REGULAR CITY COUNCIL SESSION

MALDEN CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2026 — 6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL—607 N DOUGLASS ST

Mayor Denton Kooyman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with Randy Vaughn from Sunnyvale General Baptist Church conducting the opening prayer.

ROLL CALL:	PRESENT	ABSENT
Council Member White	X	
Council Member Santie	X	
Council Member Cooper	X	
Council Member VACANT		X
Council Member Jenkins	X	
Council Member Grant	X	
Council Member Dierks	X	
Council Member Beckett	X	
Members Present		7

Others Attending: City Administrator/Utility Director Jeff Mitchell, DED/Airport Director Tara Smothers, Deputy DPS Director Tiffany Pflasterer, City Attorney Jonce Chidister and City Clerk Jessie Cobb.

GUEST- PAM WHITE, DIRECTOR OF NUTRITION CENTER

Pam White, Director of the Malden Nutrition Center, provided an update. She reported challenges including failure to gather enough signatures for a proposed county tax, loss of funding ($30,179 for June and another $30,179 for FY 2027), and operational difficulties at the Campbell Nutrition Center. Ms. White noted current daily meal service of approximately 55–75 meals (including deliveries), with about 42 Medicaid deliveries. She highlighted community pledges and grants totaling $66,823.30 in savings (untouched so far) and expressed hope that the governor would sign legislation increasing Medicaid meal reimbursement rates effective July 1. The city continues to support the Center with utilities and maintenance. Questions were asked regarding meal volumes, waiting lists, Medicaid processes, and spend-down requirements. The council thanked Ms. White for the update.

15 MINUTE OPEN FORUM

Donna Pringer spoke regarding the donation of an old animal control van to her organization for spay/neuter efforts. The council indicated the item would be placed on the next agenda after verification of the organization's 501(c)(3) status.

Travis Parker (605 W. Main) reported trespassing on the empty lot next to his property and a potential safety hazard (open hole) near the park. The Administrator agreed to investigate more patrolling, getting cameras, and the hazard.

Brian Vent (1317 Merritt) and Dale Heck (1315 Merritt) raised serious concerns about the Voyage Healthcare residential facility. Issues included trespassing, loitering, public intoxication, harassment of residents (including minors and elderly), and safety risks. They requested stronger enforcement, possible licensing complaints to the Missouri Division of Health and Senior Services, and council support.

The council and City Administrator acknowledged limitations on regulating a licensed business but encouraged documenting incidents with police and filing complaints with the state licensing agency. The Administrator agreed to research options and report back. Additional noise complaints (loud vehicles/music) were also noted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. **Approval of Regular City Council Session Minutes of May 18, 2026**

MOTION: By Council Member Jenkins to approve the Regular Council Session Minutes of May 18,2026.
SECOND: By Council Member Beckett.

Motion Passed 7/0

MAY 2026 FINANCIALS

The City Administrator reported that Sharon Potts and Cathy Merritt have nearly completed reconciliation of financials, expected by the end of the month.

ORDINANCES

a. **Ordinance No. 3310-** An Ordinance amending Section 110.270 of the Malden City Code to provide for two regular meetings per month of the City Council; providing for the repeal of conflicting ordinances; and providing for an effective date.

MOTION: By Council Member Santie to approve the **1st reading** of **ORDINANCE NO. 3310**– An Ordinance amending Section 110.270 of the Malden City Code to provide for two regular meetings per month of the City Council; providing for the repeal of conflicting ordinances; and providing for an effective date.
SECOND: By Council Member Jenkins.

POLL VOTE ----- MOTION PASSES **7- YES** **0 - NO**

Council Member VACANT	----	Council Member Jenkins	YES
Council Member Cooper	YES	Council Member Grant	YES
Council Member Santie	YES	Council Member Dierks	YES
Council Member White	YES	Council Member Beckett	YES

MOTION: By Council Member Santie to approve the **2nd reading** of **ORDINANCE NO. 3310**– An Ordinance amending Section 110.270 of the Malden City Code to provide for two regular meetings per month of the City Council; providing for the repeal of conflicting ordinances; and providing for an effective date.
SECOND: By Council Member Beckett.

