

## **MEDFORD CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**

### **JUNE 2024**

Welcome to the Medford City Council's third newsletter! This past month, after hearing from many department heads, we passed a budget on an earlier timeframe than in previous years, showing the new budget ordinance in action. City Council meetings are now being livestreamed to Youtube. And, in a historic first, to address the budgetary needs of Medford, we elected to place three measures on the November ballot to address funding shortfalls with the Medford Public School system, build a new fire headquarters, and increase funding in the Department of Public Works to fix our roads and sidewalks.

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#### **Commemorations and Acknowledgements:**

- We passed a resolution commemorating Memorial Day
- We rescheduled our June 18th meeting in order to celebrate Juneteenth indoors due to the heat wave — thank you to DEI Director Frances Nwajei, the West Medford Community Center, Down by the Riverside, Inc., Glen David Andrews, and many others for organizing such a successful commemoration!
- We passed a resolution congratulating the organizers of Medford Porchfest
- We passed a resolution congratulating the graduates of Medford High School class of 2024
- We passed a resolution recognizing Jewish American Heritage Month
- We passed a resolution recognizing Asian American and Pacific Island Heritage Month

#### **General Business**

- At the June 11th meeting, we passed a resolution to recognize and discuss the Stop the Stigma Campaign, which humanizes our neighbors suffering from substance use disorder.
- At the June 11th meeting, we passed the City Budget of approximately \$218 million, in addition to \$1.75 million in ARPA funding for the Medford Public School system, bringing the total allocation for MPS to 77.75 million.
- At the June 11th meeting, we voted to place three measures on the ballot for the November elections: a Prop 2.5 Override for \$3.5 million, which will give \$3 million to level fund Medford Public Schools and \$500,000 to the Department of Public Works for more road and sidewalk repair staff; a Prop 2.5 Override for \$4 million that will allow for investment into arts and vocational programs to the Medford Public School System, as well as salaries for teachers and paraprofessionals; and a debt exclusion to fund a new headquarters for the Medford Fire Department.
- At the May 28th meeting, We heard an update from the Brooks Park Tenant Association, which is being evicted from their property on 208 Main Street and Brook Park Apartments.

#### **Administration & Finance Committee**

- At the May 21st meeting, we discussed the resolution for a commercial vacancy tax, a potential home rule petition, and mechanisms to disincentivize vacant commercial storefront properties in Medford.

**Planning & Permitting Committee**

- At the May 22nd meeting, we discussed the inclusion of Medford's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and Comprehensive Plan into the zoning overhaul.
- At the May 28th regular meeting, we passed the first round of zoning updates, including revisions to definitions around our Zoning code.
- At the June 12th committee meeting, we discussed Council priorities in the zoning updates with Innes Associates as well as the timelines for the zoning overhaul.

**Public Health & Community Safety Committee**

- We discussed the draft for the Wildlife feeding ordinance, focusing particularly on how to handle certain situations like leaving food out for trap, neuter, and release programs.

**Resident Services & Public Engagement Committee**

- We referred to this committee a resolution to create a residents' guide for City Council procedures and processes.

Thank you very much,

Zac Bears

Council President

Chair, Administration and Finance Committee