

Ryan Osada

From: Jessica Rossman
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 12:09 PM
To: Jeff Swanson; Jennifer Robertson; Randy Reeves; Ryan Osada; Dawn Nations
Cc: Mac Johnston
Subject: Fw: Leaf Blowers

Chronology of leaf blower directions below, for use in preparing meeting materials.

MAC — Including you for one-way FYI as the author of the most recent email on this subject. Please do not reply.

From: Jessica Rossman <jrossman@medina-wa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 3:52 PM
To: Jeff Swanson <JSwanson@medina-wa.gov>
Cc: Jennifer Robertson <jrobertson@insleebest.com>
Subject: Leaf Blowers

Hi Jeff, Thanks for the chat yesterday.

And hi Jennifer, I'm adding you because I realized that you joined Medina after a lot of the leaf blower conversation had already taken place, and I don't know how much of this background you have.

This is my effort to figure out how to re-establish some continuity in the city's efforts to manage leaf blower impacts, and how to make sure there are no surprises in the conversation when next Council next discusses the issues. Per my conversation with Jeff, I'm trying to provide some of the relevant documents & background, especially the Resolution, to give context to my questions.

Before the Council adopted the resolution, we had a lot of discussion about the need for public education. Council directed an education and outreach plan in fall

2022: <https://mccmeetings.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/medinawa-pubu/MEET-Minutes-e2e231fc1037486fb16479552ef4e7d0.pdf>

MEDINA, WASHINGTON

MEDINA, WASHINGTON MEDINA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING Hybrid - Virtual/In-Person Monday, November 14, 2022 – 5:00 PM MINUTES 1. REGULAR MEETING - CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

mccmeetings.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net

Then, we talked about what that would look like:

<https://mccmeetings.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/medinawa-pubu/MEET-Packet-240002469a564385b2b24e74d15c9a5a.pdf>

We got as far as staff reporting development of a webpage. Here is a summary from the 4/10/23 in the City Manager Report:

"Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Education Plan – City staff has created an education and resource page on the city's website. This page includes an introduction to what Medina is looking into, FAQ's, and links to other cities that have banned or are considering a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers. This is part of the education and outreach regarding gas-powered leaf blowers that the Council directed to staff. City staff will be holding an Open House at City Hall on May 11, 2023, from 5pm to 6:30pm. Staff is working on a survey that will go out city wide to get feedback regarding resident opinion about gas-powered leaf blower restrictions."

Source: <https://mccmeetings.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/medinawa-pubu/MEET-Packet-5d727abd42f94986b4708c4699a4e86e.pdf>

Then, the city also moved forward with other things: an open house, a survey, eventually Resolution 435 (which was discussed in summer 2023 and passed on consent at 9/11/2023 meeting). Here's a link to the resolution.

<https://library.municode.com/wa/medina/munidocs/munidocs?nodeId=62391af19819a>

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Which brings me to my present day concern: there's a desire to move forward with an ordinance along the lines of the phase-out specified in the Resolution. I had thought the outreach, education and info efforts were intended to be ongoing — to be of service to the community, provide objective information, help reduce issues & conflict, and keep residents up to date on any additional conversations the Council has on the subject. And also to make sure the City moved step-by-step toward the phase-out date in the Resolution in a transparent way. However, as far as I can tell, none of the City's education/outreach/update work on this issue has been ongoing. I can't find anything by searching the city website for "gas" or "lawn" or "blower". I can't find (and don't remember) any formal reporting on the City's efforts to implement Resolution 435, or anywhere that's being tracked.

There's a really long history and a lot of city work on this subject that I'm truncating here. Yet tracing just this much has taken me at least an hour — and that's despite having a pretty good memory of what happened.

In fact, the city's efforts to grapple with the health & noise impacts of leaf blowers started back when Sauerwein was Manager. He led a community forum to hear concerns on both sides that turned out to be an interesting conversation in which different viewpoints heard each other more than usual and engaged with each other's concerns (I think the recording was posted on the website for a while). If I recall correctly, the forum was online in June 2021 and he did a presentation to Council the following

Fall. Then Sauerwein left, and there was a pause, and eventually we picked back up with Burns about a year later in 2022.

