



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

Resident Services and Public Engagement Committee, August 5, 2026

Voting Members

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

This meeting will take place at 6:00 P.M. via Zoom only.

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81291041118?pwd=3QrvcLS4FmtnMdT5sVCyHflbnqDga.1>

Call-in Number: +13017158592,,81291041118#,,,,*907619#

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

26-024 - Offered by Isaac Bears, Council President

Resolution to Schedule Neighborhood Ward Meetings Hosted by City Council

Adjournment

MEDFORD CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

June 2026

As we head into the summer months, the City Council ended June by completing several projects and lining up activities for the Fall. We completed reviewing and final approval of the budget for FY27, held several meetings around Boston Ave and Hillside zoning, and outlined the fall schedule for the Neighborhood Ward Meetings. Lastly, we added a new feature at the end of the newsletter to include a link to the listing of streets that have been paved during the month.

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, Remembrances 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.

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 it was moved for third reading. 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, as requested 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.
- **During 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 from the Mayor's office 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 July 14th City Council

- meeting to allow for more information and outreach to be made to all residents impacted by these easement decisions.
- The Mayor's office asked for the following Free Cash and Retained Earnings Appropriations be approved:
 - Free Cash in the amount of \$10,099,270.04 on the following items:
 - \$7,447,658.04 to replenish the Capital Stabilization Fund back to \$13 million (would contain \$5,552,341 if the following Capital Stabilization Fund appropriation requests are approved:
 - \$1,355,311 for snow and ice deficit;
 - \$1,281,300 for FY23 and FY24 for patrol, superiors and dispatch union's retro; and
 - \$15,000 for a feasibility study for a project labor agreement for the construction of the new Medford High School
 - Free Cash allocation to the Affordable Housing Trust for \$250,000.
 - \$100,000 in Free Cash to the Medford Family Network to sustain it for the next year as it looks to find new funding resources after the loss of their grant support from the Children's Trust
 - All of these allocations were approved unanimously by the City Council.
 - The Mayor's office asked for the following Capital Stabilization Fund Appropriation Request - Curtis/Tufts Capital Needs Assessment:
 - \$17,500.00 to fund a Capital Needs Assessment of the Curtis Tufts High School in support of planning for the building's future use.
 - This request was approved on a 7-0 vote
 - The Mayor's office presented a Personnel Ordinance Amendments - Director and Assistant Director of Health and Human Services
 - The first was to remove "Prevention & Outreach Manager" to be referred to as "Assistant Health and Human Services Director"
 - The second amendment was to remove "Director of Public Health" to be named "Director of Health and Human Services".
 - Both were approved for first reading by the Council.
 - Having tabled from a previous meeting, the Council reviewed the Request for Food Truck Permits for "Tandoor + Curry" and "Revlry" - Medford Square Fest: Brews, Bites & Beats.
 - Tandoor + Curry is looking to operate at the Clippership Pop-up on 06/13/2026 - 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM and 08/01/2026 - 12:00 PM – 5:00pm.
 - Revlry is looking to operate at the Clippership Pop-up on 07/18/2026 - 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM; 07/25/2026 - 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM and 08/08/2026 - 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM
 - Both were approved on a vote of 7-0.
 - The Community Preservation Committee presented an Appropriation Request for the Royall House and Shiloh Baptist Church:
 - \$38,000.00 from the CPA General Reserve to the Royall House Association, to fund emergency perimeter wall repairs at the Royall House and Slave Quarters Museum; and

- \$70,000.00 from the CPA General Reserve to Shiloh Baptist Church of Medford, to provide final contingency funding for their ADA Improvements project.
 - Both funding requests were approved on a vote of 7-0.
- The City Council reviewed a Resolution to Appeal Deficient Public Records Response of City Administration Regarding Legal Matters. Considering the light response from the administration on providing documentation around the City's legal matters, the Medford City Council authorized by a roll call vote an appeal of the administration's response to the Secretary of State's Office, Public Records Division. This was unanimously approved by the City Council.
- The biggest matter for the evening was the review and final approval of the FY27 Budget for the City of Medford. Prior to the City Council voting on the budget, the Mayor's office prepared a supplemental document that outlined the funding requests made by the City Council that were not originally outlined in the FY27 budget.
 - \$112,000 in total requested allocations by City Council members to cover services for:
 - Paying part-time librarians closer to appropriate minimum pay rates
 - Part-time staff to support the Arts programs in Medford and recreational staffing
 - Part-time constitution services to better assist and answer residents questions and concerns on behalf of the City Council
 - Given the wording of the document provided by the Mayor, these additional service requests for the residents of Medford were contingent on not cutting anything from the current FY27 budget.
 - The supplemental support funding was approved by a vote of 7-0 by the City Council
- The Mayor's office presented the FY2027 Budget to the City Council with the final total of \$217,375,456.
 - During discussion of the FY27 Budget, The Council reviewed a Resolution for the Administration to Prepare 1/12th Budget Due to Missing Financial Information. While originally tabled at the beginning of the meeting, the resolution did not pass in a vote of 4-3, with Councilors Mullane, Scarpelli and Bears voting against.
 - A motion was made by Councilor Tseng to cut the Law Department budget by 83% from these specific line items and allow administration to come back to the council with the requested information on legal expenses alongside a request to fund the Law department for the remaining 10 months of the Fiscal year. This motion was passed by the Council in a vote of 7-0.
 - A motion was made to then approve the FY27 Budget with the Law Department reduction. The budget was passed on a vote of 6-1.

Resident Services and Public Engagement Committee

- At the June 16th meeting of the RS&PE Committee, Chair Liz 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 - Tuesday, September 22 from 7-8pm at Andrews Cafeteria
 - Ward 5 – Tuesday, October 22 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.

Joint Committee Meeting of the City Council and the Community Development Board

- On June 3rd, June 11th and June 24th, 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 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 before presenting their final version of the Hillside area zoning to the City Council in the fall.

Public Health and Community Safety Committee

- 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.

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

- o 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: Increase of \$4,443,398
- 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 the arts programs in Medford.
- At the June 23rd meeting, The City Council formally interviewed two final candidates for the role of City Clerk. We were 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.

As a new addition to the newsletter, we are including information on any streets and sidewalks repairs that have occurred during the month. In June, approximately 125 tons of asphalt was poured for pothole repair on 23 streets throughout Medford.

Thank you very much,

Liz Mullane
Chair, Resident Services & Public Engagement



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

MEETING DATE

August 5, 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

None