

CITY OF WORCESTER
JOURNAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, November 19, 2024
Esther Howland (South) Chamber
Convened: 6:33 P.M.
Adjourned: 9:21 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 Councilors King, Mero-Carlson, Ojeda and Toomey. Councilors King, Mero-Carlson, Ojeda and Toomey arrived at 7:03 P.M. Councilor Nguyen participated in the meeting remotely.

4. PROCLAMATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, MOMENTS OF SILENCE

- 4a.** During Business Under Suspension, Councilor Etel Haxhijaj made a statement condemning acts and expressions of violence, hostility, aggression, and harassment, regardless of political designation. Councilor Russell, Councilor King and Mayor Petty also expanded on the statement.

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 22, 2024.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to adopt the item. Order adopted on a roll call vote of 7 Yeas and 0 Nays (King, Mero-Carlson, Ojeda, Toomey absent)

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 6a. Mayor Petty read the item and recognized the following speakers:

1. Fred Nathan, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #8s CC and #9.38A CM, spoke in opposition to item #10a CC, and spoke neither in favor or opposed to item #9.30A CM
2. Jill Marcotte, Auburn resident, spoke in favor of item #11d CC on the November 12, 2024 agenda
3. Idella Hazard, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #8t CC
4. Dean Fisher, Worcester resident, spoke neither in favor or opposed to item #9.30 CM
5. Mark Wright, Worcester resident, spoke neither in favor or opposed to item #9.30 CM
6. Charles Luster, Worcester resident, spoke neither in favor or opposed to item #9.30 CM and spoke in favor of item #11i CC
7. Ellis Cropper, no residence given, spoke neither in favor or opposed to item #9.30 CM
8. Charles McNeil, no residence given, spoke in favor of item #8t CC
9. John Mysliwicz, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #8t CC
10. Rhonda Hicks, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #8t CC
11. David Webb, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #8l CC, #8q CC, #8r CC, #8t CC and #8u CC and spoke in opposition to items #10a CC and #10c CC
12. Lillian Voke, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #8t CC
13. Carolyn Dunderdale, Shrewsbury resident, spoke in favor of item #8t CC
14. Czenilriene Santander, Shrewsbury resident, spoke in favor of item #8t CC
15. Safia Bashir, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #8t CC
16. Gualai Shah, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #8t CC
17. Samara Ebinger, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #9.16A CM
18. Nathalie Gibson, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #8t CC and #11i CC and spoke neither in favor or opposed to item #9.30 CM
19. Evan Corrigan, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #8q CC and #8r CC
20. Frederick Rushton, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of the item #8s CC
21. Ahmed Hussain Amjed, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #8s CC

7. HEARINGS AND ORDERS

- 7a. Hearing: NATIONAL GRID for a conduit location at: CIRCUIT AVE. EAST.

Granting permission to NATIONAL GRID for a conduit location at: CIRCUIT AVE. EAST.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to take items #7a CC through #7e CC collectively.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to open the hearing. Mayor Petty's motion was approved on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Mero-Carlson absent).

Mayor Petty asked if any abutters wished to be heard on the item, and recognized the following speaker:

1. Frank Zitomersky, Worcester resident, spoke neither in favor or opposed to item #7b CC

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Russell, who moved to Table Item #7b CC Under Privilege (See Item #7b CC).

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to close the hearings and adopt items #7a CC through #7e CC, except for #7b CC. Hearing held and Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Haxhiaj absent)

- 7b. Hearing: NATIONAL GRID for a conduit location at: JACKSON ST.

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

Tabled Under Privilege - Russell (See Item #7a CC)

- 7c. Hearing: NATIONAL GRID for a solely-owned pole at: TACOMA ST.

Granting permission to NATIONAL GRID for a solely-owned pole at: TACOMA ST.

Hearing held and Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Haxhiaj absent) (See Item #7a CC)

- 7d. Hearing: NATIONAL GRID and VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC. for a jointly-owned pole at: BARROWS RD.

