



Medford City Council Newsletter

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May has proven to be another busy month for the City Council with a focus and drive to review department budgets and zoning proposals for the Hillside area. Throughout the month, the City Council heard from various departments across the city about their current accomplishments, adjustments and needs for their upcoming fiscal year budgets. Each meeting drives home the clear points – Medford has many hard-working teams doing more with less around the city and the need to create more revenue streams continues to be critically important. It is with this in mind that the City Council is looking at zoning to increase commercial investment with mixed use housing, and other opportunities to drive revenue into the city. While each of the budgets that were reviewed are outlined below, for more in-depth information on Medford's current services, plans and ongoing needs, please review our YouTube channel to watch these presentations.

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 May 12th meeting, we passed a resolution to commemorate the life of Leonard "Len" Glionna, long time Medford resident, active participant in civic and political activities throughout Medford, and a friend to many on City Council.
- At the May 26th meeting, the City Council passed a resolution to commemorate the life of Miriam "Mimi" Gordon, longtime member of the Medford Democratic City Committee and Ward 8 Democratic Committee, and a tireless union representative with SEIU 509.

General Business

- At the May 12 City Council Meeting:
 - The City Council had previously heard about the FY27 Annual Plan and current grant allocations

for the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG), now the public hearing was open for the community to weigh in and ask any questions. Without any comments, the Council closed the hearing and approved the allocations and plan with a vote of 7-0.

- The following motions were brought to the City Council by the Mayor and were approved:
 - * Roberta Cameron appointed to the Historic District Commission.
 - * Food Truck Permits for "All Belgium Waffles and "Kona Ice".
 - * Amendment to Personnel Ordinance - Assistant Network Administrator.
 - * Amendment to Personnel Ordinance - Wage Adjustment for Non-Union Personnel.
- The Mayor's office requested the following funding allocations of the City Council:

Capital Stabilization Fund Appropriation Request - Fire Department Capital Improvements Plan

- Several pieces of equipment costs totaling \$2,121,401.
- The City Council approved with a vote of 7-0.
- The City was awarded a \$450,000 grant for the Medford Square Redevelopment Project.
- The City Council reviewed the Proposed Vacant Building Ordinance which would establish a process to address the many vacant buildings and storefronts throughout Medford
- At the May 26th Meeting:
 - The City Council shared a resolution to discuss the newest Recovery Group offered by Medford's Office of Prevention and Outreach for First Responders and Veterans. Chris Summa and Director of Veterans' Services Veronica Shaw shared with Council members the importance of this group and how it is addressing a need seen within the community.
 - The City Council referred to Committee the following:
 - * Amendments to the Welcoming City Ordinance to the Public Health and Community Safety Committee in response to gaps identified within an April 2026 report by the Citizens for Juvenile Justice.
 - * Resolution to review Urban Forestry Management Plan Recommendations at the next Public Works and Facilities Committee, specifically amendments for a private tree ordinance, a Tree Fund, and development mitigation requirement.
 - * Resolution to Amend Code of Ordinances Section 14-315 (Do Not Knock Registry) at the next Subcommittee of Licensing and Permitting to update and address issues presented by Medford residents.
 - The City Council decided to continue public comment on the Proposed Amendments to the Medford Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 94 (Inclusionary Housing Fractional Payment) until July 14th.
 - The Mayor requested the City Council to appropriate \$250,000 to the Affordable Housing Trust, however the Council decided to table the vote until after all budgets had been presented and a full list of Free Cash requests were shared.
 - A representative from Asbury Motor Group was on hand to discuss a petition for a New Class I Auto Sales and Class IV Auto Repair License. The City Council approved unanimously.
 - The Mayor's office asked the City Council to approve the following appointments:

- * Community Garden Commission: Linda Arini
- * Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board: Kayla Lessin
- * Zoning Board of Appeals: Mary Lee

- The City Council approved a donation of \$1,000 in items from Stop & Shop for events being held by the Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
- The Updated Hazard Mitigation Plan, as presented by the City which was reviewed by both the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and approved was unanimously adopted by the City Council.
- The City Council approved an Amendment to Personnel Ordinance by including the position of "Tree Warden".

Planning & Permitting Committee

- On May 5th, the Planning and Permitting Committee met to continue discussions around the Boston Avenue Corridor district and review updates from Innes Consulting.

