

CITY OF WORCESTER
JOURNAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, October 15, 2024
Esther Howland (South) Chamber
Convened: 6:33 P.M.
Adjourned: 9:55 P.M.

MAYOR

Joseph M. Petty

AT-LARGE COUNCILORS

Morris A. Bergman
Donna M. Colorio
Khrystian E. King
Thu Nguyen
Kathleen M. Toomey



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DISTRICT COUNCILORS

Jenny Pacillo - District 1
Candy Mero-Carlson - District 2
George J. Russell - District 3
Luis A. Ojeda - District 4
Etel Haxhijaj - District 5

CITY CLERK

Nikolin Vangjeli

CITY MANAGER

Eric D. Batista

CITY AUDITOR

Robert V. Stearns

City Hall - 455 Main Street Worcester, Massachusetts

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. STAR SPANGLED BANNER

3. ROLL CALL - All present with the Mayor as the Chair, except for Councilor Toomey.

4. PROCLAMATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, MOMENTS OF SILENCE

- 4a.** Mayor Petty provided a Certificate of Mayoral Recognition to Avah Ortiz for her ability to balance a rigorous academic career at Worcester Academy and her commitment and dedication as a dancer on the USA Tap Team, who will be competing in the 2024 International Dance Organization (IDO) World Tap Dance Championships.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- 5a.** Order - That the City Council of the City of Worcester hereby approves the minutes of the City Council Meeting of October 1, 2024.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to adopt the item. Order adopted

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 6a.** Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 and in order to ensure active, public engagement, the City of Worcester currently allows for both in-person and remote participation at all City Council and Standing Committee meetings. To partake in the "Public Participation" section of the meeting, you may attend the meeting in-person within the meeting location, follow the below link to join via Zoom or dial the direct line as indicated. If you join a Zoom meeting by dialing in with a phone number, you can raise your hand by dialing *9.

City Council Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91727574825>

City Council Zoom Phone Number: (929) 205 6099

City Council Zoom Access Code: 917 2757 4825

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized the following speakers:

- 1. Mary Ann Carroll, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #10l CC**
- 2. Manovo (no last name given), (no residence given), spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 3. Nelly Medina, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 4. Edson Montero, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 5. Robert Bilotta, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC and spoke in favor of item #12e CC**
- 6. Mary Sacksteder, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 7. John Rogers, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #10l CC**
- 8. Adam Thielker, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 9. Mark Nilson, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 10. Aaron Payson, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 11. Idella Hazard, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 12. Kirsten Frazier, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 13. Owurakwaku Poku Sarkodieh, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 14. Holly Montero, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 15. Catherine Holmes, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC and spoke in favor of item #10j CC.**
- 16. Dominick Calsolaro, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC and spoke in favor of item #10j CC**
- 17. Aliza Levine, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 18. Matthew Noe, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #10j CC and spoke in opposition to items #10k CC and #10l CC**
- 19. Sheila Brenner, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC and spoke in favor of item #10j CC**
- 20. Tom Brenner, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 21. John Edward Keough, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 22. Tom Marino, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 23. Ruth Rodriguez Fay, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 24. Domenica Perrone, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 25. Noah (No last name given), Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #10j CC and spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 26. Jack Peacock, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 27. Danny Cappachione, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 28. Nan Zano, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 29. Xaulanda Thorpe, Millbury resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 30. Karin Valentine Goins, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 31. John Goins, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 32. Greg Doerschler, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 33. Jack Murray, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to items #10k CC and #10l CC**
- 34. Emma Narkkewicz, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 35. Margot Barnet, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 36. Senator Robyn Kennedy, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 37. David Webb, Worcester resident, spoke in favor items #10j CC and #12d CC, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 38. Feanna Jattan-Singh, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to items #10l CC and #10k CC and spoke in favor of item #10j CC**
- 39. Isabella Castro-Carazzini, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 40. Maydee Morales, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC**
- 41. Pamela Barnes, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #10l CC**