Granting permission to NATIONAL GRID and VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC. for a jointly-owned pole at: BARROWS RD.

Hearing held and Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Haxhiaj absent) (See Item #7a CC)

- 7e. Hearing: NATIONAL GRID for a conduit location at: SOUTHBRIDGE ST. and COLTON ST.

Granting permission to NATIONAL GRID for a conduit location at: SOUTHBRIDGE ST. and COLTON ST.

Hearing held and Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Haxhiaj absent) (See Item #7a CC)

8. PETITIONS

- 8a. Jaycie Jouregui et al. request streetlight repair in the vicinity of 61 and 63 Orient St.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to refer items #8a CC through #8c CC to Public Works Committee. Referred to Public Works Committee on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Haxhiaj absent).

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Russell, who moved to reconsider the item. Reconsideration approved on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to the City Manager. Referred to the City Manager on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

- 8b. Austin Tepsic request sidewalk resurfacing on Herbert Ln. between Hadwen Ln. and Hadwen Rd.
Referred to Public Works Committee on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Haxhiaj absent) (See Item #8a CC)
- 8c. Aaron Blum request existing street light pole be relocated from the vicinity of 16 and 30 Winfield St. to allow for the installation of a new driveway at the property.
Referred to Public Works Committee on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Haxhiaj absent) (See Item #8a CC)
- 8d. Councilor Jenny Pacillo request installation of a stop sign at the intersection of Chester St. and Barry Rd.
Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to refer items #8d CC through #8p CC to Traffic and Parking Committee. Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Haxhiaj absent)
- 8e. Councilor Jenny Pacillo request installation of temporary speed humps on Country Club Blvd.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Haxhiaj absent) (See Item #8d CC)
- 8f. Councilor Jenny Pacillo request installation of "No Parking Anytime" signage on one side of Greenbriar Ln.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Haxhiaj absent) (See Item #8d CC)
- 8g. Ivette Navarro request installation of a handicap parking space in front of 31 Oxford St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Haxhiaj absent) (See Item #8d CC)
- 8h. Josef Konkol request missing resident permit parking signage in the vicinity of 18 Chestnut St. be replaced.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Haxhiaj absent) (See Item #8d CC)

- 8i. Kevin T. Baldwin request removal of resident permit parking on Kendig St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Haxhij absent) (See Item #8d CC)
- 8j. Kevin T. Baldwin request removal of handicap parking space in the vicinity of 100 Kendig St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Haxhij absent) (See Item #8d CC)
- 8k. Michael Monfredo request installation of a stop sign at the intersection of Azalea Dr. and Rainbow Dr.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Haxhij absent) (See Item #8d CC)
- 8l. Michael J. Grandone request the criteria and reasoning be defined and made public for speed hump installation to decide if previously installed speed humps are being placed for a legitimate reason.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Haxhij absent) (See Item #8d CC)
- 8m. Feuster Njoroge request installation of resident permit parking on Ward St. from Seymour St. to Endicott St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Haxhij absent) (See Item #8d CC)
- 8n. Pedro Romero request installation of speed humps throughout Plantation St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Haxhij absent) (See Item #8d CC)
- 8o. Pedro Romero request installation of additional crosswalks throughout Plantation St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Haxhij absent) (See Item #8d CC)
- 8p. Pedro Romero request installation of flashing speed limit signage throughout Plantation St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Haxhij absent) (See Item #8d CC)
- 8q. Evan C. Corrigan request transfer of 1 Spring Lane, (MBL: 42-019-84-88), currently held in Tax Title, to the custodianship of the Worcester Conservation Commission.
Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to refer items #8q CC and #8r CC to the Conservation Commission. Referred to the Conservation Commission on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 8r. Evan C. Corrigan request transfer of 553 Plantation St, (MBL: 46-045-0001D), currently held in Tax Title, to the custodianship of the Worcester Conservation Commission.
Referred to Conservation Commission on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8q CC)