I'm raising this well in advance of future discussions on potential leaf blower regulation because it's going to be important to me to be able to ask about it in those future meetings.

Happy to discuss.

Thank you,
Jessica

Jessica L. Rossman
Mayor, Medina City Council
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9.5 Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers Follow-Up Brief
Recommendation: Discussion and direction.
Staff Contact: Stephen R. Burns, City Manager

City Manager Steve Burns gave a presentation on research staff did on gas-powered leaf blowers. Council discussed, asked questions, and staff responded.

ACTION: By Consensus, Council directed staff to move forward with the following action items:

Plan 1 - Public awareness, education, outreach and input specific to the current noise code.

Plan 2 - Draft a plan for outreach education specific to gas-powered leaf blowers



MEDINA, WASHINGTON

AGENDA BILL

Monday, January 9, 2023

Subject: Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Education and Outreach Plan

Category: City Council Business

Staff Contact: Stephen R. Burns, City Manager

Summary

At the November 14, 2022, Medina City Council Meeting, Council directed staff to move forward with the following action items:

Item 1 - Public awareness, education, outreach and input specific to the current noise code.

Item 2 - Draft a plan for outreach education specific to gas-powered leaf blowers

City Staff is bringing forward the following proposal as a starting point to gather information and feedback from the community to determine the level of interest in restricting or banning gas-powered leaf blowers. Staff would like further recommendations or suggestions from Council prior to moving forward on this plan.

1. The “Public Awareness Plan” will use the following resources to remind our residents of the current noise ordinance:
 - a. Newsletter – recently the noise ordinance reminder was sent out in the December 2022 newsletter.
 - b. Social Media Outlets – ongoing.
 - c. Postcards – first quarter of 2023
 - d. Open House – tentatively set for Thursday, March 16, 2023, from 5:30pm to 7pm.
2. Use “**Engage Medina Platform**” to have items that include background from the last community forum, key dates, upcoming meetings, and events.
3. Outreach and Education Plan for Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers:
 - a. Survey – Anticipate sending out the first part of February 2023
 - i. Survey key stakeholders (Multiple languages – English, Chinese, Spanish and Russian):
 1. Residents
 2. Landscaping companies that serve Medina

- ii. Send postcard with QR code link to survey.
 - iii. A-frame boards with QR code.
 - iv. Flyers at City Hall, Parks, and Post Office.
- 4. Possible Survey Questions:
 - a. Should the city put a ban on all leaf blowers (gas, battery, electric)?
 - b. Should the city put a ban on only gas-powered leaf blowers?
 - c. Should the city ban the following:
 - i. Commercial use gas-powered leaf blowers.
 - ii. Residential use gas-powered leaf blowers.
 - iii. Or both a and b
 - d. Should the city further restrict hours of operation? (Currently landscaping noise is only permissible weekdays from 7am to 7pm, Saturday from 9am to 5pm, and Sundays/holidays it is not allowed.)
 - i. Yes
 - ii. No
 - iii. Other input/ideas (allow for a suggestion box).
- 5. Hold an Open House on March 16, 2023, from 5:30pm to 7pm to educate residents about current noise ordinances and gather feedback about banning or restricting hours of operation for gas-powered leaf blowers.
- 6. Presentation to Council with feedback from Survey and Open House at the April 10, 2023 City Council Meeting.
 - a. At the April 10 City Council meeting, Council should expect to provide further direction to staff based on input from the survey.
- 7. The creation of Frequently Asked Questions page on the City Webpage - FAQs with the following:
 - a. What is happening?
 - b. Why is it happening?
 - c. When is it happening?
 - d. Who does this apply to?
 - e. Are other cities banning gas-powered leaf blowers?
 - f. Is the state or county planning to ban gas-powered leaf blowers?
 - g. What is the current noise ordinance?
 - h. What are the risks of banning gas-powered leaf blowers?
 - i. What are the benefits of banning gas-powered leaf blowers?
 - j. What are the differences between gas, electric, and battery-powered leaf blowers?

Attachment(s)

Budget/Fiscal Impact: Postcard and mailings for survey and open house - \$2,000. Central Services 2023 budget can accommodate this expense.

Recommendation: Council discussion and direction.

City Manager Approval: 

Proposed Council Motion: N/A

Time Estimate: 20 minutes