42. Steve Sandberg, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC
43. Molly McCullough, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC
44. Sean Rose, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC
45. Casey Burns, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC
46. Liz Leidel, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC
47. Dianna Ong, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC
48. Kit (No last name given), Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC
49. Patty Huzar, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #10j CC and spoke in opposition to item #10l CC
50. Nathalie Gibson, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #10j CC and spoke in opposition to item #10l CC
51. Jermoh Kamara, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #10j CC and spoke in opposition to item #10l CC
52. Alex (No last name given), Worcester resident, spoke neither in favor or opposed to item #10l CC
53. Yenni Desroches, Worcester resident, spoke neither in favor or opposed to items #11.39A CM and #12e CC, spoke in favor of items #12d CC, #12c CC and #10j CC, spoke in opposition to items #10k CC and #10l CC
54. Fred Taylor, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #10j CC and spoke in opposition to items #10k CC and #10l CC
55. Lillian (No last name given), Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC
56. Eric Stratton, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC
57. Michelle Puch, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #10j CC and spoke in opposition to item #10l CC
58. Justin Duffy, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #10j CC and spoke in opposition to item #10l CC
59. Chizoma Nosike, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #10l CC

7. HEARINGS AND ORDERS

- 7a.** Hearing: NATIONAL GRID for a conduit location at: ENDICOTT ST.

Granting permission to NATIONAL GRID for a conduit location at: ENDICOTT ST.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to take the item collectively with Items #7b CC and #7c CC.

Mayor Petty moved to open the hearing. Mayor Petty's motion was approved on a voice vote.

Mayor Petty asked if any abutters wished to be heard on the item. Hearing no speakers, Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to close the hearing. Mayor Petty's motion was approved on a voice vote.

Mayor Petty moved to to adopt the item. Hearing held and Order adopted

- 7b.** Hearing: NATIONAL GRID for a conduit location at: BANCROFT TOWER RD. and FARNUM ST.

Granting permission to NATIONAL GRID for a conduit location at: BANCROFT TOWER RD. and FARNUM ST.

Hearing held and Order adopted (See Item #7a CC)

- 7c. Hearing: NATIONAL GRID for a conduit location at: MULBERRY ST. and EASTERN AVE.

Granting permission to NATIONAL GRID for a conduit location at: MULBERRY ST. and EASTERN AVE.

Hearing held and Order adopted (See Item #7a CC)

8. FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS

- 8a. RESOLUTION of Councilor Khrystian E. King - That the City Council does hereby recognize Avah Ortiz's commitment and dedication as a member of the USA Tap Team competing in the 2024 International Dance Organization (IDO) World Tap Dance Championships in Prague, Czechia October 23-27th. A championship that is the experience of a lifetime, bringing the best tap dancers from across the globe together to compete on stage for the world to see. Skillfully balancing her rigorous academic schedule with the demands of competitive dance, Avah has demonstrated resilience and passion. We stand in admiration of Avah's hard work and the pride she brings to the City of Worcester. (Postponed - King October 8, 2024)

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor King, who spoke concerning the item.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to adopt the item. Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Toomey absent)

9. RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 9a. That the City Council convene in Executive Session at the Tuesday, October 15, 2024 meeting for the purpose of discussing the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto, as the last item of business of the regular City Council meeting and the City Council will not reconvene in open session.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to Table the Item Under Privilege as amended to meet in Executive Session on October 22, 2024.

Tabled Under Privilege as amended.