- 8s. Frederick Rushton request City Council request City Manager establish a citywide plan to establish at a minimum 30 pickleball courts by modifying some of the underutilized tennis courts in the city or establishing new courts similar to all the other towns surrounding Worcester. Further, request City Council work with the School administration to establish a minimum of 8 courts at or next to the four city junior high schools to help expand at the school the sports opportunities for middle school children.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to Veterans' Memorials, Parks and Recreation Committee. Referred to Veterans' Memorials, Parks and Recreation Committee on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Mero-Carlson absent)

- 8t. Lillian Voke et al. request City Council request City Manager increase services related to supporting individuals experiencing housing insecurities in the city, including increased shelter capacity and duration, increased resources related to the temporary RMV shelter, extended hours at the Worcester Public Library, and address the housing shortage crisis.

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

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

Councilor King then moved to, "Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing around homeless individuals being sheltered at 611 Main St., the former RMV property." (See Item #13a CC).

Councilor King then moved to, "Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the timeline and efforts being made to secure a day center and general public facilities for the city's homeless population." (See Item #13b CC).

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to the City Manager. Referred to the City Manager on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

- 8u. Brian Dutremble request City Council request City Manager to allocate funds to update the payroll system for Worcester Public Library employees.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to place the item on file. Placed on file on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

9. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER

9.1 APPOINTMENTS

Non-City Council Confirmation

A. Transmitting informational communication relative to the appointments of Chizoma Nosike and Matthew Torrey to the Elder Affairs Commission.

**Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to place the item on file.
Placed on file on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays**

9.2 APPOINTMENTS

City Council Confirmation

9.3 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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

9.4 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Peter Dunn, Chief Development Officer

9.5 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Kevin Lovaincy, Chief Equity Officer

9.6 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Division of Human Rights and Accessibility

Patricia M. LaFore, Director

9.7 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

Administration Division

Robert Moylan, P.E., Interim Commissioner

9.8 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

Engineering and Architectural Services Division

Robert Moylan, P.E., Interim Commissioner

9.9 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

Operations Division

Robert Moylan, P.E., Interim Commissioner

9.10 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

Parks Division

Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., Assistant Commissioner

9.11 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

Stephen S. Rolle, P.E., Commissioner

- A. Transmitting informational communication addressing traffic safety on a portion of Belmont Street.

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

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who moved to, “Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility provide City Council with a report concerning the timeline and process relative to implementing rapid response actions relative to Belmont Street traffic safety.” (See Item #13c CC).

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

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to Traffic and Parking Committee. Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Colorio absent)

9.12 FIRE DEPARTMENT

Martin Dyer, Fire Chief

9.13 POLICE DEPARTMENT

Paul B. Saucier, Interim Police Chief

9.14 DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Charles R. Goodwin, Director

9.15 LAW DEPARTMENT

Michael E. Traynor, Esq., City Solicitor

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to the unauthorized removal of trees from private property.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to Veterans' Memorials, Parks and Recreation Committee. Referred to Veterans' Memorials, Parks and Recreation Committee on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Colorio absent)

- B. Transmitting informational communication relative to Institutional Master Plans.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to take the item up collectively with item #9.39A CM.

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

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

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

Mayor Petty recognized the Chief Financial Officer and City Assessor, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Russell.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to refer the items to Economic Development Committee. Referred to Economic Development Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

9.16 DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES

Administration

David Horne, Interim Commissioner

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to a Worcester Rodent Action Plan.

