



Medford City Council Newsletter

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It is hard to believe that Fall is already here – and the City Council remained busy over the summer months continuing to work on initiatives to better serve our residents. This newsletter covers the months of June through August and highlights the various work completed by the City Council and the Council's Committees over the past few months. .

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 June 23rd meeting, the City Council passed a resolution to celebrate Marie Cassidy of the Medford Family Network for her incredible contributions and years of service to the children of Medford.
- At the August 14th City Council meeting, a resolution was passed in remembrance of John Westwater, who was a highly regarded teacher at St. Joseph's school and will be remembered for his love of nature, camping and the lasting impact he made on all of his students.

General Business

- At the June 9th Meeting:
 - The City Council reviewed the final wording for the Amendment to Chapter 2, Article V, Division 2 Standard Compensation Ordinance. The purpose of this Ordinance is to ensure that employees of building service contractors and subcontractors who contract with the City earn an hourly wage that is sufficient to ensure that City dollars are not used to undercut the prevailing standards

that have been attained by building service workers and to promote labor peace in building service work contracted by the City of Medford. This was approved by a 7-0 vote.

- The City Council reviewed Amendments to Personnel Ordinance - Director of Elections; Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Director of Veterans' Services. This was following the city's own pay equity study to level out titles with CAF structures and updating internal titles for the following departments:
 - * Elections
 - * Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 - * Veteran's Services

The City Council amended the ordinance to move Elections from CAF 14 to a CAF 15, per the city's pay study, and it was approved by a vote of 7-0.

- The City Council heard the following petitions:
 - * Petition for Grant of Location - National Grid (3960 & 4000 Mystic Valley Parkway)
 - * Petition for Amendment to Common Victualler's License (Extended Hours) - Scoopology LLC d/b/a Cold Stone Creamery. This was

amended to hours ending at 1am from Mon-Sun with a 3 week review.

Both were approved by a 7-0 vote of the City Council.

- A reappointment to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board of Lisa Anne Davidson was made to the City Council and approved on a vote of 7-0.
 - The Mayor's office provided an Appropriation of Retained Earnings to the City Council of \$5,500,000 from the Water and Sewage Enterprise for the purpose of undertaking design, construction and ancillary projects on the following streets, included but not limited to, Brewster Road, Capen Street, Governor's Ave, Roosevelt Circle and Sherwood Road. This was approved on a roll call vote of 7-0.
 - The City Council also reviewed the Medford Public Schools Special Purpose Override Stabilization Fund Appropriation of \$1,085,5498, which was approved by a vote of 7-0.
 - A Request for Food Truck Permits for "Tandoor + Curry" and "Revlry" - Medford Square Fest: Brews, Bites & Beats was put in front of the City Council, and was tabled to the June 23rd meeting until notification had been made to all surrounding area businesses.
 - The Mayor's office proposed a Cable Television Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) Access Special Revenue Fund to the City Council to reserve cable franchise fees and other cable-related revenues for appropriation to support PEG access services and oversight. This was approved by a 7-0 vote from the City Council.
 - The City Council was presented with the FY27 City of Medford Budget in the amount of \$217,375,456. The Council decided to table the vote until the June 23rd meeting until further information can be provided to the City Council around the legal spending of the City.
 - A request of \$250,000 for the Affordable Housing Trust by the Mayor's office was tabled until after the final approval of the FY27 Budget and when all additional free cash requests could be reviewed at the same time.
 - The City Council reviewed a Resolution Regarding MBTA's Proposed Amendments to Bus Network Redesign for Medford to not only draw attention to the changes, highlight and ask for the City to advertise all upcoming meetings for residents to discuss directly with the MBTA, but it also included an analysis of the route changes and impact.
- At the June 23rd General Meeting of the City Council:
 - The City Council withdrew a resolution to support the rent stabilization campaign and Legislative Compromise Efforts.
- The City Council reviewed several requests which included the following:
 - * A resolution to Establish a Special Education Reserve Fund for Medford. School Committee members wanted to create this fund as a prudent financial management decision to address any future needs of our students who would require this funding. This was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of the City Council.
 - * Approval of a Main Street Corridor – Order to Acquire Easements, Order of Taking and Order of Alteration of Layout. Given the timing of these easement requests, this was tabled until the July 14th City Council meeting to allow for more information and outreach to be made to all residents impacted by these easement decisions.
- At the July 14th City Council Meeting
 - The City Council approved the order to Elect Laurel Siegel as City Clerk, effective August 10th, 2026. After several months process, Laurel was selected by the Council to take over this role. Motion was approved by a unanimous roll call.
 - A resolution was brought forward by the City Council to inform citizens of the two meetings being held by the MBTA to discuss their redesign of bus routes proposal. These two meetings, one in person and the other virtual, is an opportunity for citizens to discuss and share their feedback on these potential changes. It was amended during the meeting to ensure that the City use all available resources to notify residents. This resolution passed unanimously.
 - The resolution regarding auto-pay options for city bills was tabled for further research.
 - The City Council reviewed a Resolution to Update the Ordinance Establishing the Medford Commission for Persons with Disabilities. Several members of the committee spoke on the need to revise the wording and positively define the purpose and goals of the Committee. It was passed unanimously for first reading.
 - The Mayor asked the City Council to approve several Capital and General Stabilization Fund Appropriations in the total of \$571,550: Capital Stabilization Fund:
 - * Roberts Hot Water Replacement: \$250,000
 - * Interactive Panels for Classrooms: \$180,000
 - * Address Facilities Condition Assessment Projects for Schools: \$75,000
 - * Defibrillator Replacements at Schools: \$25,000
 - * Conceptional Building Study and Cost for Oak Grove: \$24,550
 - * Admins Server Replacement: \$17,000

