

PARKS AND RECREATION

Goals:

Modernize the language relative to the oversight, regulation and policy setting of our public parks and recreation facilities by removing this responsibility from the Public Works Commission. Responsibility for parks and recreation will fall under a newly established Parks and Recreation Commission, which shall also assume responsibilities currently assigned to the Stadium Commission. Charter language relative to the Stadium Commission shall also be removed from the Charter. The Parks and Recreation Commission shall become part of City Ordinances and not the charter.

Public Works Commission language is contained within sections 20 and 21 of the Malden Charter, titled “Superintendent of Public Works, City Engineer, Public Works Commission”. It makes sense to address this entire section and integrate replacement language for all relevant functions into City Ordinances. Those are addressed later. Specific to Parks and Recreation, the summary of the proposed changes is as follows:

- Remove from the City Charter language related to the Public Works Commission (Sections 20 and 21) and language related to the Stadium Commission (Section 23C).
- Add language to City Ordinances relative to the establishment, responsibility and appointment of a Parks and Recreation Commission.

Current Language:

Sections 20 & 21 of the Malden City Charter contain language relative to the above and are attached for your reference.

Action Steps:

- 1.) Repeal in its entirety Section 20, 21 and 23C of the Malden Charter.
- 2.) Update existing Ordinance on Stadium Commission; rename and reconstitute duties with language that follows.

Proposed Updated Ordinance Section 2.16.140: Parks and Recreation Commission
(Renamed: Formerly Stadium Commission)

A. Established

There shall be a Parks & Recreation Commission consisting of 5 members, appointed by the Mayor to serve for a term of three years and subject to confirmation by the City Council. The Recreation Director and staff shall provide professional support to the Body, provide communication to the Ward Councillors, and issuance of compliance and permits.

B. Authorities and Responsibilities

1. The Parks & Recreation Commission manages all city parks, stadiums, playing fields and playgrounds, and ~~determines~~ reviews and approves the design and location of playing fields, athletic courts and playground equipment provided for use by residents.
2. The Parks & Recreation Commission establishes fees for permits for use of its fields and promulgates regulations for the use of fields, parks, stadiums and other recreational facilities under its control.
3. The Commission coordinates with the Department of Public Works to provide for the maintenance of parks and playgrounds, the preparation of fields for scheduled activities and equipping of playgrounds.
4. The Commission advises the Recreation Coordinator on development of a comprehensive plan to make recreational activities, programs, events and facilities available to residents.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION AND ENGINEERING

Goals:

With the changes to section 20 and 21 related to the Parks and Recreation updates, it makes sense to modernize the approach to Public Works and Engineering Departments and remove all language relative to their organization and appointments and replace with language in City Ordinances consistent with most other departments and appointments, while at the same time expanding the existing section within City Ordinances (2.16.120) relative to the Public Works Commission and add language to make this complete given the recommended removal from the Charter of the entire section.

Current Language:

Sections 20 & 21 of the Malden City Charter contain language relative to the above and are attached for your reference.

Action Steps:

- 1.) Repeal in its entirety Section 20, 21 and 23C of the Malden Charter (repeated from above).
- 2.) Approve updates to existing sections 2.12.100 (Public Works) and 2.12.110 (Engineering) within City Ordinances, which livens with the approval of the removal from the Charter of sections 20 and 21. Proposed language follows.
- 3.) Approve updates to existing section 2.16.12 of City Ordinances relative to the Public Works Commission, which livens with the approval of the removal from the Charter of sections 20 and 21. Proposed language follows.

Proposed Updated Ordinance Section 2.12.100: Department of Public Works

Update EXISTING section 2.12.100 and replace with the following:

A. Established

There shall be a Department of Public Works under the supervision of a Director of Public Works who shall be appointed to a term of three years by the Mayor, with City Council approval.

B. Authorities and Responsibilities

1. The Department provides for the routine maintenance and repair of roads, sidewalks, street lights and traffic signals, and drainage facilities.

2. The Department sweeps roads, storm drain covers, and public parking lots and removes snow and ice from roads and sidewalks abutting city owned properties.

3. The Department manages solid waste programs including trash disposal, recycling and yard waste, and the placement and maintenance of city owned trash barrels.

4. The Department maintains open spaces and unimproved lands owned by the city, equips and maintains playgrounds and, in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Commission, provides for the maintenance, preparation and improvement of all city parks.

5. The Department plants and maintains trees, and ornamental shrubs along roadways and active and passive recreation areas subject to review and approval by the Tree Warden.

Proposed Updated Ordinance Section 2.12.110: Engineering Department

Update EXISTING section 2.12.110 and replace with the following:

A. Established

There shall be an Engineering Department under the supervision of a City Engineer, who shall be appointed by the Mayor subject to confirmation by the City Council to serve for a term of three years.

