

CITY OF WORCESTER

JOURNAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Esther Howland (South) Chamber

Convened: 6:38 P.M.

Recessed: 8:57 P.M.

Reconvened: 9:09 P.M.

Adjourned: 11:40 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. Councilor Nguyen participated in the meeting remotely.

4. PROCLAMATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, MOMENTS OF SILENCE

- 4a. MOMENT OF SILENCE** in memory of Former Massachusetts Lt. Governor and Attorney General Francis X. Bellotti, who passed away on December 17, 2024, at the age of 101, as well as community advocate William T. Breault, who passed away on November 27, 2024, at the age of 80.

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 November 26, 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 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

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. Fred Nathan, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #7w CC**
- 2. Idella Hazard, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #7w CC**
- 3. William Gardner, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #7x CC**
- 4. Tammy McGhee, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC and spoke in opposition to item #9a CM**
- 5. Liz Grajales, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC**
- 6. Serenity Jones, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to #7z CC, #7aa CC, #7cc CC, and #9a CC and spoke in favor of items #7w CC and #7bb CC**
- 7. Amy Ebbeson, Rutland resident, spoke in favor of item #8.40A CM**
- 8. Sue Mailman, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #8.40A CM, #10g CC, #10h CC**
- 9. Jennifer Baez, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #8.40A CM and #7z CC through #7cc CC**
- 10. Sean Harris, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC and #8.40A CM**
- 11. Emoni (no last name given), Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC**
- 12. Thomas P. Duffy, II, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of #7w CC**
- 13. Nia (no last name given), Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC**
- 14. Feanna Jattan-Singh, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC**
- 15. Chris Ryan, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #7w CC and opposed to item #8.40A CM**
- 16. Ramon Roman, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #7w CC**
- 17. Kevin Carlo, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #7w CC**
- 18. Amanda Pelley, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC**
- 19. Rick Cipro, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #7w CC**
- 20. Trevis Coleman, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #7w CC**
- 21. Jesse Bonardi, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of #7w CC**
- 22. Brendan Tivnan, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of #7w CC**
- 23. Keith Linhares, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC**
- 24. Diana (no last name given), Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC and spoke in opposition to item #9a CC**
- 25. Echo Borisovsky, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC**
- 26. Sathi Patel, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC**
- 27. Anthony Petrone, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7w CC**
- 28. Alyssa Duffy, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #7w CC**
- 29. Isaiah Gomez, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC**
- 30. Charles McNeil, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #7ee CC**
- 31. Michelle Puch, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #7z CC through #7cc CC**
- 32. Andrew Marsh, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC**
- 33. Casey (no last name given), Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC**
- 34. David Webb, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7x CC, #7z CC through #7ee CC, and #10c CC through #10h CC and spoke in opposition to items #7w CC and #9a CC**
- 35. Rhonda Hicks a.k.a Wahya Gutste Wolfpaw, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #7x CC and #7z CC through #7ee CC**
- 36. Betzabe Grande, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC**
- 37. Avery (no last name given), Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC**
- 38. Tom Marino, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #7w CC and #9a CC**

39. Sarah Bertrand, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC
40. Jason Turner, Grafton resident, spoke in opposition to item #7w CC
41. Alana Gordon, no residence given, spoke concerning item #8.40A CM
42. Joneth Rezidor, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #7x CC and #7z CC through #dd CC
43. David Coyne, Worcester resident, spoke concerning item #8.40A CM
44. Ali (last name indiscernible), Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC
45. Kate Spanerelli, Shrewsbury resident, spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC
46. Judy Diamondstone, Worcester resident, spoke concerning item #8.40A
47. Helen O'Hara, no residence given, spoke concerning item #8.40A CM
48. Margot Barnet, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #7w CC and spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC
49. Chris Robarge, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7x CC and #7z CC through #7cc CC
50. Kathy Esparza, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7c CC and #7aa CC through #7cc CC
51. Ashley Spring, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #7w CC and spoke in support of items #7z CC through #7cc CC
52. Noah Rose, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC and spoke in opposition to item #9a CC
53. Esther Lee, spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC
54. Monique Garrepy, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC
55. Nathalie Gibson, Worcester resident, spoke concerning item #8.40A CM, spoke in favor of items #7w CC, #7x CC, #7z CC through #7ee CC, #8.37A CM and #8.37B CM and spoke in opposition to item #9a CC
56. Eric Stratton, Worcester resident, spoke concerning item #8.40A CM
57. Fred Taylor, Worcester resident, spoke concerning item #8.40A CM
58. Yenni Desroches, Worcester resident, spoke neither in favor or in opposition to item #10j CC and #7y CC, spoke in favor of items #7dd CC, #7x CC, #10e CC through #10h CC, and #10d CC, and spoke in opposition to item #7w CC
59. Kit Abaco, Worcester resident, spoke concerning item #8.40A CM
60. Emma Narkewicz, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7z CC through #7cc CC and spoke in opposition to item #7w CC
61. Colleen West, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7w CC and #7ee CC
62. Kyle Doll, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #7c CC