General Stabilization Fund:

- * Executive Search and Recruitment Firm for Police Chief: \$35,000
- The City Council approved A-F, but tabled the vote on E and the General Stabilization Fund allocation until more information was provided.
- The Mayor's office asked for the City Council to approve a title change for the "Assistant Network Administrator" and "Tree Warden". Both were approved unanimously.
- Ryan O'Keefe was appointed to the Hormel Stadium Commission and approved by the City Council.
- The Mayor's Finance team brought forward several fiscal year end transfers of \$2,056,200 from a variety of departments to cover expenses occurred in other budget areas. After much discussion, the transfers were approved in a close vote of four in favor and three against.
- The Mayor's office also asked the Council for approval on litigation settlements for three different claimants in the total of \$10,649.26.
- Lastly, the City Council reviewed the request by the City for the Main Street Corridor – Order to Acquire Easements, Order of Taking and Order of Alteration of Layout.
 - * This was being done in coordination with MassDOT to construct traffic and safety improvements to the Main Street corridor, beginning just south of Thomas St. and extending just north of the westbound Mystic Valley Parkway (Route 16) on- and off-ramps.
 - * The project will add traffic signals to three major intersections and include roadway mill and overlay, intersection geometry revisions, and improvements to sidewalks, bus lanes, bicycle lanes, crosswalks, signage, and pavement markings.
 - * This project required easements from nine private properties – the residents were informed through a variety of methods by the city and were offered damages.
 - * This project and need were also reviewed by and unanimously approved by the Community Development Board members.
 - * This was approved by the City Council in a vote of 5 in favor, one against and one absent.
- During the August 4th General Meeting:
 - The City Council reviewed a Resolution to Update the Noise Ordinance (to be referred to Resident Services Committee). After receiving numerous complaints from residents about noise, the City Council will begin reviewing the previous ordinance which was last updated in 1974
 - * This was referred to the Resident Services Committee by Councilor Mullane to be updated and reconsidered by the Council.
 - The Resolution to establish Neighborhood Ward Meetings was addressed with the following three dates established:
 - * Ward 1: September 23rd, 7-8pm at Andrews
 - * Ward 5: October 20, 7-8pm at Missituk
 - * Ward 2: December 2nd, 7-8pm at Roberts
 - The Elections Director shared an update to the current election season and addressing a new voting place for residents in Ward 4. Due to operational challenges at the current polling place, those residents who vote in Ward 4, Precinct 2 will be at Tufts Gantcher Center, located at 161 College Avenue – Rear Entrance. It was approved unanimously by the Council.
 - Additionally, the Elections Director prepared a Call for Election for the 2026 State Primary to be held on Tuesday, September 1st and the Warrant for the 2026 State Primary. Both were unanimously approved by the Council.
 - The City Council discussed a Resolution to Demand Tufts Reinstate Graduate Worker Facing Retaliation and Retribution. The resolution was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.
 - Additionally, the City Council also reviewed a Resolution to Support Tufts Facilities Workers Bargaining for a Fair Contract. The City Council unanimously approved this resolution in a roll call vote.
 - The Mayor's office asked the City Council for approval on the following Board and Commission Appointments:
 - * Zoning Board of Appeals: Chris D'Aveta
 - * Water & Sewer: Lucica Hiller
 - * Medford Arts Council – Irene Ros and Swabarna Mukherjee
 - The Community Preservation Committee put forward appropriation requests for the Playstead Park Digital Scoreboard and the Osgood House Gutter/Storm Windows restoration. Both were approved unanimously on a roll call vote.
 - * Digital Scoreboard: \$32,000
 - * Osgood House: \$10,000
 - An unpaid bill from last fiscal year was brought to the Council for payment by the Finance Director. The Council unanimously approved the \$1,500 unpaid bill.
 - The Mayor's office put up a Supplemental Appropriation for the Fiscal Year 2027 to ask for the Law Budget to be fully approved for FY27. The Council is still waiting on a comprehensive litigation report from the City. The Council voted to amend the appropriation and approved \$42,507.63, or one month's approval of law budget funding. The amendment was approved on a vote of 7-0

- The City Council posted a response to 26-142B, the Supplemental Appropriation as presented by the Mayor’s office. The response reiterated the Council’s desire for a comprehensive report and a breakdown of several other items to provide further transparency to the law department and hiring of the City Solicitor.
- The City Council brought forward the Vacant Building Ordinance along with several amendments by Councilor Tseng to the original ordinance. These amendments were made in collaboration with Medford Chamber of Commerce representatives.
 - * The amendments were approved on a vote of 4-3 with Councilors Mullane, Tseng, Scarpelli and President Bears all voting in favor.
 - * Upon approval of the amendments, the City Council approved the Ordinance unanimously with a vote of 7-0.
- The Personnel Ordinance Amendments - Director and Assistant Director of Health and Human Services with the title updates were approved by the City Council.
- And the Resolution to Update the Ordinance Establishing the Medford Commission for Persons with Disabilities was also approved unanimously by the City Council.

