



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

Resident Services and Public Engagement Committee, April 14, 2026

Voting Members

Liz Mullane, Chair
George A. Scarpelli, Vice Chair
Anna Callahan
Matt Leming
Justin Tseng

This meeting will take place at 7:30 P.M. in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Medford City Hall, 85 George P. Hassett Drive, Medford, MA and via Zoom.

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88394771887?pwd=dkEWD3RaM53CeSGmlrA55D6evrpDJ7.1>

Call-in Number: +19292056099,,88394771887#,,, *885548#

Live: Channel 22 (Comcast), Channel 43 (Verizon), [YouTube](#), and medfordtv.org.

To submit written comments, please email ccmembers@medford-ma.gov.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

24-354 - Offered by Matt Leming, City Councilor, Isaac Bears, Council President

Resolution to Publish City Council Newsletter

24-073 - Offered by Anna Callahan, City Councilor, Justin Tseng, City Councilor, Emily Lazzaro, Council Vice President

Resolution to Establish City Council Listening Sessions

26-024 - Offered by Isaac Bears, Council President

Resolution to Schedule Neighborhood Ward Meetings Hosted by City Council

Adjournment



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

MEETING DATE

April 14, 2026

SPONSORED BY

Matt Leming, City Councilor, Isaac
Bears, Council President

AGENDA ITEM

24-354 - Resolution to Publish City Council Newsletter

FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION

Be it Resolved by the Medford City Council that the Resident Services and Public Engagement Committee shall have the authority to draft and approve a regular newsletter summarizing the activities of the City Council and can vote to publish the newsletter by whatever mechanisms available without referring the draft newsletter to a regular Council meeting for a vote.

Be it Further Resolved that this paper be referred to the Resident Services and Public Engagement Committee as a standing agenda item

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

- I. 2.2026 City Council Newsletter

MEDFORD CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

February 2026

The City Council is already off to another busy year with several meetings happening throughout the month of February. With a focus on enhancing services provided to city residents, continuing the discussion around rezoning Medford Square, and starting an initiative to offer Ward meetings throughout the city – the City Council has been meeting every week to offer residents opportunities to engage and share feedback on these important opportunities.

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. If you don't currently subscribe to our newsletter and would like to receive them moving forward, please sign up at: bit.ly/medfordcitycouncilnewsletter.

Commemorations and Acknowledgements:

- At the February 23rd Meeting:
 - We passed a resolution to recognize and celebrate Black History Month;
 - A resolution was approved to celebrate National Therapy Animal Day;
 - The Council extended warm wishes to residents celebrating Lunar New Year, Ramadan, and Lent

General Business

- At the February 3rd Meeting:
 - A resolution was put forward to schedule Neighborhood Ward Meetings hosted by the City Council. As an ongoing effort to encourage communication and enhance engagement throughout Medford, the City Council is committed to providing meetings within each Ward to hear directly from residents on issues, concerns, and any feedback as it relates to the overall City and each ward specifically. This was passed to the Residential Services and Public Engagement Committee to begin planning and executing.
 - Two resolutions were introduced around the ambulance/EMS service provider transition from Amstrong Ambulance to Cataldo Ambulance Service by Council President Bears and Councilor Scarpelli – one that was specific to ongoing data request that provided insight into the service change, and the second to regarding transition change, contract transparency and oversight.
 - Additionally, two separate resolutions around the January 26th winter storm were drafted by Councilors Tseng, Mullane and Scarpelli. One resolution was to provide a full response report around the January 26 storm and the other to evaluate the snow removal and response to better address resident's concerns for the future.
 - The Council approved two requests from the Mayor's office including:

- \$97,500 to replace boilers at Engine 5 on Main Street;
 - \$19,573 in self rescue equipment from the Leary Foundation for the Fire Department
- The Community Preservation Committee shared their final recommendations that were approved by City Council with \$2,264,174 helping to fund 11 different projects and initiatives throughout the city.
- The Council approved licenses to Plazita Mexico Tacos and to The Lighthouse Café
- A resolution to Require Law Enforcement Identification and Protect Fourth Amendment Rights was discussed and referred to Committee as well as a resolution to implement the City Charter, which will be discussed further at a future Committee of the Whole meeting.
- At the February 23rd meeting:
 - A resolution was brought forward by Councilor Scarpelli, Councilor President Bears and Councilor Tseng to request a comprehensive litigation report going back to January 2019 outlining the lawsuits that the City of Medford has been involved in and a fiduciary review of funds expended on legal matters, including litigation defense, settlements, judgments, and outside counsel fees.
 - The City Council discussed a resolution that the DPW update and provide a brief report to the Council on any upcoming major infrastructure work along with scope and timeline, to provide Medford residents with more communication around these types of projects happening in their area. In the same vein, the Council reviewed a resolution that would require the city and utility companies to include a clear reference to construction moratorium and direct contact information so residents can reach out with any construction questions.
 - As housing crisis continues to impact residents, The Council approved a resolution to support Home Sharing and requested implementation plan as another housing alternative in the City.
 - Requests from the Mayor's office that were approved by the City Council:
 - \$10,000 from the CPA to TreesMedford to fund the City Park Invasive Plant Inventory;
 - \$800 donation given by Jay Tangney for a veteran in need;
 - The City Council tabled the appointments sent by the Mayor's office to City Boards and Commissions in order to receive allow for more or additional information to be included on the appointees.