7. PETITIONS

- 7a. Donald J. O'Neil request Zoning Map be amended by extending the BL-1.0 zone line, bisecting the property situated at 76 Mountain St. West and 78 Mountain St. West northeasterly to encompass the rear portion of both parcels, currently zoned RS-7, within the BL-1.0 zone.
Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to Planning Board. Referred to Planning Board on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 7b. Andre Rosendo request partial removal of the guardrails in front of 12 Sears Island Dr.
Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to refer items #7b CC through #7d CC and #7t CC to Public Works Committee. Referred to Public Works Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

- 7c. Kyle Doll request installation of sidewalk along the east side of Gold Star Blvd. abutting the following properties: 19 Glennie St., 29 MA-12, 10 Distributor Rd. and 50 Gold Star Blvd.
Referred to Public Works Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7b CC)
- 7d. Councilor George J. Russell on behalf of Richard Molinari request installation of a streetlight in front of 6 Woodcliffe Ave.
Referred to Public Works Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7b CC)
- 7e. Corinne Mannino request installation of additional "One Way" signage on Thorndyke Rd. in vicinity of the exits to Thorndyke Elementary School.
Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to refer items #7e CC through #7s CC to the Traffic and Parking Committee. Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 7f. Corrine Mannino request pavement painting of one-way designation between 3 and 11 Thorndyke Rd.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7e CC)
- 7g. Kevin Adams request removal of handicap parking space in front of 197 Eastern Ave.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7e CC)
- 7h. Lewis Gosler et al. request installation of handicap parking space in front of 5 Becket St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7e CC)
- 7i. Pedro R. Rondon request installation of handicap parking space in front of 38 Lakeside Ave.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7e CC)
- 7j. Councilor Jenny Pacillo on behalf of Mary Whelan-True request installation of speed humps on Winifred Ave.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7e CC)
- 7k. Councilor Khrystian E. King on behalf of the Worcester Cultural Academy request installation of "No Parking Anytime" signage on both sides of Caroline St. from Plantation St. to a point 30 ft. west of Plantation St. to facilitate bus and automobile turning movements.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7e CC)
- 7l. Councilor Khrystian E. King on behalf of the Worcester Cultural Academy request installation of a Rapid Flashing Beacon with supplemental crosswalk spotlights at the existing crosswalk crossing Hamilton St. at Dupont St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7e CC)

- 7m.** Councilor Khrystian E. King on behalf of the Worcester Cultural Academy request the establishment of 20 mph Safety Zone on Plantation St. in the vicinity of the Worcester Cultural Academy, located at 81 Plantation St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7e CC)
- 7n.** Councilor Khrystian E. King on behalf of the Worcester Cultural Academy request the establishment of 20 mph Safety Zone on Chrome St. in the vicinity of the Worcester Cultural Academy, located at 81 Plantation St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7e CC)
- 7o.** Councilor Khrystian E. King on behalf of the Worcester Cultural Academy request the establishment of 20 mph Safety Zone on Caroline St. in the vicinity of the Worcester Cultural Academy, located at 255 Grafton St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7e CC)
- 7p.** Councilor Luis A. Ojeda request installation of one-way signage at the intersection of Austin St. and Crown St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7e CC)
- 7q.** Councilor Luis A. Ojeda request installation of one-way signage at the intersection of Austin St. and Oxford St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7e CC)
- 7r.** Councilor Luis A. Ojeda request installation of four (4) crosswalks at the intersection of Austin St. and Oxford St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7e CC)
- 7s.** Councilor Luis A. Ojeda request the installation of a crosswalk at the intersection of Austin St. and Crown St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7e CC)
- 7t.** Councilor Luis A. Ojeda request sidewalk resurfacing on Oxford St.
Referred to Public Works Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7b CC)
- 7u.** NATIONAL GRID and VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC. for a jointly-owned pole at: HUNTINGTON AVE.
Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to set a hearing for January 7, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. for items #7u CC and #7v CC. Hearing set for January 7, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 7v.** NATIONAL GRID for a solely-owned pole at: MCCLINTOCK AVE.
Hearing set for January 7, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7u CC)