Joint Meeting of the City Council and CDB

- On May 13th and May 27th, the City Council and the Community Development Board met with representatives of Innes Consulting Group, and members of the Planning, Development and Sustainability Department to review the latest updates and suggestions around zoning proposals for the Boston Ave Corridor in the Hillside area

Committee of the Whole

- * During the May 6th meeting, the City Council continued reviewing and asking questions around the following budget lines:
- * **Building Budget**
 - FY27 Budget: \$1,097,600
 - FY26 Change: Increase of \$39,794
- * **City Clerk Budget**
 - FY27 Budget: \$366,356
 - FY26 Change: Decrease of \$42,179
- * **Electrical Budget**
 - FY27 Budget: \$790,267
 - FY26 Change: Increase of \$38,173
- * **Veterans Services Budget**
 - FY27 Budget: \$441,659.
 - FY26 Change: Decrease of \$7,056
- * Up next at the May 12th meeting, the City Council heard from the following departments regarding their needs for FY27:
- * **Assessor's Budget**
 - FY27 Budget: \$592,329
 - FY26 Change: Decrease of \$52,482

- * **Facilities and Grounds Budget**
 - FY27 Budget: \$2,211,584
 - FY26 Change: Increase of \$109,455
- * **Insurance Budget**
 - FY27 Budget: \$34,083,200
 - FY26 Change: Increase of \$2,863,200
- * **Workers Comp Budget**
 - FY27 Budget: \$1,213,000
 - FY26 Change: Increase of \$285,000
- * **Bonds and Interest Budget**
 - FY27 Budget: \$2,330,862
 - FY26 Change: Decrease of \$5,894
- * **Pensions Budget**
 - FY27 Budget: \$17,635,328
 - FY26 Change: Increase of \$865,934

– At the May 19th meeting, we continued reviewing more of the City's budgets in preparation for the final approval meeting. We were presented with budgets for the departments, along with the Committees and Commissions who consist of Medford residents that have been appointed by the Mayor's office – and they are separated below:

Departments:

- * **Medford Community Media Budget**
 - FY27 Budget: \$276,101
 - FY26 Change: Increase of \$61,040
- * **Board of Health and Animal Control Budget**
 - FY27 Budget: \$1,123,329
 - FY26 Change: Increase of \$167,750
- * **Civil Defense Budget**
 - FY27 Budget: \$9,240
 - FY26 Change: Increase of \$1,574
- * **Planning, Development and Sustainability Budget**
 - FY27 Budget: \$872,205
 - FY26 Change: Decrease of \$50,957
- * **Executive Budget**
 - FY27 Budget: \$733,679
 - FY26 Change: Increase of \$43,291
- * **Law Budget**
 - FY27 Budget: \$529,566
 - FY26 Change: Increase of \$4,338

Committees/Commissions

- * **Bicycle Commission Budget**
 - FY27 Budget: \$2,200
 - FY26 Change: Increase of \$700

- * **Community Development Board**
 - FY27 Budget: \$14,600
 - FY26 Change: Increase of \$4,500
- * **Conservation Committee Budget**
 - FY27 Budget: \$6,850
 - FY26 Change: Decrease of \$650
- * **Historical Commission Budget**
 - FY27 Budget: \$35,000
 - FY26 Change: \$0
- * **Historic District Commission Budget**
 - FY27 Budget: \$5,000
 - FY26 Change: \$0
- * **Zoning Board of Appeals Budget**
 - FY27 Budget: \$12,500
 - FY26 Change: \$0
- * **Hormel Commission Budget**
 - FY27 Budget: \$5,400
 - FY26 Change: \$0
- * **License Commission**
 - FY27 Budget: \$4,900
 - FY26 Change: Decrease of \$900
- * During the May 26th meeting, the City Council heard a report on the Wellington Transformation Study by consultants hired by the Mayor's office in response to recommendations from the Medford Comprehensive Plan. The basis of the study was to provide Medford with the following:
 - Help guide the future of the Wellington neighborhood as community needs, development interest, and regional trends evolve;
 - Work with the community, key stakeholders, and City leadership to create an implementable plan for the neighborhood that aligns with local values and outlines a vibrant future for this area.
 - Integrate land use/zoning, economic development, and mobility into one unified plan for a connected and thriving neighborhood.
- * Additionally during the meeting, The City Council entered into Executive Session around the Litigation Strategy - Chertok v. City of Medford.
- * At the May 27th meeting, the City Council reviewed the following next round of budgets:
- * **Elections Budget**
 - FY27 Total Budget: \$485,331
 - FY26 Change: Increase of \$90,402

* **Medford Fire Department Budget**

- FY27 Total Budget: \$16,009,063
- FY26 Change: Increase of \$206,569

* **Library Department (as presented, however was inaccurate at time)**

- FY27 Total Budget: \$2,521,674
- FY26 Change: Increase of \$289,735
Budget needed to be updated; final produced at a later date

* **Legislative Budget**

- FY27 Total Budget: \$272,874
- FY26 Change: Decrease of \$34,485

Public Health & Community Safety

- On May 20th, the PH&CS Committee met to review the 2025 Annual Surveillance Report for the city. This report, prepared by the Medford Police Department, is required by the Ordinance to Promote Transparency and Protect Civil Rights and Civil Liberties with Respect to Surveillance Technology.

Resident Services & Public Engagement Committee

- During the May 20th meeting for RS&PE, the Committee reviewed the April newsletter to provide updates and edits and further discussed the Neighborhood Ward Meetings. An outline was provided with proposed months and wards – and City Council members signed up to be the official hosts of each Ward meeting.

Thanks for reading!

Liz Mullane

Chair, Resident Services & Public Engagement