Committee of the Whole

- On February 3rd, the Council discussed an Amendment to Chapter 2, Article V, Division 2 - Medford Standard Compensation Ordinance. While councilors expressed support, the paper was kept in committee follow legal review and further discussion with the procurement department. As noted, this legal review was previously requested at the December 16, 2025 meeting.

Public Health and Community Safety Committee

- On February 10th, the Committee discussed a resolution to require law enforcement identification and protection of the Fourth Amendment rights. This was a beginning discussion to determine what type of legislative action could be taken and to gather feedback. The paper was kept in committee for further review and conversation.

Resident Services and Public Engagement Committee

- On February 10th, the RS&PE Committee met for the first time this year to review the January newsletter and to begin outlining the strategy, communication and implementation of Ward meetings to be held throughout the City.

Thank you very much,

Liz Mullane

Chair, Resident Services & Public Engagement



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

MEETING DATE

April 14, 2026

SPONSORED BY

Anna Callahan, City Councilor,
Justin Tseng, City Councilor, Emily
Lazzaro, Council Vice President

AGENDA ITEM

24-073 - Resolution to Establish City Council Listening Sessions

FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION

Whereas many studies have shown that local governments primarily hear from a small proportion of their residents in addition to corporate interests, and those residents who do reach out tend to be more affluent than the average resident,
Be it Resolved, that the Committee on Resident Services and Public Engagement reach out to city staff, residents, and community groups to develop and implement a series of listening sessions where councilors listen to residents to extend Council outreach to residents, particularly of various underrepresented or under-served neighborhoods and backgrounds.

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

None



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

MEETING DATE

April 14, 2026

SPONSORED BY

Isaac Bears, Council President

AGENDA ITEM

26-024 - Resolution to Schedule Neighborhood Ward Meetings Hosted by City Council

FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION

Be it Resolved by the Medford City Council that the Council's Resident Services and Public Engagement Committee discuss a plan to schedule Neighborhood Ward Meetings hosted by the City Council in 2026 and 2027.

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

- I. Neighborhood Ward Meetings 3.29.26



Residential Services and Public Engagement Committee
DRAFT: Plan for Neighborhood Ward Meetings

Executive Summary

The City Council has approved a Neighborhood Ward Meeting proposal for the 2026-2027 calendar year. Throughout the course of the next two years, the Council is looking to host at least one Ward based meeting throughout the 8 Wards of Medford. Through the Resident Services and Public Engagement Committee, a plan will be created that establishes a schedule, structure, strategy and format to successfully execute this type of engagement opportunity for residents.

Proposed Ward Rollout

Timeframe	Ward	Location Suggestion(s)
May 2026	8	Medford City Hall / Senior Center
June 2026	4	Medford Public Library
September 2026	5	
November 2026	6	Medford High School/West Medford CC
January 2027	1	
March 2027	7	
April 2027	2	Roberts School
May 2027	1	

For the Ward Meetings

- Pair Councilors together to co-facilitate each of the Ward Meetings
- Set up meetings in an open format, allowing for more collaboration and discussion
- Not a standardized agenda:
 - Focus on open ended questions/concerns/feedback from residents
 - Ward specific items
 - Soliciting input in advance of meeting as well, to encourage participation and allow residents to anticipate certain topic areas of interest/discussion

Communication and Outreach

- Allowing for at least one month notice of meetings to be publicized for residents
- Providing outreach in the following ways:
 - City of Medford channels: text, phone call, newsletter, social media
 - City Council channel: website, newsletter, CC meetings, social media
 - Publications: Patch, Gotta Know Medford, Tufts Daily, Medford Bytes, Medford Happenings
 - Any other suggestions
- City Councilors assigned to specific Ward meetings would take the lead on advertising, communicating, and facilitating the meeting