



Medford City Council Newsletter

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Election Day once again brought historic results to Medford. With over 33% voter turnout, residents approved Question 1, meaning a new Charter for Medford. Our next municipal Election Day will look different indeed!

While closures for Election Day and the Thanksgiving holiday constrain the City Council's November meeting schedule, the City Council is working hard to advance several projects before the term's end. Read on for updates on general business and the work of specific Committees.

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

- At the November 12th meeting, the City Council extended its congratulations to all candidates in the 2025 Municipal Election, and to the Medford Elections Commission.
- At the October 28th meeting, Council passed a resolution in memory of retired Medford High School teacher, administrator, and coach Paul Mattatall.

General Business

- At the November 18th meeting, the City Council passed a resolution responding to the Administration's plan to shift to biweekly trash collection. The Council formally requested clearer public communication, comprehensive reports on operational, public health, and equity implications, and a public forum to gather community input. The resolution also urged the Administration to

evaluate alternative waste-reduction strategies and explain how services will be sustained once the \$200,000 grant expires.

- At the December 9th Committee of the Whole, the Council heard a presentation on a plan to authorize the City to enter into a twenty-year lease agreement to allow for installation of solar panels on the McGlynn school roof, as well as a power purchase agreement to purchase electricity produced by said installation. Councilors requested more information about the plan ahead of the December 16th Council meeting.
- The City Council approved Common Victualler licenses for several businesses: Tea Bar Nails and Lashes; Iris Restaurant; and Twisted Tree Cafe.
- At the September 30th meeting, the City Council passed a resolution in support of union workers at Medford Rehab & Nursing Center in their efforts to secure fair compensation.

- At the September 30th and October 7th meetings, the City Council discussed and finalized a recruitment and hiring process for the position of City Clerk.
- At the October 7th meeting, the City Council discussed and passed a resolution amplifying resident appeals for increased safety measures at the Boston Avenue and High Street intersection in West Medford. The Council also requested an update on the pavement marking plan for the High Street corridor from Boston Avenue to the West Medford/High Street rotary, and requested traffic calming measures.
- At the October 21st meeting, the City Council authorized a 5-year contract to digitize the Medford Public Library's Local History Collections, and heard from Library Director Kerr about the undertaking.
- At the October 21st meeting, the City Council approved a Community Preservation Committee request to appropriate \$9,000.00 from the CPA Historic Preservation Reserve for restoration of the Unitarian Universalist Church's historic East Windows.
- At the October 28th meeting, the City Council approved a supplemental appropriation of \$1.3M in one-time funds derived from the Rivers Edge Project to acquire new accounting software for the City and begin the process of onboarding and integrating it. (Updating the City's financial accounting software has been a City Council budget priority for at least three years).
- At the November 12th meeting, the City Council discussed the Mayor's recommended amendment to the Salem Street Neighborhood Corridor District Zoning Ordinance, and discussed the future of the comprehensive zoning overhaul, including needed resources for neighborhood meetings and community outreach. On December 2nd, the Mayor and the Council came to an agreement on the future of the citywide rezoning project, as outlined in a joint press release, and passed the amendment.
- At the November 12th meeting, the City Council voted to override Mayor Lungo-Koehn's veto of the Values-Aligned Investments Ordinance.
- On November 18th, City Council heard a presentation on the proposed development near City Hall; voted on wage adjustments for the police officers; and discussed the possibility of a residential tax exemption.

- On December 2nd, City Council heard the action plan for the Affordable Housing Trust.

Public Health & Community Safety Committee

- On October 8th, the Committee held a meeting with the Health Department and Office of Outreach & Prevention to discuss resources, social assets, and supportive services in Medford, in the context of federal cuts to resources and programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, food assistance, and Section 8 vouchers in a time of increasing economic vulnerability for households. The Committee received fortifying presentations by the Health Director, Prevention & Outreach Manager, and Social Services Coordinator. The discussion covered updates on the Medford Connects program and Community Liasons team; the status of grant-funded projects; an overview of the Social Services Coordinators' prolific work in the community; a synopsis of what resources are most in-demand by residents; the biggest gaps in our social services programming; and the biggest gaps in our resources (affordable healthcare and affordable housing were named).
- On October 22nd, the Committee met review the draft Overgrowth and Rodent Control Ordinances, which have been developed in collaboration with the Health Department. A short list of outstanding questions remain. The Committee resolved to meet again to finalize these ordinances, pending further insight from the Health Director and Department of Public Works Commissioner to align enforcement roles and determine possible funding mechanisms for a Rodent Control Account, which would fund rodent mitigation efforts across the City.
- On November 19th, per the Welcoming City Ordinance, the Committee heard updates from the Chief of Police on implementation of the Welcoming City Ordinance, including a discussion of regular reports of ICE detainees received by the MPD to City Council.

Resident Services & Public Engagement

- On September 25th, members of the Resident Services & Public Engagement Committee held a listening session at the Senior Center.

Kit Collins
Chair, Planning and Permitting Committee