B. Authorities and Responsibilities

1. The Department has custody of all plans relating to public works and improvements, including streets, water and sewer lines, bridges and drains.
2. The Department reviews plans and administers contracts for capital improvements to street, sidewalks and water and sewer mains, drainage systems, and any other related city infrastructure.
3. The Department establishes rules and regulations for connection to municipal water, sewer and drainage systems and approves the location of connections.
4. The Department maintains hydrants, standpipes, street fountains and all other city-owned connections with the water system. (DISCUSS) Strike and add to Water Department
5. The Department provides for installation and maintenance of water meters, monitors the usage of metered water and provides monthly records of water usage to the Treasurer.
6. The Department provides technical and administrative support to the Conservation Commission and the Public Works Commission.

Proposed Updated Ordinance Section 2.12.120: Public Works Commission

Update EXISTING section 2.12.120 and replace with the following:

A. Established

There shall be a Public Works Commission consisting of three members, appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the City Council, to serve for a term of three years.

B. Authorities and Responsibilities

1. Establish water and sewer rates and hears and decides all applications for abatement of water and sewer charges.
- ~~2. Promulgates rules and regulations for the planting and care of public shade trees by the city and adjacent property owners; develops a Community Forestry Program to provide for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of public shade trees.~~
- ~~3.~~2. Maintains public ways and sidewalks and promulgates rules and regulations for the same.
- ~~4.~~3. Works in concert with the Parks & Recreation Commission to plan for and provide for the maintenance of playgrounds.
- ~~5. Have charge for the lighting of streets and all appropriations therefor.~~
4. The Commission may accept or discontinue use of public ways and may assess betterments on abutters to improvements to any public or private way.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Goals:

Modernize the language relative to the organization and administration of the Police Department to reflect actual and best practices. Remove the 1915 language from the Charter and replace with modernized language within City ordinances consistent with all other City departments.

Current Language:

Currently all language relative to the Police Department, the Police Chief and the Police Commissioner is contained within the Charter. It originates from 1915 and the last change to it was made in 1955. A copy of the current Charter language follows this section.

Action Steps:

- 1.) Repeal in its entirety Section 23A of the Malden Charter.
- 2.) Approve a new section 2.12.165 to City Ordinances, which lives with the approval of the removal from the Charter of the prior language with the following.

Proposed New Ordinance Section 2.12.165- Police Department

A. Established

There shall be a Police Department, commanded by a Chief of Police, who shall be appointed for a term of three years by the Mayor. The Chief of Police shall enter into an employment contract with the City for a period not to exceed three years, subject to renewal at the Mayor's discretion.

The Chief of Police shall be the chief executive officer of the Department and the departmental authority in all matters of policy, operations and discipline. ~~He/she~~They exercises all lawful powers of ~~his/her~~their office and issues such lawful orders as are necessary to assure the effective performance of the Department and shall have all other authorities and responsibilities provided by law to municipal Police Chiefs and as outlined in the Malden Police Department Accreditation manual.

The Chief of Police makes recommendations to the Mayor, who shall be the appointing authority, for hires and promotions of all departmental personnel in accordance with civil service guidelines, union contract or city ordinances.

There shall be a Police Commissioner who shall be appointed for a term of three years by the Mayor. ~~The Police Commissioner shall serve in a civilian role and shall have none of the powers, access or authority vested in sworn Police Officers.~~

~~The Police Commissioner shall be a departmental ambassador to the public in educating and engaging the Malden public in the requirements of civil service and the process of becoming a Police Officer. The Police Commissioner shall bear witness to the swearing in of newly hired or newly promoted officers.~~

~~The Police Commissioner shall be the primary department liaison to the Police Community Advisory Committee and shall coordinate actions and updates with the Chief of Police on the same.~~

~~The Police Commissioner shall bear witness to the swearing in of newly hired or newly promoted officers.~~ The Police Commissioner shall be the hearing officer and hear appeals to suspensions, demotions or removal of departmental personnel by the Police Chief and make a written report to the Mayor with a recommendation for action.

~~The Police Commissioner shall be a departmental ambassador to the public in educating and engaging the Malden public in the requirements of civil service and the process of becoming a Police Officer. The Police Commissioner shall bear witness to the swearing in of newly hired or newly promoted officers.~~

~~The Police Commissioner shall be the primary department liaison to the Police Community Advisory Committee and shall coordinate actions and updates with the Chief of Police on the same.~~

~~The Police Commissioner shall serve in a civilian role and shall have none of the powers, access or authority vested in sworn Police Officers.~~

B. Authorities and Responsibilities

1. The Police Department is responsible for the protection of life and property, the preservation of peace, order and safety of residents.
2. The Department attempts to prevent crime and to detect and arrest offenders.
3. The Department investigates criminal incidents and is empowered to enforce laws and ordinances through arrest or prosecution of offenders.
4. The Chief of Police issues licenses and permits for firearms and makes recommendation to the Mayor on individuals to be appointed as constables and special police officers.