- 7w. Richard Cipro, Anthony Petrone and Thomas Duffy on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Police Officials Local 504 and New England Police Benevolent Association Local 911 request City Council request City Manager request the Department of Justice release and present in a public forum the full investigatory report, specifically to what the DOJ states are "creditable allegations" of criminal sexual misconduct alleged to be committed by members of the Worcester Police Department. Further, request City Council request City Manager request the Department of Justice include the dates, times and names of all individuals alleged to have committed the stated misconduct and/or potential criminal activity.

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor King, who moved, "That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby amend the Petition brought forth by Richard Cipro, Anthony Petrone and Thomas Duffy as Item #7w CC on the December 17, 2024 City Council Agenda to include the following language: "Further, that under no circumstances, will the City Council do anything to violate the confidentiality of women who reported their experiences." (See Item #13h CC).

Councilor King then moved to Table the Item Under Privilege.

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Nguyen, who moved to amend Councilor King's amendment to replace the word, "women," with the word, "people."

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

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Russell, who moved to Table Councilor King's motion Under Privilege.

Tabled Under Privilege – King

- 7x. Audra Doody request a public apology be made regarding the comments made in the Telegram and Gazette about the Department of Justice investigation.

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor King, who 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

- 7y. Michael J. Grandone request City Council request City Manager provide City Council with report concerning the legality of establishing a third real estate tax classification for all housing units that are not a single family unit.

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Haxhiaj, who moved to place the item on file.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote on Councilor Haxhiaj's motion to place the item on file. Placed on file on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

- 7z. Liz Grajales, on behalf of Project Priceless, request City Council request City Manager issue public acknowledgement, condemnation and apology for the sexual abuse of prostituted women by WPD officers, as detailed in the Department of Justice report.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to take the item up collectively with item #7aa CC.

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who moved, “That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby support the establishment of a homeless shelter dedicated to women.” (See Item #13i CC).

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager work with the Interim Police Chief and various Worcester Police Department Union leadership to inform and educate all law enforcement officials regarding the facts outlined in the Department of Justice (DOJ)’s Investigation of the Worcester Police Department (WPD) and the City of Worcester, Massachusetts. (See Item #13j CC).

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager work to provide City Council with a thorough review of the summary of facts outlined in the Department of Justice (DOJ)’s Investigation of the Worcester Police Department (WPD) and the City of Worcester, Massachusetts.” (See Item #13k CC).

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Toomey, who moved to Table the Item Under Privilege Councilor King’s motions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to the City Manager and item #7aa CC to the City Manager and to Public Health and Human Services Committee. Referred to the City Manager on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

7aa. Liz Grajales, on behalf of Project Priceless, request City Council request City Manager allocate a building for funds for a building for Project Priceless to operate a shelter and provide critical resources to homeless women, such as harm reduction programming and peer support.

Referred to the City Manager and to Public Health and Human Services Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7z CC)

7bb. Liz Grajales, on behalf of Project Priceless, request City Council request City Manager commit to criminalizing abusers, including sex buyers, pimps, and cops who abuse women, while decriminalizing and rehabilitating abused women.

Mayor Petty read the item and 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

7cc. Liz Grajales, on behalf of Project Priceless, request City Council request City Manager allocate financial reparations and mental health support to women harmed by systemic abuses detailed in the Department of Justice report.

Mayor Petty read the item and 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

7dd. Dzifah Hiatsi request City Council request City Manager provide City Council with report concerning the steps taken by the city to collaborate with other cities and human rights organization.

Mayor Petty read the item and 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

7ee. Charles McNeil request City Council request City Manager look into staffing at all city owned sites where there are homelessness services to determine what mental health care is available now and to increase funding and direct services as needed.

Mayor Petty read the item and 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

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER

8.1 APPOINTMENTS

Non-City Council Confirmation

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to the appointment of Anthony Mangini as a Constable for Civil and Criminal Business.

**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**

- B. Transmitting informational communication relative to the appointment of Cassie Tortorici to the Worcester Arts Council.

**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**

8.2 APPOINTMENTS

City Council Confirmation

8.3 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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

8.4 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Peter Dunn, Chief Development Officer

- A. Recommend approval of a Conservation Restriction – 305 Belmont Street (MBL: 57-004-B1-02).