Tabled Under Privilege - Petty

10. PETITIONS

- 10a. Barbara Strogoff request installation of streetlight to the telephone pole in front of 6 Virginia Rd.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to refer the item to Public Works Committee. Referred to Public Works Committee

- 10b. Kevin Stewart request installation of traffic light on Plantation St. at its intersection with Ancona Rd. and Lord St.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to refer items #10b CC through #10e CC to Traffic and Parking Committee. Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee

- 10c.** Carlos Santana Jr. request removal of handicap parking space in front of 44 Paradox Dr.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See item #10b CC)
- 10d.** Talia Trotta and Anthony Giangregorio request installation of speed humps at 729-759 Franklin St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See item #10b CC)
- 10e.** Grisel Carrasquillo et al. request installation of speed humps on Puritan Ave.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See item #10b CC)
- 10f.** CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS for a conduit location at: COMMERCIAL ST. at 50 FOSTER ST.
Mayor Petty read the item and moved to set hearing for October 22, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. for items #10f CC through #10i CC. Hearing set for October 22, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.
- 10g.** NATIONAL GRID for a conduit location at: HARLEM ST.
Hearing set for October 22, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. (See item #10f CC)
- 10h.** NATIONAL GRID for a conduit location at: MILLBROOK ST. and MILTON ST.
Hearing set for October 22, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. (See item #10f CC)
- 10i.** NATIONAL GRID and VERIZON NEW ENGLAND INC. for a jointly-owned pole location at: BROOKS ST.
Hearing set for October 22, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. (See item #10f CC)
- 10j.** Catherine Holmes and Dominick Calsolaro request free parking for visitors of the Worcester Public Library Main Branch.
Mayor Petty read the item and moved to refer the item to the City Manager. Referred to the City Manager
- 10k.** Michael J. Grandone request City Council inform the colleges in the city that the City of Worcester will no longer provide Police Department and Fire Department support and therefore said colleges must provide, finance, support, and maintain their own on-campus police and fire departments.
Mayor Petty read the item and moved to place the item on file. Placed on file

- 10l.** Mary Ann Carroll request City Council request City Manager request City Solicitor draft documentation required to amend the City Charter to require candidates beginning with the Municipal Election in 2025 to be a citizen of the United States of America to be eligible to hold elected office in the city. Further, request said amendment include language requiring any candidate not born in or within the jurisdiction of the United States, but has become a naturalized citizen by the time signature papers are due for that year's election, submit naturalization papers or other legal documents as proof of citizenship to the City Clerk's Office and any other necessary office or department relative thereto. Failure to submit such authenticated documents shall make the candidate ineligible for local elected office in the city.

Vice Chairperson Councilor King recognized Mayor Petty, who spoke concerning the item.

Mayor Petty then moved to place the item on file.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Haxhij, Councilor Russell, Councilor King, Councilor Nguyen, Councilor Ojeda, Councilor Pacillo, Councilor Mero-Carlson, Councilor Bergman, and Councilor Colorio, who spoke concerning the item.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King for a second time, who spoke concerning the item.

Mayor Petty recognized the City Clerk and City Solicitor, who responded to the questions raised by Councilor King.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to place the item on file. Placed on file on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Toomey absent)

11. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER

11.1 APPOINTMENTS

Non-City Council Confirmation

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to the appointment of Olanike Ojelabi to the Elder Affairs Commission.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to place items #11.1A CM and 11.1B CM on file. Placed on file

- B. Transmitting informational communication relative to the appointment of Anthony Dell'Aera as an alternate member to the Planning Board.

Placed on file (See item #11.1A)

11.2 APPOINTMENTS

City Council Confirmation

- A. Recommend the appointment of Monica Goodwin to the Advisory Committee on the Status of Women.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to confirm the appointment. Confirmed on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Toomey absent)

11.3 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

William Bagley, Jr., Esq., Chief Human Resources Officer

- A. Recommend adoption of an amendment to the salary ordinance to bring it in compliance with changes enacted in the FY2025 Budget.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to advertise the proposed Ordinance. Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Toomey absent)

- B. Recommend adoption of an amendment to the salary ordinance to implement the City's recently completed collective bargaining agreement with Local 495-NAGE.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to advertise the nine (9) proposed ordinances. Voted to advertise the nine (9) proposed Ordinances on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Toomey absent)

11.4 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Peter Dunn, Chief Development Officer

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to an update on the Community Preservation Program.