POLL VOTE ----- MOTION PASSES **7 - YES** **0 - NO**

Council Member VACANT	-----	Council Member Jenkins	YES
Council Member Cooper	YES	Council Member Grant	YES
Council Member Santie	YES	Council Member Dierks	YES
Council Member White	YES	Council Member Beckett	YES

b. **Ordinance No. 3311-** An Ordinance amending chapter 115 of the Municipal Code of the City of Malden, Missouri, by authorizing the combined appointive office of Deputy City Clerk/Municipal Court Clerk, providing for a separation and duties thereof, providing for the repeal of all contrary ordinances, and providing for an effective date.

MOTION: By Council Member Jenkins to approve the **1st reading of ORDINANCE NO. 3311** – An Ordinance amending chapter 115 of the Municipal Code of the City of Malden, Missouri, by authorizing the combined appointive office of Deputy City Clerk/Municipal Court Clerk, providing for a separation and duties thereof, providing for the repeal of all contrary ordinances, and providing for an effective date.

SECOND: By Council Member Santie.

POLL VOTE ----- MOTION PASSES **7 - YES** **0 - NO**

Council Member VACANT	-----	Council Member Jenkins	YES
Council Member Cooper	YES	Council Member Grant	YES
Council Member Santie	YES	Council Member Dierks	YES
Council Member White	YES	Council Member Beckett	YES

MOTION: By Council Member Jenkins to approve the **2nd reading** of **ORDINANCE NO. 3311**– An Ordinance amending chapter 115 of the Municipal Code of the City of Malden, Missouri, by authorizing the combined appointive office of Deputy City Clerk/Municipal Court Clerk, providing for a separation and duties thereof, providing for the repeal of all contrary ordinances, and providing for an effective date.
SECOND: By Council Member Beckett.

POLL VOTE ----- MOTION PASSES **7 - YES** **0 - NO**

Council Member VACANT	-----	Council Member Jenkins	YES
Council Member Cooper	YES	Council Member Grant	YES
Council Member Santie	YES	Council Member Dierks	YES
Council Member White	YES	Council Member Beckett	YES

HR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Approval of updated job classifications (including adjustments for employees already above prior caps and revision to City Administrator range) and the combined Deputy Clerk/Municipal Court Clerk job description.
MOTION: By Council Member Jenkins to accept the recommendations of the HR Committee.
SECOND: By Council Member Santie.

Motion Passed 7/0

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

a. City of Malden / BPW Budget for FY 2026–2027

The Administrator presented the budget, noting it was slightly lower than the prior year with adjustments for the combined clerk positions and other items. Additional discussion on parks/ground maintenance funding reallocation (increasing one employee's pay for ballfield maintenance while reducing street department park allocation percentage).
MOTION: By Council Member Jenkins to approve the City of Malden/BPW budget for FY 2026-2027 as presented.
SECOND: By Council Member Beckett.

Motion Passed 7/0

b. City of Malden Airport Budget for FY 2026-2027

Presented separately per FAA requirements.
MOTION: By Council Member Becket to approve the City of Malden Airport Budget for FY 2026-2027 as presented.
SECOND: By Council Member White.

Motion Passed 7/0

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – TASER PURCHASE

Request to use insurance proceeds ($11,000 from a wrecked vehicle) to purchase three replacement tasers due to out-of-service units and rising costs.
MOTION: By Council Member Santie to approve the purchase of three tasers with insurance proceeds.
SECOND: By Council Member Jenkins. **Motion Passed 7/0**

BECKWITH PARK & COTTON BOWL PARK

Authorization for the City Administrator to negotiate the sale of Cotton Bowl Park and Beckwith Park (with potential buyer identified) and return to council with terms. BPW owns portions of Cotton Bowl Park. Concerns raised about the bandstand/gazebo and future relocation options.

MOTION: By Council Member Santie authorizing the City Administrator to negotiate the sale of Cotton Bowl Park and Beckwith Park and return to council with terms.

SECOND: By Council Member Jenkins. **Motion Carried 7/0**

REQUEST FOR STOP SIGN AND CHILDREN AT PLAY SIGN ON HOWARD STREET

Tabled for further information on specific location.

