



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

Resident Services and Public Engagement Committee, May 22, 2024

Voting Members

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

This meeting will take place at 7:00 P.M. **via Zoom only.**

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85767395675>

Call-in Number: +13052241968,,85767395675# 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

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

24-351 - Offered by Matt Leming, City Councilor

Resolution to Allow the Director of Veterans' Services to Offer Housing Incentives to Veteran Renters

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

Resolution to Publish City Council Newsletter

PAPERS IN COMMITTEE

To view Papers in Committee, please email ahurtubise@medford-ma.gov.

Adjournment



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

MEETING DATE

May 22, 2024

SPONSORED BY

Matt Leming, City Councilor

AGENDA ITEM

24-351 - Resolution to Allow the Director of Veterans' Services to Offer Housing Incentives to Veteran Renters

FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION

Whereas, veterans in the City of Medford need a place to live and are often discriminated against when searching for housing; now, therefore:

Be It Resolved that the Veterans' Services Director shall have the authority to offer available funds to entities that choose to rent to qualified veterans.

Be It Further Resolved that this be discussed with the Veterans' Services Director and the city's legal representation in committee.

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

- I. DIVISION_7.___DIRECTOR_OF_VETERANS__SERVICES

PART II - REVISED ORDINANCES
Chapter 2 - ADMINISTRATION
ARTICLE IV. - OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES
DIVISION 7. DIRECTOR OF VETERANS' SERVICES

DIVISION 7. DIRECTOR OF VETERANS' SERVICES¹

Sec. 2-761. Director; appointment.

There shall be a director of veterans' services who shall also be the graves officer. The director of veterans' services shall be appointed by the mayor. His appointment shall not be subject to M.G.L.A. c. 31.

(Rev. Ords. 1974, ch. 22, § 1; Ord. No. 535, § 1, 11-22-1988)

Sec. 2-762. Successor to agent for state military aid and soldiers' relief.

The director of veterans' services shall succeed to all the rights, powers and duties heretofore discharged by the veterans' agent in the city, and, for all purposes, he shall be deemed to be the successor of such agent. He shall disburse out of the amount appropriated by the city council such sums to the various applicants as he shall deem just, and shall perform the duties pertaining to such office in accordance with the provisions of general laws and subject to the supervision of the commissioner of veterans' services.

(Rev. Ords. 1974, ch. 22, § 2)

Sec. 2-763. Military historian.

The director of veterans' services shall be the military historian for the city and shall establish and maintain an accurate military record and history of all persons who are residents of the city serving in the armed forces during such periods of time as would entitle them to be classified as a "veteran" as defined in the general laws. He is authorized to obtain for and in the name of the city from all federal and state departments such information as may be necessary to compile the military records of citizens of the city required in this section.

(Rev. Ords. 1974, ch. 22, § 3)

Sec. 2-764. Veterans' graves officer.

The director of veterans' services shall also serve as the veterans' graves officer, and it shall be his duty to cause every veteran's grave within the city to be suitably kept and cared for and to otherwise perform the duties prescribed in M.G.L.A. c. 115, § 9.

(Rev. Ords. 1974, ch. 22, § 4)

Sec. 2-765. Housing incentives.

The director of veterans' services shall, at their discretion and as funds are available, have the authority to offer cash incentives of up to \$750 annually to landlords who offer rental housing to qualified veterans.

Secs. 2-76~~65~~—2-790. Reserved.

¹State law reference(s)—Appointment of veteran's benefits agent, M.G.L.A. c. 115, § 3.



Medford City Council
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MEETING DATE

May 22, 2024

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. 2024.5 Newsletter Draft

MEDFORD CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

MAY 2024

The Medford City Council has made some great strides in the past few weeks. We are excited to share what we have been working on in the Council Chambers.

To subscribe to future newsletters, email ssmirti@medford-ma.gov.

Commemorations and Acknowledgements:

- We passed a resolution congratulating members of the Center for Citizenship and Social Responsibility in 5th grade at the Brooks Elementary School for their ingenuity in completing a project to arm USPS letter carriers with safety whistles.
- We passed a resolution congratulating former Councilor Rick Caraviello on the Honor of being named the 2024 Citizen of the Year by the Medford Chamber of Commerce
- We passed a resolution congratulating Medford High School and Middle School orchestras for winning medals at the MICCA concert festival. The high school orchestra then performed two pieces at our May 14th regular meeting. They played beautifully!

General Business

- We have met many times in Committee of the Whole to hear city departments' budget proposals and a narrative about what each department has been up to over the past year. These meetings are a new practice for the city and they are the result of the budget ordinance that just became law this April, though we have been implementing the meetings ahead of the official finalizing of the ordinance.
- At the April 30th regular meeting, we approved extended hours for Snappy Patty's in West Medford Square, to stay open until 1am on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. This was approved with 30- and 60-day reviews.
- At the April 30th meeting, we passed a resolution to support state PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) legislation (S.1836/H.2963). This is popular legislation in Medford and many residents spoke in favor of the resolution.
- At the April 30th meeting, we approved the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate \$287,500 to phase II of the restoration of Thomas Brooks Park.
- At the April 30th meeting, the final vote was taken to make the budget ordinance law. This is very exciting! We love legislating!
- At the May 14th meeting, we approved extended hours for Pinky's Pizza on Fridays and Saturdays from 11pm to 12am, pending 30- and 60-day reviews.
- At the May 14th meeting, we approved the recommendations of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) administrator for the City of Medford to appropriate funds to organizations serving Medford residents. The organizations receiving CDBG funding this year are The Community Family, Magan Transport, Medford Council on Aging, Medford Public Schools, Mystic Valley YMCA/Mystic Community Market, S.C.M. Community Transportation, The Welcome Project, West Medford Community Center, Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD), and Housing Families. Not only is it gratifying to be able to support the good work of valuable community organizations in this way, but it is also nice that the Council and residents were able to hear from representatives from each organization during the Committee of the Whole on this topic.

We appreciate hearing about the good work that is being done by our partners in the community.

- Vice President Kit Collins presented the annual surveillance report per the Community Control over Public Surveillance (CCOPS) ordinance at the May 14th meeting.

Planning & Permitting Committee

- This committee has continued meeting regularly to discuss the overhaul of Medford's zoning with consulting firm Innes Associates.

Public Health & Community Safety Committee

- On April 9th the Committee met to review the 2023 Annual Surveillance Report offered by Chief Buckley. This report was on body-worn cameras, the only surveillance technology currently in operation in Medford. The program is successful so far and will be used more widely in the next phase of the program.

Public Works & Facilities Committee

- This Committee met on April 24th for a very comprehensive Pavement Management Plan Update. We appreciate hearing from the Department of Public Works and the Engineering Department on what measures are being taken to mitigate pavement deterioration and how upkeep is being done across the city.

Resident Services & Public Engagement Committee

- This Committee has been meeting regularly to hammer out the details of the City Council Social Media policy and the distribution plan for the newsletter. We also discussed how to make sure the listening sessions will reach as many groups of residents across the city as possible and established that the first City Council listening session will take place at the Medford Senior Center on May 31st at 10:00AM.
- At the May 14th regular meeting, we voted to send a paper to Committee on incentivizing landlords to rent apartments to qualified veterans.
- Councilor Justin Tseng presented a plan to modernize the Human Rights Commission's enabling ordinance.

Thank you very much,

Emily Lazzaro
Chair, Public Health & Community Safety Committee