

Let me start by thanking my colleagues for your confidence in choosing me to lead this distinguished body for 2023. I'm honored to have this opportunity,

As I thought about what I want my legacy as council President to be, I kept coming back to one word: FOCUS. This is a vibrant and busy city. Our role as the legislative body is an important one, and yet one that we are expected to fulfill while working full time jobs or otherwise leading busy lives. Therefore, it requires us to really focus on those elements where we can have the greatest impact, that fit within our mission and do so in the most efficient way possible. I truly believe that focus plus goals will equal results. It is in that spirit that I'll share with you my 2023 committee assignments and some associated thoughts.

You'll first notice that I have organized the committee listing into three categories that recognizes we have committees that can be vastly different in their purpose.

- Standing Committees are those required by our City Council rules; they exist year to year and have for many years.
- Ad Hoc committees are those created by either the City Council or the Mayor with a specific purpose in mind. These generally aren't permanent committees but rather exist until the end goal is accomplished.
- Ordinance driven committees are those that are created by our ordinances and have city council representation but are not entirely made up of city councillors.

In making up the committee assignments, I started by consolidating some ad hoc committees into other existing committees. We have a public works standing committee, a parks and recreation ad-hoc committee, a parks restoration and maintenance ad-hoc committee and a forestry ad-hoc committee. Pulling these ad hoc committees under the standing committee which is responsible for parks will help consolidated our focus and allow fewer conflicts in reaching meeting quorums. Where I saw similar opportunities to streamline our organization, I've done that. I've had many conversations with my colleagues over the past week, and have worked to balance their strengths, interests and experience with my committee assignments that will provide thoughtful and diverse discussion.

From a macro perspective as your council president, I start with three goals that if accomplished would leave a lasting legacy on the city for years to come:

1. Deliver a charter and ordinance reform package to modernize and otherwise clean up our dated structure.
2. Identify actionable steps from the Financial Strategic Planning committee that will address those topics that will make or break the city in years to come.
3. Pass a new set of City Council rules that incorporates important changes in the use of technology for meetings and establishes operating principles that ensure we always conduct the people's business with respect.

Following that lead, I'm going to ask that the chair of each committee share with our Clerk of Committees anywhere from 1 to 5 goals/priorities or initiatives for the upcoming year. I recognize that

each committee is addressing different topics with vastly different scope, so will leave it to the Chair to decide the right number of goals. I ask that you send those lists by end of day Thursday, January 12th, so that Lisa can put them together and share at our council meeting on January 17th. I know this is a new concept but, I strongly believe doing so will help keep us focused when things get busy and other priorities come calling.

A couple of examples that come to mind based upon conversations I've had. Councillor Crowe, over the years has shared her desire to make sure we have the appropriate resources and policy in place to ensure that the smaller but no less important cemeteries in the City get the attention they deserve. This could be a priority of the Cemetery Committee. Similarly, Councillor McDonald recently shared his desire as a member of the personnel appointments committee to review our outreach efforts to ensure we are doing all we can to attract and recruit members for both city positions and boards and commissions that truly represent the diversity of the community. Each of these as accomplished goals would be worthy of our time and tangible in their impact.

Finally, you might notice that the last years Age Friendly Committee and the Intercultural Competency and Awareness Committee are not on the list. After discussion with councillors that Chair or sit on these committees it was apparent that framework is not working as anticipated. We agreed we should put the committees on hold for the moment to discuss the best way to move forward with these initiatives.

With all that being said, let me walk through the 2023 Malden City Council committee assignments.....