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Bergman, who spoke concerning the item.

Mayor Petty recognized the Chief Development Officer and City Manager, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Bergman.

Mayor Petty moved to refer the item to Economic Development Committee. Referred to Economic Development Committee

11.5 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Eric D. Batista, City Manager

11.6 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Division of Human Rights and Accessibility

Victor Perez, Interim Director

11.7 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

Administration Division

Robert Moylan, P.E., Interim Commissioner

- A.** Transmitting informational communication relative to the 2024 Fall Leaf Collection Program.

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Ojeda, who spoke concerning the item.

Mayor Petty recognized the City Manager and Commissioner of Public Works and Parks, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Ojeda.

Councilor Ojeda then moved to, "Request City Manager provide City Council with information concerning the number of residents that are signed up for Alert Worcester." (See Item #15a CC).

Mayor Petty moved to place the item on file. Placed on file

- B.** Transmitting informational communication relative to tree planting plans for FY2025.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to refer the item to Public Works Committee. - Not Put.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King and Councilor Pacillo, who spoke concerning the item.

Mayor Petty moved to refer the item to Urban Technologies, Innovation and Environment Committee. Referred to Urban Technologies, Innovation and Environment Committee

- C.** Transmitting informational communication relative to the revised Lead and Copper Rule.

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Ojeda, who spoke concerning the item.

Mayor Petty recognized the Commissioner of Public Works and Parks, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Ojeda.

Mayor Petty moved to place the item on file. Placed on file

- D. Transmitting informational communication relative to the best course of action to repair or replace the pedestrian bridge that connects Illinois, Crystal, and Canterbury Streets.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to refer the item to Public Works Committee.
Referred to Public Works Committee

11.8 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS
Engineering and Architectural Services Division
Robert Moylan, P.E., Commissioner

11.9 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS
Operations Division
Robert Moylan, P.E., Commissioner

11.10 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS
Parks Division
Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., Assistant Commissioner

11.11 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY
Stephen S. Rolle, P.E., Commissioner

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to implementation of the 25 mph statutory speed limit.

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Colorio, who spoke concerning the item.

Mayor Petty recognized the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Colorio.

Mayor Petty moved to refer the item to Traffic and Parking Committee. Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee

11.12 FIRE DEPARTMENT
Martin Dyer, Fire Chief

11.13 POLICE DEPARTMENT
Paul B. Saucier, Interim Police Chief

11.14 DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS
Charles R. Goodwin, Director

11.15 LAW DEPARTMENT

Michael E. Traynor, Esq., City Solicitor

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to an opinion regarding a proposed charter amendment to grant the City Council authority to move, edit, and/or eliminate any line item/funding listed in the annual proposed City Budget.

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Mero-Carlson, who moved to Table the Item Under Privilege.

Tabled Under Privilege - Mero-Carlson

- B. Transmitting informational communication relative to a process to establish a charter review commission.

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Mero-Carlson, who moved to Table the Item Under Privilege.

Tabled Under Privilege - Mero-Carlson

- C. Transmitting informational communication relative to an update on the negotiation with Charter/Spectrum.

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Mero-Carlson, who spoke concerning the item.

Mayor Petty recognized the City Solicitor, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Mero-Carlson.

Councilor Mero-Carlson then moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the previous discounts for Charter/Spectrum services, as well as what the discount will be moving forward. Further, request City Manager clarify information relative to whether the discount will be eligible for all users or only basic cable users. Further, request City Manager include in said report information concerning how seniors will be notified to speak with Charter/Spectrum about their discount eligibility. (See Item #15b CC).

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who spoke concerning the item.

Mayor Petty recognized the City Manager and City Solicitor, who responded to questions raised by Councilor King.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Russell, who spoke concerning the item.

Mayor Petty recognized the City Manager, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Russell.

