



Medford City Council  
Medford, Massachusetts

## **Resident Services and Public Engagement Committee, April 23, 2024**

### **Voting Members**

Matt Leming, Chair  
George A. Scarpelli, Vice Chair  
Anna Callahan  
Emily Lazzaro  
Justin Tseng

This meeting will take place at 6:00 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/86840580973>

Call-in Number: +19292056099, 86840580973#

Broadcast Live: Channel 22 (Comcast), Channel 43 (Verizon), and medfordtv.org.

To submit written comments, please email [AHurtubise@medford-ma.gov](mailto:AHurtubise@medford-ma.gov).

### **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

### **ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **24-015 - Offered by Justin Tseng, City Councilor**

Resolution to Discuss Modernizing Council Communications and Outreach Strategy

#### **24-073 - Offered by Anna Callahan, City Councilor, Justin Tseng, City Councilor, Emily Lazzaro, City Councilor**

Resolution to Establish City Council Listening Sessions

## **PAPERS IN COMMITTEE**

To view Papers in Committee, please email [ahurtubise@medford-ma.gov](mailto:ahurtubise@medford-ma.gov).

## **Adjournment**



Medford City Council  
Medford, Massachusetts

**MEETING DATE**

April 23, 2024

**SPONSORED BY**

Justin Tseng, City Councilor

**AGENDA ITEM**

**24-015** - Resolution to Discuss Modernizing Council Communications and Outreach Strategy

**FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION**

Be it Resolved that the Committee on Resident Services and Public Engagement meet to discuss modernizing the Council's communications and outreach strategy, including but not limited to developing guidelines and action plans for social media and press releases.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**FISCAL IMPACT**

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. 2024.4 Newsletter Draft
2. Councilor Newsletter Schedule

## **MEDFORD CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2024**

Welcome to the first Medford City Council Newsletter! In this newsletter, we provide updates from the past month of different significant activities of Medford City Council. Because this is also our first newsletter, we will summarize the different activities from previous months as well.

### **Commemorations and Acknowledgements:**

- Commemoration of the Holy Month of Ramadan
- Acknowledged April 30, 2024 as National Animal Therapy Day in the City of Medford
- Honor and Commemorated the Service of Former Mayor Jack McGlynn in the WWII 'Ghost Army'
- In February, we commemorated Black History Month.

### **General Business**

- We passed the City Council's Governing Agenda, which lays out major projects the City Council is planning. This also created a new subcommittee structure for City Council, reducing it to seven subcommittees: Education, Resident Services & Public Engagement, Administration & Finance, Governance, Planning & Permitting, Public Health & Community Safety, and Public Works & Facilities.
- Preparing for a long budget season, we began the annual budget process on April 17th by hearing from the Council on Aging, Medford Community Media, and Veterans Affairs.
- We passed a leaf blower ordinance completely, sending it to the Mayor for final approval, which will phase out gas-powered leaf blowers in favor of electric ones.

### **Public Health & Community Safety**

- Began discussions on forming a Warming Shelter for the homeless population in Medford, similar to that in Malden.

### **Planning & Permitting**

- Beginning the process of Zoning Recodification with Innes Associated LTD.
- Going through the second reading of the leafblower ordinance, which will phase out gas-powered leafblowers in Medford over several years and replace them with electric-powered blowers.
- Sent to committee a home-rule petition for a real-estate transfer fee. This will ask the state for permission to craft an ordinance that taxes the transfer of certain high-end real estate transactions, of no more than 2%, which will go into the new Affordable Housing Trust.
- Developing a home-rule petition, in which we ask the state for permission to establish a Rent Stabilization ordinance.
- Discussing the implementation of the housing stability notification ordinance, which was passed previously and lets tenants know their legal rights during move-in.

### **Resident Services & Public Engagement**

- Crafting a social media policy for the Medford City Council's communications strategy.
- To make City Council more inclusive, we passed a resolution to establish listening sessions for different groups around Medford. We will be meeting in April to discuss which groups to reach out to for these sessions.

**Administration & Finance**

- Linkage fees updates were approved in committee and then regular session. Linkage fees are fees paid by developers to pay for roads, parks, police, and other costs. These formally request the Community Development Board and the Office of Planning, Development, and Sustainability to update linkage fees for the first time since 1990. These would also add an additional linkage fee for the Affordable Housing Trust.
- Developed a budget ordinance that requires a strict timeline for communicating with the City Council on the development of the City budget.

**Governance**

- Currently discussing pro-democracy reforms to City Council and Charter Review updates.

Thank you very much,

Matt Leming

Chair, Resident Services & Public Engagement Committee

## **Medford City Council Newsletter Draft Schedule**

### **2024**

April	Leming
May	Lazzaro
June	Bears
July	Tseng
August	Callahan
September	Lazzaro
October	Leming
November	Collins
December	Bears

### **2025**

January	Tseng
February	Callahan
March	Collins
April	Leming
May	Lazzaro
June	Callahan
July	Tseng
August	Callahan
September	Lazzaro
October	Leming
November	Collins
December	Bears



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**MEETING DATE**

April 23, 2024

**SPONSORED BY**

Anna Callahan, City Councilor,  
Justin Tseng, City Councilor, Emily  
Lazzaro, City Councilor

**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, now, therefore:

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