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to adopt the item. Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

8.5 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Kevin Lovaincy, Chief Equity Officer

8.6 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Division of Human Rights and Accessibility

Patricia M. LaFore, Director

8.7 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

Administration Division

Robert Moylan, P.E., Interim Commissioner

8.8 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

Engineering and Architectural Services Division

Robert Moylan, P.E., Interim Commissioner

8.9 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

Operations Division

Robert Moylan, P.E., Interim Commissioner

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to private street maintenance.

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

Tabled Under Privilege - Russell

8.10 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

Parks Division

Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., Assistant Commissioner

8.11 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

Stephen S. Rolle, P.E., Commissioner

8.12 FIRE DEPARTMENT

Martin Dyer, Fire Chief

8.13 POLICE DEPARTMENT

Paul B. Saucier, Interim Police Chief

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to unfilled details.

Mayor Petty read the item and 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

- B. Transmitting informational communication relative to a quarterly update on the use of the small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS)/Drone.

Mayor Petty read the item and 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

8.14 DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Charles R. Goodwin, Director

8.15 LAW DEPARTMENT

Michael E. Traynor, Esq., City Solicitor

8.16 DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES

Administration

David Horne, Interim Commissioner

- 8.17 DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES**
Building and Zoning Division
David Horne, Deputy Building Commissioner
- 8.18 DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES**
Housing and Health Inspections Division
Lee R. Hall, Director
- 8.19 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Administration
Dr. Matilde "Mattie" Castiel, M.D., Commissioner
- 8.20 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health
Soloe M. Dennis, MS, MEP, Director
- 8.21 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Elder Affairs
Amy Vogel Waters, Director
- 8.22 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Veterans Services
Dr. Joe Robinson, Veterans' Services Officer/Director
- 8.23 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Youth Services
Raquel Castro-Corazzini, Director
- 8.24 WORCESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY**
Jason L. Homer, Executive Director
- 8.25 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**
Election Commission Division
Nikolin Vangjeli, City Clerk
- 8.26 PUBLIC SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**
Rachel Monárrez, Superintendent
- 8.27 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**
Administration
Timothy McGourthy, Chief Financial Officer

8.28 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Assessing Division

Samuel E. Konieczny, City Assessor

8.29 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Budget Office Division

Erin E. Taylor, Director

8.30 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Purchasing Division

Christopher Gagliastro, Director

8.31 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Treasury and Collections Division

Francisco Hernandez, Treasurer and Collector of Taxes

8.32 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC FACILITIES

James Bedard, Chief of Public Facilities

8.33 DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

John W. Odell, Chief Sustainability Officer

A. Transmitting informational communication relative to the Clean Streets Collective - Pilot Program.

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

8.34 DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Michael P. Hamel, Chief Information Officer

8.35 FINANCE ITEMS

Capital Transfers

8.36 FINANCE ITEMS

Grants and Donations

A. Recommend adoption of a resolution to accept with gratitude a donation of Four Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$400.00) from the Worcester County Senior Athletic Association to support costs associated with City athletic sports fields.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to adopt items #8.36A CM through #8.36J CM except 8.36B CM and #8.37A CM through #8.37C CM. Resolution adopted with gratitude on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

- B. Recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept and expend a grant in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars And No Cents (\$300,000.00) from the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) to support Recreation Worcester.

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 adopt the item. Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Ojeda recused)

- C. Recommend adoption of a resolution to accept with gratitude a donation of Five Hundred Fifty Dollars and No Cents (\$550.00) from Ms. Laura Gennarelli and Mr. David Taberner for a Memorial Tree Planting at Elm Park.

Resolution adopted with gratitude on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.36A CM)

- D. Recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept and expend a grant in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$50,000.00) from Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection under the MA EVIP Grant program.

Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.36A CM)

- E. Recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept and expend a grant in the amount of Eleven Thousand One Hundred Eleven Dollars And Eleven Cents (\$11,111.11) from Executive Office of Public Safety and Security under the Municipal Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (MLCGP) program.

Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.36A CM)

- F. Recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept and expend a grant in the amount of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars And No Cents (\$75,000.00) from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation as allocated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.36A CM)

- G. Recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept, and expend a grant in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$500,000.00) from Department of Justice under the Criminal Justice Response Grant.

Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.36A CM)

- H. Recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept, and expend a grant in the amount of Fifty One Thousand Dollars And No Cents (\$51,000.00) from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, under the FFY25 Address Verification Program (AVP).

Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.36A CM)

- I. Recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept, and expend a grant in the amount of Fifty Three Thousand Dollars And No Cents (\$53,000.00) from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security under the Fiscal Year 2025 Human Trafficking Enforcement & Training Grant program.

Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.36A CM)

- J. Recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept and expend a grant in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars And No Cents (\$50,000.00) from Mass Tech Collaborative for the Alternative Cyber Career Education (ACE) Grant Program.

Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #10.36A CM)

8.37 FINANCE ITEMS

Operational Transfers

- A. Recommend that Ten Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$10,000.00) be transferred from Cost Center #CC1012-610100, Human Resources Ordinary Maintenance, and be appropriated to Cost Center #CC1012-601100, Human Resources Overtime, to provide funding for additional overtime costs related to the Workday ERP project.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #10.36A CM)

- B. Recommend that One Hundred Thousand Dollars And No Cents (\$100,000.00) be transferred from Cost Center #CC1072-610110, City Manager's Contingency, and be appropriated to Cost Center #CC1017-601100, Emergency Communications Overtime, to cover anticipated expenditures through the remainder of Fiscal Year 2025.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #10.36A CM)

- C. Recommend that One Million Dollars And No Cents (\$1,000,000.00) be transferred from Cost Center #CC1044-600100, Fire Salaries, and be appropriated to Cost Center #CC1044-601100, Fire Overtime, to maintain daily staffing levels in accordance with department policy.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #10.36A CM)

8.38 FINANCE ITEMS

Prior Year

8.39 FINANCE

Loan Orders

8.40 MISCELLANEOUS AGENDA TRANSMITTALS

- A.** Transmitting informational communication relative to a report detailing a United States Department of Justice Investigation of the Worcester Police Department and the City of Worcester.

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized the City Manager, who spoke concerning the report detailing the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) Investigation of the Worcester Police Department and the City of Worcester, which included acknowledging and recognizing survivors of sexual violence, concerns related to a public statement made by external counsel hired by the City of Worcester, an apology to individuals whom perceived the public statement from external counsel as dismissive, historical best practices related to transformative systemic change, and the process relative to seeking justice for all parties involved related to the DOJ report.

Vice Chairperson Councilor King recognized Mayor Petty, who moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a thorough response to the Department of Justice (DOJ)’s Investigation of the Worcester Police Department (WPD) and the City of Worcester, Massachusetts within the next thirty (30) days, if practical, that includes a response to each of the nineteen (19) recommendations provided to the City that notes: a) whether the city has already addressed the specific recommendation and any pertinent data to support the claim; b) whether the City believes the recommendation has merit; c) whether the recommendation is one of policy, practice, or procedure and d) how the city plans to address each recommendation. Further, said response should include any notations if the city believes any of the recommendations do not have merit, or is a miscommunication, with the City’s belief being detailed accordingly. Further, if the DOJ releases the identities of the officers who allegedly abused their powers and took advantage of vulnerable populations, including those victimized by commercial sex trade and sex workers, said response should include an adequate roadmap for holding WPD officers accountable. Further, said report should include whether the DOJ has any further qualitative or quantitative data concerning their findings. Further, request City Manager explore the feasibility of including the DOJ Report on the city’s online dashboard, if possible.” (See Item #13b CC).

Mayor Petty then moved to Table the Item.

Mayor Petty then moved, “That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby commit to holding five (5) Special City Council Meetings to discuss and hear community input regarding the Department of Justice (DOJ)’s Investigation of the Worcester Police Department (WPD) and the City of Worcester, Massachusetts.” (See Item #13c CC).

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

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who moved to, “Request City Auditor organize and conduct a performance audit relative to the Department of Justice (DOJ)’s Investigation of the Worcester Police Department (WPD) and the City of Worcester, Massachusetts that includes a review of WPD body camera footage and reconciles any disparities provided in the DOJ report. Further, request City Auditor include in said performance audit whether oversight occurred and whether any

subsequent disciplinary action took place.” (See Item #13d CC).

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

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager include timelines and timeframes for any immediate action steps applicable to the Department of Justice (DOJ)’s Investigation of the Worcester Police Department (WPD) and the City of Worcester, Massachusetts. Further, request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the DOJ’s position relative to how the city is prioritizing the recommendations provided in their report.” (See Item #13e CC).

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

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

Councilor Nguyen then moved to, “Request City Manager support and provide transparency around the work the Human Rights Commission is doing by ensuring their agendas and minutes are online and accessible to the public. Further, request City Manager honor the priorities of the Human Rights Commission, such as investigating the Worcester Police Department (WPD).” (See Item #13f CC).