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

Mayor Petty recognized the Interim Commissioner of Inspectional Services and City Manager, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Pacillo.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to Public Safety Committee. Referred to Public Safety Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

9.17 DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES

Building and Zoning Division

David Horne, Deputy Building Commissioner

9.18 DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES

Housing and Health Inspections Division

Lee R. Hall, Director

9.19 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration

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

- 9.20 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health
Soloe M. Dennis, MS, MEP, Director
- 9.21 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Elder Affairs
Amy Vogel Waters, Director
- 9.22 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Veterans Services
Dr. Joe Robinson, Veterans' Services Officer/Director
- 9.23 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Youth Services
Raquel Castro-Corazzini, Director
- 9.24 WORCESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY**
Jason L. Homer, Executive Director
- 9.25 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**
Election Commission Division
Nikolin Vangjeli, City Clerk
- 9.26 PUBLIC SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**
Rachel Monárrez, Superintendent
- 9.27 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**
Assessing Division
Samuel E. Konieczny, City Assessor

A. Transmitting informational communication relative to the Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Classification package.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to take the item up collectively with item #9.27B CM.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to set the Tax Classification Hearing for November 26, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. Hearing set for November 26, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

B. Transmitting informational communication relative to frequently asked questions during the tax rate process.

Hearing set for November 26, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9.27A CM)

- 9.28 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**
Budget Office Division
Erin E. Taylor, Director
- 9.29 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**
Administration
Timothy McGourthy, Chief Financial Officer

9.30 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE
Treasury and Collections Division
Francisco Hernandez, Treasurer and Collector of Taxes

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to an update on the Ballpark District Improvement Financing Plan (DIF).

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

Mayor Petty recognized the Chief Development Officer, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Mero-Carlson.

Councilor Mero-Carlson then moved to, “Request City Manager consider all options relative to recouping monies associated with the Left Field Building at 50 Washington St. owned by Madison Properties, including but not limited to eminent domain.” (See Item #13d CC).

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

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

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

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

Councilor Haxhiaj then moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with updates concerning any responses and communications between the city and Madison Properties pertinent to their termination of their Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreement for the Left Field Building at 50 Washington St.” (See Item #13e CC).

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

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

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with the minutes of the Worcester Redevelopment Authority (WRA) over the last four (4) years.” (See Item #13f CC).

Councilor King then moved to, “That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby support any and all legal remedies around anything determined to be a breach of contract or breaking of a covenant as it relates to municipal disposition law by Madison Properties.” (See Item #13g CC).

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

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

Councilor Russell then moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a detailed report relative to the slab of concrete adjacent to the Left Field Building at 50 Washington St., including who built slab, who owns the slab, who owns the

ground underneath the slab, and any agreements associated with the slab.” (See Item #13h CC).

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to Economic Development Committee. Referred to Economic Development Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

9.31 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC FACILITIES

James Bedard, Chief of Public Facilities

9.32 DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

John W. Odell, Chief Sustainability Officer

9.33 DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Michael P. Hamel, Chief Information Officer

9.34 FINANCE ITEMS

Capital Transfers

9.35 FINANCE ITEMS

Grants and Donations

- A. Recommend adoption of the attached resolution to accept with gratitude a donation in the amount of Thirty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Ninety One Dollars and Eighty Four Cents (\$39,491.84) from the trust of June D. Jurey to support the Worcester Senior Center.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to adopt items #9.35A CM, #9.36A CM and #9.37A CM. Resolution adopted with gratitude on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

9.36 FINANCE ITEMS

Operational Transfers

- A. Recommend an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2025 table of organization for the Worcester Public Library, Talking Book Library.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9.35A CM)

- B. Recommend approval to make necessary adjustments to finalize the Fiscal Year 2025 City Budget.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to Table the Item Under Privilege.

Tabled Under Privilege - Petty

9.37 FINANCE ITEMS

Prior Year

- A. Recommend that Three Thousand One Hundred Ninety Nine Dollars and Six Cents (\$3,199.06) be authorized from Fiscal Year 2025 Cost Center #CC1048, Veterans Services Medical, for the payment of prior year invoices.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9.35A CM)

9.38 FINANCE

Loan Orders

- A. Recommend request for a City Council vote to approve funding for the Burncoat High and Middle School Eligibility Period and Feasibility Study which will include Owners Project Manager, Designer, and Architectural Services fees estimated in the amount of Three Million Dollars And No Cents (\$3,000,000.00).