Resident Services Public Engagement

- At the June 16th meeting of the RS&PE Committee, Chair Mullane shared the Fall 2026 Neighborhood Ward meeting schedule along with the draft version of the May newsletter. The Neighborhood Ward Meeting dates and schedules are as follows:
 - Ward 1 - Wednesday, September 23 from 7-8pm at Andrews Cafeteria
 - Ward 5 – Tuesday, October 20 from 7-8pm at the Missituk Cafeteria
 - Ward 2 – Wednesday, December 2 from 7-8pm at the Roberts Cafeteria
- The Neighborhood Ward meetings are a chance for residents to share feedback and comments specific to their Ward in Medford, and ask questions of the City Council on any upcoming items impacting the city.
- On August 5th, the Committee met to discuss the summer newsletter and further distribute the drafting of the newsletter to other Councilors.
- The Ward 1 meeting was discussed and it was noted that MCM would be available for the online option and Zoom would be available. Outreach efforts were discussed and the remaining Ward meetings were established for the rest of the year.
- The Noise Ordinance discussed at the previous night’s City Council meeting will be brought to the Committee at the next meeting in September.

Joint Meeting of the City Council and CDB

- On June 3rd, June 11th and June 24, the City Council and the Community Development Board met with representatives from Innes Land Strategies Group, and members of the Planning, Development and Sustainability Department to discuss zoning amendments on Boston Ave. At the meetings on June 3rd and June 11th, more information was provided from comments, feedback and meetings with both residents and CDB members on the Boston Ave Corridor. At the June 24th meeting, both the City Council and the CDB each voted to close public hearing, and the CDB would continue reviewing documentation over the summer.

Public Health & Community Safety

- On June 16th, 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. Chief Buckley was in attendance to provide feedback on the report and addressed the nine questions as outlined by the ordinance.
- At the July 15th meeting, the PH&CS Committee reviewed a Resolution to Require Law Enforcement Identification and Protect Fourth Amendment Rights. This resolution had been brought forward following suggestions and requests from members of the Medford community. Residents had asked the Council to take every reasonable action available at the local level to discourage law enforcement officers from concealing their identities and to protect the Fourth Amendment rights of people living in Medford.

Committee of the Whole

- During the June 2nd meeting, the City Council continued reviewing and asking questions around the following budget lines:
 - **Parking Budget**
 - * FY27 Budget: \$1,089,189
 - * FY26 Change: Increase of \$26,449
 - **Medford Police Department Budget**
 - * FY27 Budget: \$17,482,798
 - * FY26 Change: Increase of \$2,398,902
 - **DPW Budget - Highway**
 - * FY27 Budget: \$15,011,756
 - * FY26 Change: Increase of \$981,947
 - **DPW Budget – Water/Sewage**
 - * FY27 Budget: \$29,863,072
 - * FY26 Change: Increase of \$759,020

- The **Medford Public Schools** put together a comprehensive budget presentation to illustrate where they cut costs and made additional savings, addressed areas of greatest need, as well as provided a breakdown of requests for funds to be transferred from the stabilization and free cash accounts. A vote was also taken by the School Committee with information on those additional requests included:
 - * FY27 Budget: \$89,933,398
 - * FY26 Change: Decrease of \$52,482
- Up next at the June 9th meeting, the City Council heard an in depth presentation from the Medford Arts Council and Arts Collaborative Medford, along with many comments from the community, on the needs and growth of art programs in Medford.
- At the June 23rd meeting, The City Council formally interviewed two final candidates for the role of City Clerk. The Council was fortunate to have two great candidates for the position, Kevin Foley and Laurel Siegel. After the in-person interview process, the City Council selected Laurel Siegel to be the new City Clerk.
- During the July 14th meeting, the City Council focused on:
 - The Public Tree Preservation, Protection and Replacement Ordinance for the purpose of preserving and protecting both Public Shade Trees and trees otherwise located on public property as set forth herein.
- At the August 4th meeting, the City Council focused on:
 - Resolution to Receive a Presentation on the Affordable Housing Linkage Nexus Study Report. This report was completed by Karl F. Seidman of Karl F. Seidman Consulting Services, who had conducted the economic analysis for this report. The study was intended to establish the rational nexus between non-residential development in Medford and the resulting need for affordable housing.

Thanks for reading!
 Liz Mullane
 Chair, Resident Services & Public Engagement