Mayor Petty moved to refer the item to Public Service and Transportation Committee. Referred to Public Service and Transportation Committee

11.16 DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES

Administration

Christopher P. Spencer, Commissioner

- A. Transmitting an informational communication relative to bodywork spas in the city.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to refer the item to Public Safety Committee.
Referred to Public Safety Committee

11.17 DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES

Building and Zoning Division

David Horne, Deputy Building Commissioner

11.18 DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES

Housing and Health Inspections Division

Lee R. Hall, Director

11.19 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration

Dr. Matilde "Mattie" Castiel, M.D., Commissioner

11.20 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Public Health

Soloe M. Dennis, MS, MEP, Director

11.21 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Elder Affairs

Amy Vogel Waters, Director

11.22 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Veterans Services

Dr. Joe Robinson, Veterans' Services Officer/Director

11.23 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Youth Services

Raquel Castro-Corazzini, Director

11.24 WORCESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Jason L. Homer, Executive Director

11.25 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Election Commission Division

Nikolin Vangjeli, City Clerk

- 11.26 PUBLIC SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**
Rachel Monarrez, Superintendent
- 11.27 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**
Assessing Division
Samuel E. Konieczny, City Assessor
- 11.28 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**
Budget Office Division
Erin E. Taylor, Director
- 11.29 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**
Purchasing Division
Christopher Gagliastro, Director
- 11.30 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**
Treasury and Collections Division
Timothy J. McGourthy, Acting Treasurer and Collector of Taxes
- 11.31 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC FACILITIES**
Julie A. Lynch, Chief of Public Facilities
- 11.32 DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE**
John W. Odell, Chief Sustainability Officer
- 11.33 DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY**
Michael P. Hamel, Chief Information Officer
- 11.34 FINANCE ITEMS**
Capital Transfers
- 11.35 FINANCE ITEMS**
Grants and Donations

- A. Recommend adoption of a resolution to accept with gratitude a donation in the amount of One Thousand Dollars And No Cents (\$1,000.00) from the Worcester Public Library Foundation in memory of Dorothy Doyle, to support the Goddard Branch Library.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to adopt items #11.35A CM through #11.35C CM, #11.36A CM and #11.36B CM and #11.37A CM. Resolution adopted with gratitude on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Toomey absent)

- B. Recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept and expend a grant in the amount of One Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars And No Cents (\$1,750,000.00) from the US DOL Growth Opportunities program.
Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Toomey absent) (See Item #11.35A CM)
- C. Recommend adoption of a resolution to accept with gratitude a donation in the amount of Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred Sixty One Dollars And Twenty Four Cents (\$13,461.24) from the Worcester Public Library Foundation to support the Worcester Public Library's 2024 Summer Reading Program.
Resolution adopted with gratitude on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Toomey absent) (See Item #11.35A CM)

11.36 FINANCE ITEMS

Operational Transfers

- A. Recommend that Eighty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Two Dollars And Fourteen Cents (\$82,792.14) be transferred from Fund #FD314, Reserve for Appropriation Premium on Loans, and be appropriated to Cost Center #CC1062, Treasury Ordinary Maintenance, to fund costs associated with \$40,574,929 BAN dated September 24, 2024.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Toomey absent) (See Item #11.35A CM)
- B. Recommend that Ten Thousand One Hundred Twenty Dollars And No Cents (\$10,120.00) be transferred from Account #FD313, RRA-Damage Settlement, and be appropriated to Account #FD101-CC1028, Library Administration, to fund repairs on the bookmobile that was damaged during a traffic accident.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Toomey absent) (See Item #11.35A CM)

11.37 FINANCE ITEMS

Prior Year

- A. Recommend that Thirty Five Thousand One Hundred Thirty Six Dollars And Six Cents (\$35,136.06) be authorized from Fiscal Year 2025 Cost Center #CC1017, Emergency Communications Ordinary Maintenance, for the payment of prior year invoices.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Toomey absent) (See Item #11.35A CM)