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Ojeda, who moved to recuse himself from the item and left the room.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to advertise the proposed Loan Order.

Voted to advertise proposed loan order on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Ojeda recused)

9.39 MISCELLANEOUS AGENDA TRANSMITTALS

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to an agreement between the municipality and Worcester Polytechnic Institute relative to the purchase of hotels within the boundaries of the Gateway Park Master Plan.

Referred to Economic Development Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9.15B CM)

10. TABLED UNDER PRIVILEGE

- 10a. COMMUNICATION of the City Manager transmitting informational communication relative to the feasibility of using Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to advance environmental sustainability goals. (Tabled Under Privilege - Haxhij November 12, 2024)

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor King, who moved to Table the Item Under Privilege for a second time.

Tabled Under Privilege on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays.

Tabled Under Privilege - King

- 10b.** COMMUNICATION of the City Manager recommend adoption of an order to transfer City-owned 51 and 61 Sever St. from the Department of Public Facilities to the Office of the City Manager for disposition purposes and authorizing the conveyance of properties. (Tabled Under Privilege - King November 12, 2024)

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor King, who moved to Table the Item Under Privilege for a second time.

Tabled Under Privilege on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays.

Tabled Under Privilege - King

- 10c.** COMMUNICATION of the City Manager transmitting informational communication relative to a list of properties purchased by colleges and universities from 2019 to the present, whether the college or university kept the property on the tax rolls, any signed community benefit agreements associated with new projects on these properties and what changes, if any, were made to PILOT contributions. (Tabled Under Privilege - Mero-Carlson November 12, 2024)

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Haxhiaj, who moved to, “Request City Manager include information on the city’s website relative to the list of properties purchased by colleges and universities from 2019 to present.” (See Item #13i CC).

Councilor Haxhiaj then moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a yearly report that monitors the purchases of properties by colleges and universities and details quantifiable data around the impact said purchases and expansion have on neighborhood residents.” (See Item #13j CC).

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

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to Municipal and Legislative Operations Committee. Referred to Municipal and Legislative Operations Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

10d. COMMUNICATION of Paul Matthews, Executive Director and CEO of the Worcester Regional Research Bureau, transmitting, "Mass. Exodus from Civil Service: Examining Worcester's Proposal to Exempt Police Leaders Amidst Statewide Shifts." (Tabled Under Privilege - King November 12, 2024)

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor King, who moved to, "Request City Manager provide City Council with a report identifying and describing Requests for Proposals (RFPs) relative to allowing city departments to utilize an assessment center." (See Item #13k CC).

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

Councilor King then moved to, "Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing Personnel Administration Rule 10 (PAR 10)." (See Item #13l CC).

Councilor King then moved to, "Request City Manager use Personnel Administration Rule 10 (PAR 10) or any other means to increase a more diverse employment of larger rank and file individuals in the Worcester Police Department (WPD)." (See Item #13m CC).

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Toomey, who moved to, "Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning efforts being made within the Worcester Police Department (WPD) to recruit more minority officers." (See Item #13n CC).

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to Public Safety Committee. Referred to Public Safety Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

11. TABLED ITEMS

11a. 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

11b. 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

11c. 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

- 11d.** 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
- 11e.** 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
- 11f.** 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
- 11g.** 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
- 11h.** 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
- 11i.** 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

