beautiful music selection!
- At the May 27th meeting, we passed a resolution commemorating Memorial Day and all the Veterans who gave their lives in service of their country.
- On May 13th, after much review in committee, we approved for first reading the governing ordinance for Medford's Human Rights Commission, to empower it to run more effectively and respond to new challenges.
- We referred recommendations for zoning updates for Medford Square and West Medford Square to the Community Development Board on May 13th.
- At the May 13th meeting, we approved a request from the Mayor's office to change the ordinance that governs the rules for the parking lot at City Hall to require that the lot be only for City Hall employees during business hours with some exceptions for people with disabilities, Veterans, and electric car charging spots.

General Business

- On May 13th, we approved a request to amend a Common Victualler's license that permits The Establishment to stay open until 1am.
- We approved a free cash allocation for contingency for Carr Park Phase II and Community Preservation funds for a pop-up community garden in Medford Square, also on May 13th.
- On May 27th, we approved free cash allocations for parking kiosks and soil remediation.

- On May 13th, we also approved another free cash allocation for security updates at Medford Public Schools.
- We approved two grants of locations for National Grid to begin work on May 27th. One is on Washington Street to install a new gas main, and the other is on Boston Ave to move a telephone pole across the street to allow the planting of trees and building of accessible sidewalks.
- We adopted a State law that allows Medford residents to choose to donate extra funds via their excise tax bill to Veterans on May 27th.
- On May 27th, we approved the proposed amendments to Medford zoning ordinances in order to adopt the Massachusetts State code on Accessory Dwelling Units.
- We approved 2% wage increases for non-union workers at City Hall on May 27th.
- We also approved a new 5-year contract for printers and copiers for the Medford Public Schools on May 27th.
- At Committees of the Whole on May 20th, 21st, and 27th we heard about the budgets of the Chevalier theater, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion office, Human Resources and Workers Compensation, the Library, all of Medford's boards and commissions, the Planning, Development, and Sustainability office, the Assessor's office, the City's debt service bonds and interest for both the General Fund and the water/sewer enterprise fund, the Building department, the City Clerk's office, the Legislative department (that's us!), the Electrical department, the Fire department, Insurance, the Recreation department, Hormel Stadium, the Police department, the Cemetery, the Engineering department, the Forestry department, the Highway department, the Parks department, the Water and Sewer enterprise fund, the Traffic Supervisors, the Traffic Commission, and last but most certainly not least, Medford Public Schools.

Planning & Permitting Committee

- We began reviewing sections of Medford known as "other corridors" with a presentation on May 14th and May 28th from Innes Associates and comments from Councilors and residents. This area covers Main Street and Boston Ave.

Public Health & Community Safety Committee

- At the May 7th meeting, the Public Health and Community Safety Committee reviewed the Medford Police Department's 2024 Surveillance Report, which was approved and sent to the full Council, which approved the full Community Control Over Public Surveillance (CCOPS) report on May 27th. The CCOPS ordinance was written to prevent our local government from possessing or inappropriately retaining private images or data of individuals or misusing that data, so that our residents can be sure they can maintain their privacy.

Public Works & Facilities Committee

- On May 20th, we hosted the Friends of the Chevalier Theater and Gene Mack Gym to offer an update on the facilities.
- On June 3rd, we hosted Facilities Manager Paul Righi to offer an update to the City Council regarding the estimated cost of repairing and maintaining all city-owned facilities in the future.

Resident Services & Public Engagement

- On June 4th, we reviewed results from the budget survey and discussed what we heard at our most recent listening sessions at the senior center.

Emily Lazzaro
Chair, Public Health & Community Safety