REQUEST FOR SPEED BUMP ON OHIO STREET

Tabled; longstanding city policy against speed bumps due to snow plowing and maintenance issues was discussed.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

None

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Updates on upcoming water project, fireworks planning, splash pad progress (target completion end of month), and negotiations to sell power plant capacity (potential significant revenue over 4 years without impacting city generation needs). The mayor affirmed that there are no plans to sell the power plant.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

Council Member Beckett-

- Inquired about the current contract with the golf course operator (Asymmetric Solutions).
- Raised concerns about numerous potholes throughout the city, noting some are 5–6 inches deep. The City Administrator responded that patching work had begun but crews were also involved with the splash pad project.
- Mentioned ongoing brown water and strong chlorine odor issues at certain addresses (e.g., 1315 Merritt), including effects on plumbing and laundry. The Administrator agreed to investigate flushing hydrants and test water quality in affected areas. The Administrator also suggested postponing major street paving until the water line improvement project is further along to avoid cutting newly paved roads.

Council Member Dierks- None

Council Member Grant- None

Council Member Jenkins-

- Inquired about capacity limits when renting individual sections of the auditorium. The City Clerk noted it is typically around 50 people per section depending on setup (chairs vs. tables) and offered to provide details from the rental agreement.
- Expressed concerns about parking lot regulations, noting that residential properties face stricter enforcement than some businesses.
- Questioned the policy of not allowing partial payments on utility bills through DAEOC assistance and reported perceived poor customer service at the BPW office. The City Administrator explained billing cycle considerations and acknowledged complaints but noted challenges with public interactions. Discussion followed about potential improvements, including recording calls and office interactions for accountability.
- Mentioned an upcoming free fruit/vegetable distribution event (30 boxes) with MBRC and requested it be promoted.

Council Member Cooper- None

Council Member Santie- Requested that the City Administrator investigate options and costs for televising or live-streaming council meetings on YouTube to improve public access and transparency. The Administrator noted previous review of costs and that recordings are posted to the website shortly after meetings.

Council Member White- Reported complaints about low-hanging tree limbs on multiple streets (including Charlotte Street), which are causing damage to vehicles and forcing school buses and drivers to maneuver around them. The City Administrator agreed to have crews inspect and trim problematic branches.

MAYOR'S REPORT

•Ward 1 Council Vacancy-The mayor had previously nominated Vivian Stone to fill the Ward 1 vacancy. She initially accepted but later withdrew, deciding she could better serve her community as a liaison rather than as a formal council member. The seat remains vacant. The position can remain vacant until the next election or until a suitable candidate is found. The mayor will continue seeking a qualified individual who is committed to serving the broader community. He noted he does not want to overburden the remaining Ward 1 council member.

•Upcoming Meeting Schedule- Regular City Council Meeting is Monday, July 6, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the Auditorium. Parks Board Meeting is Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 5:30 PM in Auditorium 2 and Board of Public Works (BPW) Meeting is Tuesday, June 30, 2026, at 5:00 PM in the Northeast Room.

•Community Events & Celebrations- U.S. 250th Birthday: There have been public inquiries about city involvement. The city is not planning a large, dedicated event. The 4th of July celebration will include some signage recognizing the milestone, but nothing beyond that is currently scheduled. Malden's 150th Birthday (April 22, 2028)- The Mayor is prioritizing this as a major city milestone. Plans discussed involve having approximately 12 local businesses in monthly events or activities leading up to the date. A large culminating celebration around the anniversary (potentially including fireworks and other festivities).

• The mayor is seeking volunteers for a Planning Committee (council members and community members). Anyone interested should contact him.

OTHER BUSINESS DEEMED NECESSARY

None

With no other business deemed necessary, a motion to adjourn was entertained.

MOTION: by Council Member Santie to adjourn the Regular Council Session of June 15, 2026, at 8:26pm.
SECOND: by Council Member White.

Motion Passed 7/0

ATTEST:

Jessie Cobb – City Clerk/City Collector

Denton Kooyman – Mayor