11.38 FINANCE

Loan Orders

11.39 MISCELLANEOUS AGENDA TRANSMITTALS

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to an update on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to refer the item to Municipal and Legislative Operations Committee. Referred to Municipal and Legislative Operations Committee

12. TABLED UNDER PRIVILEGE

- 12a. ORDER of Councilor Etel Haxhiaj - Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works and Parks repair the streetlight on James St. in the vicinity of the gas station located at 61 South Ludlow St. (Tabled Under Privilege - Petty October 8, 2024)

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to adopt the item. Order adopted

- 12b. ORDER of Councilor Etel Haxhiaj - Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works and Parks repaint the crosswalk at the intersection of May St. and Zenith Dr. (Tabled Under Privilege - Petty October 8, 2024)

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to adopt the item. Order adopted

- 12c. ORDER of Councilor Etel Haxhiaj and Councilor Jenny Pacillo - Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility implement interim traffic calming measures at the Newton Square Rotary, such as better signage for pedestrians and other feasible measures. (Tabled Under Privilege - Petty October 8, 2024)

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to adopt the item. Order adopted

- 12d. ORDER of Mayor Joseph M. Petty and Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson - Request City Manager work with the Mayor to create a small business task force in the city. (Tabled Under Privilege - Petty October 8, 2024)

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Russell, who moved to amend the item: "Further, request City Manager include at least one (1) member of the City Council on said small business taskforce."

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Mero-Carlson, who spoke concerning the item.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Russell for a second time, who spoke concerning the item.

Mayor Petty moved to adopt the item as amended. Order adopted as amended

- 12e. RESOLUTION of Councilor Morris A. Bergman - That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby support Bill H. 2963, An Act relative to Payments in Lieu of Taxation by Organizations Exempt from the Property Tax. (Tabled Under Privilege - King October 8, 2024)

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Bergman and Councilor King, who spoke concerning the item.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to adopt the item. Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Toomey absent)

13. TABLED ITEMS

- 13a.** ORDER of Councilor Konstantina B. Lukes - Request City Manager request City Solicitor provide City Council with a legal opinion regarding the process of instituting a residential rent control program and the resulting impact of implementing such a program. (Tabled Under Privilege - Lukes September 17, 2019 and September 24, 2019 and Tabled - Lukes October 15, 2019)

No action taken

- 13b.** RESOLUTION of Councilor Khrystian E. King - That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby support Representative Rebecca Rauch and Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz's SD 699 HD 1283, An Act effectuating equity in COVID-19 Vaccination Bill. (Tabled Under Privilege - Bergman February 9, 2021 and Tabled - Bergman February 23, 2021)

No action taken

- 13c.** ORDER of Councilor Sarai Rivera - Request City Manager consider prioritizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for REC Worcester's capital project involving the development of the new REC Worcester headquarters and Center for Food Justice and Urban Agriculture (for Worcester and Central Massachusetts), in an effort to support community food security, as well as youth development and employment. (Tabled Under Privilege - Mero-Carlson October 26, 2021 and Tabled Under Privilege - Petty November 9, 2021 and Tabled - Rivera November 16, 2021)

No action taken

- 13d.** CHAIRMAN'S ORDER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION - Request City Council work to ensure City Council and School Committee districts are parallel, so as to ensure public clarity. (Tabled Under Privilege - Mero-Carlson May 24, 2022 and June 7, 2022 and Tabled - Petty June 14, 2022)

No action taken

- 13e.** REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE AND TRANSPORTATION Upon the Order of Councilor Morris A. Bergman and Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson - Request Standing Committee on Public Service and Transportation Committee hold a public discussion with the WRTA Administrator relative to the removal of a bus route that passes the EcoTarium, 222 Harrington Way: recommend Communication be placed on file. (Tabled Under Privilege - Bergman January 17, 2023 and Tabled Under Privilege - Mero-Carlson January 24, 2023 and Tabled - Mero-Carlson January 31, 2023)