12. BUSINESS UNDER SUSPENSION - Items brought forth under suspension at the November 12, 2024 City Council meeting.

- 12a.** ORDER of Councilor Etel Haxhiaj – Request City Manager request City Solicitor provide City Council with a report concerning the following: A) What matters are not under the purview of the City Council; B) What the appeal process is for the public and City Councilors relative to City Clerk and Chair rulings; and C) What discretion does the Chair of the City Council have relative to Rule 2 and Rule 11. – Item #22a CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 12b.** ORDER of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works and Parks provide City Council with a report clarifying the necessity of additional snow equipment in order to maintain four (4) foot clearances for bike lanes. – Item #22b CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 12c.** ORDER of Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson – Request City Manager consider publishing social media content related to educational traffic safety on the City of Worcester’s The Buzz. – Item #22c CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 12d.** ORDER of Councilor Luis A. Ojeda – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning the number of community engagements the Police Department conducts in a twenty-four (24) hour period. – Item #22d CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 12e.** ORDER of Councilor Etel Haxhiaj – Request City Manager and Mayor make statements on behalf of the Worcester Police Department (WPD) and City Council relative to ensuring that the city will go above and beyond to support its immigrant and refugee communities, as well as ensuring that no member of WPD will work with federal administration to conduct any raids to deport people who are not breaking any laws. – Item #22e CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 9 Yeas and 0 Nays

13. NEW BUSINESS UNDER SUSPENSION - Items brought forth under suspension at the November 19, 2024 City Council meeting.

- 13a.** Motion King @ #8t CC – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing around homeless individuals being sheltered at 611 Main St., the former RMV property.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8t CC)
- 13b.** Motion King @ #8t CC – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the timeline and efforts being made to secure a day center and general public facilities for the city’s homeless population.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8t CC)

13c. Motion King @ #9.11A CM – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility provide City Council with a report concerning the timeline and process relative to implementing rapid response actions relative to Belmont Street traffic safety.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Colorio absent) (See Item #9.11A CM)

13d. Motion Mero-Carlson @ #9.30A CM – Request City Manager consider all options relative to recouping monies associated with the Left Field Building at 50 Washington St. owned by Madison Properties, including but not limited to eminent domain.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9.30A CM)

13e. Motion Haxhijaj @ #9.30A CM – Request City Manager provide City Council with updates concerning any responses and communications between the city and Madison Properties pertinent to their termination of their Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreement for the Left Field Building at 50 Washington St.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9.30A CM)

13f. Motion King @ #9.30A CM – Request City Manager provide City Council with the minutes of the Worcester Redevelopment Authority (WRA) over the last four (4) years.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9.30A CM)

13g. Motion King @ #9.30A CM – That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby support any and all legal remedies around anything determined to be a breach of contract or breaking of a covenant as it relates to municipal disposition law by Madison Properties.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9.30A CM)

13h. Motion Russell @ #9.30A CM – Request City Manager provide City Council with a detailed report relative to the slab of concrete adjacent to the Left Field Building at 50 Washington St., including who built slab, who owns the slab, who owns the ground underneath the slab, and any agreements associated with the slab.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9.30A CM)

13i. Motion Haxhijaj @ #10c CC – Request City Manager include information on the city's website relative to the list of properties purchased by colleges and universities from 2019 to present.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #10c CC)

13j. Motion Haxhijaj @ #10c CC – Request City Manager provide City Council with a yearly report that monitors the purchases of properties by colleges and universities and details quantifiable data around the impact said purchases and expansion have on neighborhood residents.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #10c CC)

13k. Motion King @ #10d CC – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report identifying and describing Requests for Proposals (RFPs) relative to allowing city departments to utilize an assessment center.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #10d CC)

- 13l.** Motion King @ #10d CC – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing Personnel Administration Rule 10 (PAR 10).
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #10d CC)
- 13m.** Motion King @ #10d CC – Request City Manager use Personnel Administration Rule 10 (PAR 10) or any other means to increase a more diverse employment of larger rank and file individuals in the Worcester Police Department (WPD).
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #10d CC)
- 13n.** Motion Toomey @ #10d CC – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning efforts being made within the Worcester Police Department (WPD) to recruit more minority officers.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #10d CC)
- 13o.** Motion Russell – Suspension of Rules – Request City Manager provide City Council with the assessed value of the concrete slab adjacent to the Left Field Building at 50 Washington St. Said report should also include the last time the City Assessor reviewed the property.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays