



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

The Eighth Regular Meeting, April 16, 2024

City Council

Isaac B. "Zac" Bears
Anna Callahan
Kit Collins
Emily Lazzaro
Matt Leming
George A. Scarpelli
Justin Tseng

This meeting will take place at 7:00 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/89844701755>

Call-in Number: +19292056099,,89844701755# US

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

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

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACCOLADES, REMEMBRANCES, REPORTS, AND RECORDS

Records

The Records of the Meeting of April 2, 2024 were passed to Councillor Tseng.

Reports of Committees

24-074 - Offered by Emily Lazzaro, City Councilor

Public Health and Community Safety Committee, April 9, 2024, Report to Follow

24-033 - Offered by Kit Collins, Council Vice President

Planning and Permitting Committee, April 10, 2024, Report to Follow

MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

24-075 - Offered by George Scarpelli, City Councilor

Resolution to Discuss Concerns Dealing with the Medford Water Department

24-076 - Offered by George Scarpelli, City Councilor

Requesting a Report Regarding Taxpayer Dollars Used to Fund Lawsuits, Settlements, Investigations With City of Medford Active and Past Employees

24-077 - Offered by George Scarpelli, City Councilor

Resolution to Discuss MBTA Commuter Rail Storing Harmful Materials Near Residential Homes

24-078 - Offered by George Scarpelli, City Councilor

Resolution to Discuss the Mayor's Hiring an Outside Consultant to Review MFD Policies and Procedures

24-079 - Offered by George Scarpelli, City Councilor

Resolution to Request Update On Krystle Campbell Peace Garden

24-081 - Offered by Isaac Bears, Council President

Resolution to Provide Update on Efforts to Remove Hazardous Railroad Ties Along MBTA Lowell Line

24-082 - Offered by Isaac Bears, Council President

Resolution to Acknowledge April 30, 2024 as National Animal Therapy Day in the City of Medford

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

24-080

Offered by Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn

Amend Personnel Ordinance - Supervisor of Water & Sewer

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public Comment Email - Munir Jirmanus
Public Comment Email - Ellen Epstein

To participate outside of Zoom, please e-mail AHurtubise@medford-ma.gov.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

23-412

Petition to Amend Deed Restriction - 12 Dell Avenue

IN CITY COUNCIL
TABLED

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

24-031

Request a Representative from BJ's Wholesale Club Meet to Discuss Construction and Neighborhood Concerns

IN CITY COUNCIL
TABLED

FEBRUARY 6, 2024

21-057

Leaf Blower Ordinance

IN CITY COUNCIL
FIRST READING
SECOND READING
THIRD READING

MARCH 12, 2024
APPROVED - MARCH 12, 2024
TO BE ADVERTISED - APRIL 4, 2024
ELIGIBLE - APRIL 16, 2024

22-494

Budget Ordinance

IN CITY COUNCIL
FIRST READING
SECOND READING
THIRD READING

MARCH 12, 2024
APPROVED - MARCH 19, 2024
ADVERTISED - APRIL 11, 2024
ELIGIBLE - APRIL 30, 2024

Reports Due/Deadlines

16-574

University Accountability Spring 2017-Report (Next Report Due in November 2024)

<u>17-606</u>	Evangelical Haitian Church 400 High St. 90 Day Review on Illumination (Tabled - January 9, 2018)
<u>20-086</u>	90-Day Review Report on El Tacuba Cocina and Tequila Bar for a petition for a Special Permit – Hours (granted by the Council, as amended to require 90-day report period to begin on opening of restaurant)
<u>22-007</u>	90 Day Report from Administration to present 5-year plan to address gas leaks (Report due in April 2022)
<u>22-009</u>	90 Day Report from School Administration to identify opportunities to connect classroom learning to career applications (Report due in April 2022)
<u>22-026</u>	Quarterly Presentation on City's Financial Health by Chief Financial Officer/Auditor
<u>22-027</u>	Monthly Copy of Warrant Articles from Chief Financial Officer/Auditor
<u>22-039</u>	Report due in 30 days on draft ordinances requested by the Council during the 2020-2021 term

Adjournment



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

MEETING DATE

April 16, 2024

SPONSORED BY

George Scarpelli, City Councilor

AGENDA ITEM

24-075 - Resolution to Discuss Concerns Dealing with the Medford Water Department

FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION

Be it Resolved that the City Council discuss concerns dealing with the Medford Water Department.

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

None



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

MEETING DATE

April 16, 2024

SPONSORED BY

George Scarpelli, City Councilor

AGENDA ITEM

24-076 - Requesting a Report Regarding Taxpayer Dollars Used to Fund Lawsuits, Settlements, Investigations With City of Medford Active and Past Employees

FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION

Be it Resolved that the City Council request that the City Administration provide a full report involving the use of taxpayer dollars being used to fund lawsuits, settlements, and investigations with City of Medford active and past employees. Be it further Resolved that the City Council move to executive session if needed to discuss sensitive funding information.

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

None



Medford City Council
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George Scarpelli, City Councilor

AGENDA ITEM

24-077 - Resolution to Discuss MBTA Commuter Rail Storing Harmful Materials Near Residential Homes

FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION

Be it Resolved that the City Council discuss the possible harmful materials being stored on the MBTA commuter railway that abuts residential homes, most notably the creosote railroad ties.

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

None



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

MEETING DATE

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SPONSORED BY

George Scarpelli, City Councilor

AGENDA ITEM

24-078 - Resolution to Discuss the Mayor's Hiring an Outside Consultant to Review MFD Policies and Procedures

FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION

Be it Resolved that the City Council discuss the Mayor's request in hiring an outside consultant to review MFD policies and procedures with an additional cost to the taxpayers of Medford.

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

None



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

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SPONSORED BY

George Scarpelli, City Councilor

AGENDA ITEM

24-079 - Resolution to Request Update On Krystle Campbell Peace Garden

FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION

Be it Resolved that the City Council get an update on the Krystle Campbell Peace Garden.

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

None



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

MEETING DATE

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SPONSORED BY

Isaac Bears, Council President

AGENDA ITEM

24-081 - Resolution to Provide Update on Efforts to Remove Hazardous Railroad Ties Along MBTA Lowell Line

FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION

Be it Resolved by the Medford City Council that the Council President provide a verbal update on efforts by Council leadership, the Mayor, city staff, Representative Garballey, and local residents to remove creosote-soaked railroad ties that are an environmental and health hazard along the MBTA Lowell Line.

Be it Further Resolved that the Council requests immediate action by the MBTA to remove these ties from residential areas and forward a copy of this resolution by email to our state delegation.

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

None



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

MEETING DATE

April 16, 2024

SPONSORED BY

Isaac Bears, Council President

AGENDA ITEM

24-082 - Resolution to Acknowledge April 30, 2024 as National Animal Therapy Day in the City of Medford

FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION

Whereas, there are thousands of Pet Partners therapy animal teams serving in communities across the United States; and

Whereas, Pet Partners has designated April 30 as National Therapy Animal Day; and

Whereas, scientific research shows that interacting with therapy animals can reduce stress, relieve depression, slow heart rate, lower blood pressure and strengthen the immune system; and

Whereas, therapy animal teams in the City of Medford play an essential role in improving human health and well-being through the human-animal bond; and

Whereas, therapy animal teams interact with a variety of people in our community including veterans, seniors, patients, students, and those approaching end of life; and

Whereas, these exceptional therapy animals who partner with their human companions bring comfort and healing to those in need; and

Whereas, we encourage more pet owners to consider becoming Pet Partners volunteers to help our community by creating greater access to meaningful therapy animal visits; now, therefore:

Be it Resolved by the Medford City Council that we acknowledge April 30th, 2024 as "National Animal Therapy Day" and encourage our citizens to celebrate our therapy animals and their human handlers.

Be it Further Resolved that we publicly salute the service of therapy animal teams in our community and in communities across the nation.

Be it Further Resolved that we request that Mayor Lungo-Koehn issue a formal proclamation of "National Animal Therapy Day" in the City of Medford.

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

None



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

MEETING DATE

April 16, 2024

SPONSORED BY

AGENDA ITEM

24-080 - Amend Personnel Ordinance - Supervisor of Water & Sewer

FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION

I respectfully request and recommend that the City Council approve the following amendment to the Revised Ordinances Chapter 66 entitled "Personnel," Article II entitled "Reserved" (the city's "Classification and Compensation Plan)," formerly included as Art. II §§, 66-31—66-40, by adopting the following change:

The language of "PW-18" shall be amended to remove the following position and the language of "PW-19" be amended to include the following position:

"Supervisor of Water & Sewer"

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

- I. Ordinance Change_Water&SewerSupervisor_2024.04.16



**MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR BREANNA LUNGO-KOEHN**

April 10, 2024

Via Electronic Delivery

To the Honorable President and
Members of the Medford City Council
City Hall
Medford, MA 02155

Re: Personnel Ordinance

Dear Mr. President and Councilors:

I respectfully request and recommend that the City Council approve the following amendment to the Revised Ordinances Chapter 66 entitled "Personnel," Article II entitled "Reserved" (the city's "Classification and Compensation Plan)," formerly included as Art. II §§, 66-31—66-40, by adopting the following change:

The language of "PW-18" shall be amended to remove the following position and the language of "PW-19" be amended to include the following position:

"Supervisor of Water & Sewer"

The City has had this position posted at PW-18 for months and has not received any qualified applications. This proposed classification change would not require a supplemental appropriation.

Respectfully submitted,


Breanna Lungo-Koehn
Mayor

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – APRIL 16, 2024

Subject: Civility and professionalism in City Council meetings

Dear President Bears, Vice President Collins, Councilor Callahan, Councilor Tseng and Councilor Leming,

I am writing to express my appreciation for your amazing work as City Councilors that represent the trust that our electorate has placed in you. Your professionalism in handling the mob approach that a vocal minority who are attending some of the City Council meetings is very deeply appreciated. Please keep up your excellent work.

I would appreciate your reading my brief email out loud in the next Council meeting.

Sincerely,

Munir N. Jirmanus, Ph.D.
Physicist - Educator

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – APRIL 16, 2024

I wish this statement to be read into the record at the next City Council meeting:

I'm writing to express my gratitude and admiration for the city councilors, who, with one notable exception, manage to maintain their equilibrium in what has become a very contentious atmosphere. The six of you listen carefully, offer facts and explanations calmly, and refrain from defensiveness even when under attack from members of the public, and indeed even from one member of the council, whose behavior is inexcusable.

Rather than creating further division, you strive to find solutions, and persevere in doing what you can to improve things in Medford. I've watched you stand up to verbal abuse and false accusations week after week. The angry mob seems to expect you to fix everything, despite the fact that under our current charter, the council wields very little actual power. These folks have not taken the time to understand how our government works. Ignorance, however, is no excuse for personal attacks and disrespect for the rules of engagement as they currently stand.

Intelligent people can agree to disagree, and I for one wouldn't want to silence opposing viewpoints in any circumstance. When those viewpoints are expressed with respect, then they can be heard. No one can learn from someone who's shouting at them.

I appreciate the opportunity to express my views in writing, and encourage others with strong feelings to do the same.

*~Ellen Epstein
15 Grove Street
Medford*