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King for a second time, who moved to, “Request City Manager consider revisiting the decision to discontinue the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee, in an effort to decouple the duties of the Human Rights Commission and ensure their workload capacity is not strained.” (See Item #13g CC).

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to collectively adopt all motions associated with the item and to Table the item. Motions adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

Tabled – Petty

9. COMMUNICATION

- 9a. Nikolin Vangjeli, City Clerk, recommending adoption of an Order authorizing the Mayor to execute an Employment Agreement with Eric D. Batista to continue as City Manager and passage of an amendment to the salary ordinance associated with the City Manager.

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

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

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

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

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

Tabled Under Privilege – Nguyen

10. TABLED UNDER PRIVILEGE

- 10a. COMMUNICATION of the City Manager transmitting informational communication relative to the Endicott Street and Bigelow Street Project. (Tabled Under Privilege - Pacillo December 10, 2024)

Mayor Petty read the item and 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 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

- 10b. ORDER of Councilor Kathleen M. Toomey - Request City Manager work with Preservation Worcester and the Worcester Historical Museum to identify a plan to acquire funds to refurbish and repair the City Council Chamber desks, podium, and center table. Said plan should also consider including students from Worcester Technical High School (WTHS) as apprentices for the project. (Tabled Under Privilege - Mero-Carlson December 10, 2024)

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

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to adopt the item. Order adopted on a roll call vote of 9 Yeas and 0 Nays (Mero-Carlson absent) (Bergman recused)

- 10c.** ORDER of Councilor Etel Haxhiaj - Request City Manager request Interim Commissioner of Inspectional Services and Fire Chief provide City Council with a summary of discussions with the Washington Heights architecture and engineering team related to the installation of fire sprinklers for the buildings that were damaged by the fire in June of 2023. Said report should include any enforcement abilities that Inspectional Services and/or the Fire Department have to enforce the installation of automatic fire sprinklers in the building damaged by the fire in June of 2023. (Tabled Under Privilege - Mero-Carlson December 10, 2024)

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to take the item up collectively with item #10d CC.

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Russell, who moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing financial options available relative to installing automatic sprinkler systems in buildings rehabilitated or substantially renovated.” (See Item #13l CC).

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning any financial assistance available to individuals installing sprinkler alarm systems in their properties when starting a business.” (See Item #13m CC).

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to adopt the items. Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Mero-Carlson absent)

- 10d.** ORDER of Councilor Etel Haxhiaj - Request City Manager work with the Fire Chief and City Solicitor to provide City Council with draft language for a Home Rule Petition that allows the municipality to opt into Mass. General Law (MGL) Chapter 148, Section 26I (see attached) pertaining to automatic sprinkler systems in buildings rehabilitated or substantially renovated. (Tabled Under Privilege - Mero-Carlson December 10, 2024)

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

- 10e.** ORDER of Councilor Khrystian E. King - Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the timelines associated with what is known relative to the Shotspotter and Shotspotter Connect contracts. (Tabled Under Privilege - Mero-Carlson December 10, 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 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Mero-Carlson absent)

- 10f.** ORDER of Councilor Khrystian E. King - Request City Manager conduct an equity audit of all city departments every five (5) years. (Tabled Under Privilege - Mero-Carlson December 10, 2024)

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

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote on Councilor Toomey's motion to Table the Item Under Privilege for a second time. Tabled Under Privilege on a roll call vote of 5 Yeas and 5 Nays (Yeas – Bergman, Colorio, Russell, Toomey, Petty) (Nays – Haxhiaj, King, Nguyen, Ojeda, Pacillo) (Mero-Carlson absent)

Tabled Under Privilege - Toomey

- 10g.** ORDER of Councilor Khrystian E. King - Request City Manager provide City Council with a copy of all memos, notes, and recommendations the city receives from the Human Rights Commission (HRC). (Tabled Under Privilege - Mero-Carlson December 10, 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 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Mero-Carlson absent)

- 10h.** ORDER of Councilor Khrystian E. King - Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing all city Board and Commission applications and denials. (Tabled Under Privilege - Mero-Carlson December 10, 2024)

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

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

Councilor Russell then moved to place the item on file.

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

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

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

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote on Councilor Russell's motion to place the item on file. Motion denied on a roll call vote of 4 Yeas and 5 Nays (Yeas – Bergman, Russell, Toomey, Petty) (Nays – Haxhiaj, King, Nguyen, Ojeda, Pacillo (Colorio, Mero-Carlson absent).

