



City of Malden

Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Meeting Minutes - Final Rules & Ordinance Committee

Councillor Winslow, Chair
Councillor Linehan, Vice-Chair
Councillor Crowe
Councillor O'Malley
Councillor Taylor

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

5:30 PM

215 Pleasant Street
Room 105
Malden, MA 02148

Watch the meeting with Teams: <https://tinyurl.com/fcde9c7t>

Roll Call

Chair Winslow called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

Councillor O'Malley joined the meeting via video call at 5:40 PM. Any votes taken at this meeting after his arrival will be done so by roll call vote.

Also in attendance was Sgt. Jeffrey Drees, Christopher Mooney, Maria Luise, Dan Grover, Chuck Ranaghan and Councillor Condon.

Minutes to be Approved

[366-25](#)

Minutes for the meeting of September 30, 2025

A motion was made by Councillor Linehan, seconded by Councillor Taylor, that the Committee Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Business

Sergeant Jeffrey Drees from the Malden Police Department will appear before the Committee to report on the roll out of the newly created Do Not Knock Registry, which went live citywide on Tuesday, September 30.

Sergeant Jeffrey Drees reported that the initial response to the Do Not Knock registry was positive, but issues arose with the signage requirement. Many residents who are applying to have their names added to the registry are not in actual compliance with the letter of the ordinance due to the restrictive language required for a posted sign on the front of their houses. Most people have store bought signs or brass plaques that simply say, 'No Soliciting' but the ordinance requires the sign to specifically state, 'Commercial Canvassers and Solicitors are Prohibited'. Sgt. Drees noted the current requirement is causing enforcement challenges and negative feedback from the public on social media. Sgt. Drees' recommendation is to remove the sign requirement because in his opinion it is hindering the intent of the ordinance.

The MPD website does offer a PDF with the exact wording residents may print and hang but that won't stand up to the elements and is not aesthetically pleasing to the curb appeal of someone's home. There has additionally been negative feedback that this ordinance does not pertain to political door knocking. It is important to educate the

public that MGLs on commercial canvassers do not pertain to educational, religious, charitable, or political speech. Residents may choose to disallow those door knockers from being on their property but the government may not forbid them.

*Councillor Linehan is in support of dropping the signage requirement
Councillor Winslow is not in support of dropping the signage requirement. He thinks it important for residents to have some responsibility in their part of enforcing this ordinance.*

Councillor Crowe suggested keeping the sign requirement but dropping the restrictive language. Sgt. Drees' concern with mandating residents to post even the most generic 'No Soliciting' signs is that it could appear the local government is telling people to restrict all types of door knockers, not just commercial canvassers, which again goes back to the issue of those who are practicing protected speech.

The Chair asked if Councillors Linehan and Taylor could put some thought into an amendment paper to be discussed in further detail at a future meeting.

361-25

Be it ordained by the Malden City Council that the Code of the City of Malden (MCC) 2.24.015 DEPARTMENT HEAD SALARY SCHEDULE is hereby amended by adding the updated salary schedule chart effective July 1, 2025

Sponsors: Stephen Winslow

Attachments: [Dept Head Salary Schedule FY2026-2029](#)
[Current 2.24.015 Department Head Salary Schedule](#)

Discussion on this paper began with Controller Charles Ranaghan introducing the 3% COLA increase over the next three years per a negotiated MOU between the City and Teamsters Local 25 on behalf of the Department Head Bargaining Unit. The Department Head contract expired on June 30, 2025; this MOU is reflective of a three year extension through June 30, 2028 and affects 16 employees. 3% COLA increases are common to every employee across the city. This paper is not accompanied by the usual appropriation order because there is funding in the salary reserves account to cover the costs involved.

Councillor Winslow inquired if it is allowable for the Council to approve only one out of the three years this salary schedule represents. The city is able to fund this schedule in the current fiscal year but it is not clear if that will be so with future budgets. Controller Ranaghan noted that the contract signed was for a three year period; to do what Councillor Winslow is asking for would require the city to go back into negotiations with the union to gain consensus on a one year contract. Councillor Winslow inquired if the MOU effective date runs in conjunction with the Council approving the updated salary schedule ordinance. He further asked if the paper could be tabled pending legal input on if the city is able to review the salary schedule one year at a time.

Maria Luise noted for the Council that the administration has built a strategy moving forward for union negotiations, giving consideration to budget constraints, but this particular MOU has been in negotiations for six months and was prior to talks of tax overrides. Councillor Crowe asked if the city would be able to return to the negotiation table in the event the override does not pass. Controller Ranaghan noted the tax override is a separate issue because whether the override succeeds or not, there are eventually going to have to be budget cuts. That is something that will have to be discussed with

each union.

Councillor O'Malley was in support of holding off this vote until after hearing how the tax override question will unfold in Finance Committee.

A motion was made by Councillor Linehan, seconded by Councillor Crowe, that the Ordinance be tabled. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yea: 5 - Winslow, Councillor Linehan, Councillor Crowe, Councillor O'Malley and Councillor Taylor

275-25

Be it ordained by the Malden City Council that the Code of the City of Malden (MCC) 1.04.070 PROCEDURE FOR SELLING TAX TITLE PROPERTY is hereby amended by striking it in its entirety and inserting the following:

Sponsors: Stephen Winslow

Attachments: [Current 1.04.070 Procedure for Selling Tax Title Property](#)
[City Council Final Paper 271-13](#)

Treasurer Grover explained the purpose of this paper is to update the city's current tax title ordinance to come in line with revised state tax laws. The proposed ordinance also presents a more proactive approach for future tax title processes. The current ordinance requires a payment of \$600 as an application fee for the purchase of tax title property owned by the city. This is not legally allowed for tax title so the recommendation is to strike that fee. Current language mandating property taken through tax title be sold by public bid conflicts with state law. Properties may be sold at auction but only after it has been listed through MLS, which must be done within 180 days. Treasurer Grover submitted his proposed draft to the City Solicitor for initial review. Her feedback indicated this paper is a good starting point in which to open this dialogue with Council.

Councillor Winslow asked what happens in the event a property has greater taxes due than that of the appraised value and noted the city could retain the property. He said there are still a number of unanswered questions between the law and the courts to this end. He also said there are some properties the city would choose to retain for such projects as affordable housing or conservation land and asked how much of a time frame the committee may have to consider this paper. There are a number of properties in tax title the Council has asked to be designated as conservation but haven't yet gone through the process. Councillor Winslow would like a clear path on how that would be accomplished.

There is no immediate need to approve this paper tonight, this conversation was meant to be a starting point for discussion. Regarding the question of retaining property, one thing to consider is what the city intends to do with the property if it is retained. If the assessed value of a property is less than what is owed in taxes and fees, then it may be considered a loss but the Treasurer has never seen that be the case.

Councillor Winslow asked the Legal Department to review the proposed ordinance and come back to committee when they are ready to offer advice on how to proceed.

A motion was made by Councillor Linehan, seconded by Councillor Taylor, that the Ordinance be tabled. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yea: 5 - Winslow, Councillor Linehan, Councillor Crowe, Councillor O'Malley and Councillor Taylor

Adjournment

**A motion was made by Councillor Crowe, seconded by Councillor O'Malley, that this meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:
Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.**

Yea: 5 - Winslow, Councillor Linehan, Councillor Crowe, Councillor O'Malley and Councillor Taylor

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