Supervision of Animal Control Officer

The Animal Control Officer is appointed by the Mayor and works under the supervision of the Chief of Police. The Animal Control Officer enforces laws and ordinances relative to the keeping, handling, management, and control and licensing of animals in the city.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Note: make fire department changes similar to police changes.

Goals:

Modernize the language relative to the organization and administration of the Fire Department to reflect actual and best practices by removing the 1910 language from the Charter and replacing it with modernized language within City ordinances consistent with all other City departments.

Current Language:

Currently all language relative to the Fire Department, the Fire Chief and the Fire Commissioner is contained within the Charter. It originates from 1910 and the last change appears to be from 1957. A copy of the current Charter language follows this section.

Action Steps:

- 3.) Repeal in its entirety Section 16 of the Malden Charter.
- 4.) Add a section 2.12.115 to City Ordinances with the following language.

Proposed New Ordinance Section 2.12.115- Fire Department

A. Established

There shall be a Fire Department, commanded by a ~~Police~~-Fire Chief, who shall be appointed for a term of three years by the Mayor. The Fire Chief shall enter into an employment contract with the City for a period not to exceed three years, subject to renewal at the Mayor's discretion.

The Fire Chief makes recommendations to the Mayor, who shall be the appointing authority, for hires and promotions of all departmental personnel in accordance with civil service guidelines, union contract or city ordinances.

The Fire Chief shall be responsible for all policy making, organization, supervision and management of the Fire Department and have all other authorities and responsibilities provided by law to municipal Fire Chiefs.

There shall be a Fire Commissioner who shall be appointed for a term of three years by the Mayor. The Fire Commissioner shall serve in a civilian role and shall have none of the powers, access or authority vested in sworn Firefighters.

The Fire Commissioner shall be an ambassador to the public in educating and engaging the public in the requirements of civil service and the process of becoming a Firefighter. The Fire Commissioner shall be the hearing officer and hear appeals to suspensions, demotion or removal of departmental personnel by the Fire Chief and make a written report to the Mayor with a recommendation for action. The Fire Commissioner shall bear witness to the swearing in of newly hired or newly promoted officers.

B. Authorities and Responsibilities

1. The Fire Department takes all necessary steps to extinguish fires and mitigate incendiary conditions within the city, including the demolition of any building or structure and the removal of any obstruction for the purpose of preventing or extinguishing fires or incendiary conditions.
2. The Department functions as first responders to calls for medical aid and assists in the reestablishment of order in the event of civil disturbance, disaster or riot or other emergency.
3. The Department maintains a record of all fires that occur within the City requiring the services of the Department.
4. The Department carries out the terms and provisions of all fire service agreements entered into with other governmental units.
5. The Department investigates the causes of all fires and provides written reports of all suspected arson.

6. The Department includes a Fire Prevention Bureau, which inspects all buildings and structures as provided for by the State Fire Code and provides for the issuance and renewal of certificates of compliance with state Board of Fire Prevention regulations.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Goals:

Modernize the language relative to the policy making and oversight for all matters related to transportation. Remove the 1950's language from the Charter relative to the Traffic Commission and replace with modernized language within City ordinances consistent with other City Boards and Commissions.

Action Steps:

- 1.) Repeal in its entirety Section 23D of the Malden Charter.
- 2.) Add a section 2.12.15 to City Ordinances with the following.

Proposed New Ordinance Section 2.12.15: Transportation Commission

A. Established

There shall be a Transportation Commission consisting of seven members as follows: the Chief of Police or their representative, the City Engineer, the Director of Parking, (OSPCD Director OR Trans Planner?????), ~~a Councillor At Large designated annually by the City Council President, Director of Inspectional Services (or designee)~~ and two residents appointed by the Mayor to serve for a term of three years.

C. Authorities and Responsibilities

1. Promotes the safe and efficient use of public spaces dedicated to travel and parking through the establishment of policies and practices that encourage multiple modes of transportation and that take into account the varying needs of all users of public travel spaces in Malden.
2. Establishes rules and regulations for the movement, restriction of movement, stopping or standing of vehicles on, and their exclusion from, all or any streets, municipal public parking places, ways, highways, roads and parkways, under the control of the city.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Parking Director, approves all fees related to parking meters, parking lots, and parking garages, as well as any permit programs administered by the Parking Department.
4. Approves traffic signs, signals, markings and other devices for the control of traffic in the city and for informing ~~drivers~~ all road users of rules, regulations and prohibitions.
- ~~5.~~ 6. Reviews and approves requests from MBTA for any modifications to city public travel spaces.