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

10i. ORDER of Councilor George J. Russell - Request City Manager provide City Council with a draft ordinance that bans commercial vehicles over 11,000 pounds from parking throughout the city, unless such a commercial delivery driver is in the process of loading or unloading their vehicle or conducting similar commercial activities. (Tabled Under Privilege - Mero-Carlson December 10, 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 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Colorio absent)

10j. ORDER of Councilor Morris A. Bergman - Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing: 1) what metrics will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of initiatives such as the “Worcester Mobility Action Plan” and “Vision Zero;” 2) whose responsibility it will be to evaluate said programs; 3) how often said evaluations will be completed; and 4) what type of options will be available if the desired results are not being met. (Tabled Under Privilege - Mero-Carlson December 10, 2024)

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

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to adopt the item. Order adopted on a roll call vote of 9 Yeas and 2 Nays (Yeas – Bergman, Colorio, King, Mero-Carlson, Ojeda, Pacillo, Russell, Toomey, Petty) (Nays – Haxhiaj, Nguyen)

10k. ORDER of Councilor Morris A. Bergman - Request City Manager create and place an appropriate monument/marker at or near the location on Pearl St. where candlepin bowling was invented 145 years ago (in 1880). (Tabled Under Privilege - Mero-Carlson December 10, 2024)

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

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to adopt the item. Order adopted 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

- 11j.** 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 and November 19, 2024 and Tabled - Petty November 26, 2024)

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Ojeda, who moved to Take the Item Off the Table. Taken off the Table on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 1 Nay (Nay – Russell).

Councilor Ojeda then spoke concerning the item.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Russell, who moved to refer the item to Public Works Committee.

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

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

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing any and all options that were considered as uses for the 51 and 61 Sever St. property.” (See Item #13n CC).

Councilor King then moved to refer the item to Education Committee. – Not Put.

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

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

12. BUSINESS UNDER SUSPENSION - Items brought forth under suspension at the December 10, 2024 City Council meeting.

- 12a.** ORDER of Councilor Jenny Pacillo – That the Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2025 be set at \$13.19 for Residential Property and \$28.61 for Commercial, Industrial and Personal Property. – Item #25a CC – Order adopted on a roll call vote of 7 Yeas and 4 Nays

- 12b.** ORDER of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the amount of revenues gained over the past four (4) to five (5) years from properties’ Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Tax Increment Exemption (TIE) agreements expiring and the locations fully coming onto the tax rolls. Further, request City Manager include in said report projections relative to properties expected to come onto the tax rolls over the next five (5) years. – Item #25b CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 12c.** PETITION of Stephen P. Quist request installation of metered parking in the vicinity of WPI on Faraday St. – Item #25c Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 3 Nays
- 12d.** PETITION of Stephen P. Quist request installation of metered parking in the vicinity of WPI on Salisbury St. – Item #25d Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 3 Nays
- 12e.** PETITION of Stephen P. Quist request installation of metered parking in the vicinity of WPI on Boynton St. – Item #25e Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 3 Nays
- 12f.** PETITION of Stephen P. Quist request installation of metered parking in the vicinity of WPI on Humboldt Ave. – Item #25f Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 3 Nays
- 12g.** PETITION of Stephen P. Quist request installation of metered parking in the vicinity of WPI on Lancaster St. – Item #25g Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 3 Nays
- 12h.** PETITION of Stephen P. Quist request installation of metered parking in the vicinity of WPI on John Wing Rd. – Item #25h Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 3 Nays
- 12i.** PETITION of Stephen P. Quist request installation of metered parking in the vicinity of WPI on Drury Ln. – Item #25i Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 3 Nays
- 12j.** PETITION of Stephen P. Quist request installation of metered parking in the vicinity of WPI on Elbridge St. – Item #25j Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 3 Nays
- 12k.** PETITION of Stephen P. Quist request installation of metered parking in the vicinity of WPI on West St. – Item #25k Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 3 Nays
- 12l.** PETITION of Stephen P. Quist request installation of metered parking in the vicinity of WPI on Dean St. – Item #25l Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 3 Nays