No action taken

- 13f. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE AND TRANSPORTATION**
Upon the Order of Councilor Sarai Rivera and Councilor Khrystian E. King - Request Standing Committee on Public Service and Transportation meet with the WRTA Administrator to provide City Council with a report concerning the WRTA's winter weather plan, especially including information as to how snow will be removed at each of the bus stops: recommend Order be placed on file. (Tabled Under Privilege - Bergman January 17, 2023 and Tabled Under Privilege - Mero-Carlson January 24, 2023 and Tabled - Mero-Carlson January 31, 2023)

No action taken

- 13g. ORDER** of Councilor Etel Haxhijaj and Councilor Thu Nguyen - Request City Manager work with appropriate departments and stakeholders to establish an Office of Housing Stability in an effort to prevent the involuntary displacement of city residents who are in the process of being evicted or at the risk of losing their housing, as well as to enact policies to combat displacement, homelessness and enhance tenants' rights. (Tabled Under Privilege - Haxhijaj July 18, 2023 and Tabled - Haxhijaj August 22, 2023)

No action taken

- 13h. PETITION** of Gordon Davis request City Council request Standing Committee on Public Safety investigate the issue of systemic racism and public safety with public hearings included. (Tabled - Toomey May 14, 2024)

No action taken

- 13i. ORDER** of Councilor George J. Russell and Councilor Morris A. Bergman - Request City Manager install metal detector safety equipment at City Hall whenever open, similar to the equipment used at Polar Park, the Worcester District Court and other public places, on or before December 31, 2024. (Tabled Under Privilege - Russell September 24, 2024 and October 1, 2024 and Tabled - Russell October 8, 2024)

No action taken

14. BUSINESS UNDER SUSPENSION - Items brought forth under suspension at the October 8, 2024 City Council meeting.

- 14a. ORDER** of Mayor Joseph M. Petty – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing a short-term and long-term plan to address helping the unhoused population in the city. – Item #16a CC Order adopted
- 14b. ORDER** of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager engage in creating a public service education campaign relative to the use of cigarettes and nicotine products. – Item #16b CC Order adopted
- 14c. ORDER** of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager reengage in existing curriculum through Recreation Worcester that educates the city's youth of the dangers of vaping. – Item #16c CC Order adopted

- 14d.** PETITION of Councilor Luis A. Ojeda on behalf of Jaime Florez request Hawthorne St. from Main St. to Woodland St. be given the honorary street name title of Jaime Florez Way. – Item #16d CC Referred to Public Works Committee
- 14e.** ORDER of Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson – Request City Manager provide City Council with a timeline and process relative to separating the passage of exempting the Chief of Police and Deputy Chief of Police positions from Civil Service law. – Item #16e CC Order adopted
- 14f.** ORDER of Mayor Joseph M. Petty – That the City Council convene in Executive Session at the Tuesday, October 15, 2024 meeting for the purpose of discussing the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto, as the last item of business of the regular City Council meeting and the City Council will not reconvene in open session. – Item #16f CC Order adopted
- 14g.** ORDER of Councilor Morris A. Bergman – Request City Manager request City Solicitor provide City Council with a report detailing any legal action the city can take to ensure solar companies do not take down trees on private properties that are not their own customers. – Item #16g CC Order adopted

15. NEW BUSINESS UNDER SUSPENSION - Items brought forth under suspension at the October 15, 2024 City Council meeting.

- 15a.** Motion Ojeda @ #11.7A CM – Request City Manager provide City Council with information concerning the number of residents that are signed up for Alert Worcester.
Order adopted (See Item #11.7A CM)
- 15b.** Motion Mero-Carlson @ #11.15C CM – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the previous discounts for Charter/Spectrum services, as well as what the discount will be moving forward. Further, request City Manager clarify information relative to whether the discount will be eligible for all users or only basic cable users. Further, request City Manager include in said report information concerning how seniors will be notified to speak with Charter/Spectrum about their discount eligibility.
Order adopted (See Item #11.15C CM)