- 12m.** PETITION of Stephen P. Quist request installation of metered parking in the vicinity of WPI on Hackfeld Rd. – Item #25m Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 3 Nays
- 12n.** PETITION of Stephen P. Quist request installation of metered parking in the vicinity of WPI on Dover St. – Item #25n Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 3 Nays
- 12o.** PETITION of Stephen P. Quist request installation of metered parking in the vicinity of WPI on Trowbridge Rd. – Item #25o Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 3 Nays
- 12p.** PETITION of Stephen P. Quist request installation of metered parking in the vicinity of WPI on Schussler Rd. – Item #25p Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 3 Nays
- 12q.** PETITION of Stephen P. Quist request installation of metered parking in the vicinity of WPI on Washburn St. – Item #25q Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 3 Nays
- 12r.** PETITION of Stephen P. Quist request installation of metered parking in the vicinity of WPI on Garden St. – Item #25r Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 3 Nays
- 12s.** PETITION of Stephen P. Quist request installation of metered parking in the vicinity of WPI on Prescott St. – Item #25s Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 3 Nays
- 12t.** PETITION of Stephen P. Quist request installation of metered parking in the vicinity of WPI on Einhorn Rd. – Item #25t Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 3 Nays
- 12u.** PETITION of Stephen P. Quist request installation of metered parking in the vicinity of WPI on Hall St. – Item #25u Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 3 Nays
- 12v.** PETITION of Stephen P. Quist request installation of metered parking in the vicinity of WPI on Massachusetts Ave. – Item #25v Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 3 Nays
- 12w.** ORDER of Mayor Joseph M. Petty – That the necessary documentation be prepared to enter into a contract agreement with Eric D. Batista to continue as City Manager of the City of Worcester with the attached terms. - Item #25w CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 9 Yeas and 2 Nays

- 12x.** ORDER of Councilor Khrystian E. King – That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby suspend its rules to allow for the introduction of items not reasonably anticipated nor posted on the agenda. – Item #25x CC Order denied on a roll call vote of 7 Yeas and 4 Nays (Note: Per Rule 33 (c) of the Rules of the City Council, the adoption of any such motion to suspend the Rules of City Council to introduce items not reasonably anticipated shall require a two-thirds vote.)

13. NEW BUSINESS UNDER SUSPENSION - Items brought forth under suspension at the December 17, 2024 City Council meeting.

- 13a.** Motion Russell @ #6a CC – That the City Council does hereby suspend its rules to allow for the public participation section of the agenda on December 17, 2024, to occur beyond the typically allotted thirty (30) minutes.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #6a CC)

- 13b.** Motion Petty @ #8.40A CM – Request City Manager provide City Council with a thorough response to the Department of Justice (DOJ)’s Investigation of the Worcester Police Department (WPD) and the City of Worcester, Massachusetts within the next thirty (30) days, if practical, that includes a response to each of the nineteen (19) recommendations provided to the City that notes: a) whether the city has already addressed the specific recommendation and any pertinent data to support the claim; b) whether the City believes the recommendation has merit; c) whether the recommendation is one of policy, practice, or procedure and d) how the city plans to address each recommendation. Further, said response should include any notations if the city believes any of the recommendations do not have merit, or is a miscommunication, with the City’s belief being detailed accordingly. Further, if the DOJ releases the identities of the officers who allegedly abused their powers and took advantage of vulnerable populations, including those victimized by commercial sex trade and sex workers, said response should include an adequate roadmap for holding WPD officers accountable. Further, said report should include whether the DOJ has any further qualitative or quantitative data concerning their findings. Further, request City Manager explore the feasibility of including the DOJ Report on the city’s online dashboard, if possible.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.40A CM)

- 13c.** Motion Petty @ #8.40A CM – That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby commit to holding five (5) Special City Council Meetings to discuss and hear community input regarding the Department of Justice (DOJ)’s Investigation of the Worcester Police Department (WPD) and the City of Worcester, Massachusetts.

Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.40A CM)

- 13d.** Motion King @ #8.40A CM – Request City Auditor organize and conduct a performance audit relative to the Department of Justice (DOJ)’s Investigation of the Worcester Police Department (WPD) and the City of Worcester, Massachusetts that includes a review of WPD body camera footage and reconciles any disparities provided in the DOJ report. Further, request City Auditor include in said performance audit whether oversight occurred and whether any subsequent disciplinary action took place.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.40A CM)

- 13e.** Motion King @ #8.40A CM – Request City Manager include timelines and timeframes for any immediate action steps applicable to the Department of Justice (DOJ)’s Investigation of the Worcester Police Department (WPD) and the City of Worcester, Massachusetts. Further, request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the DOJ’s position relative to how the city is prioritizing the recommendations provided in their report.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.40A CM)

- 13f.** Motion Nguyen @ #8.40A CM – Request City Manager support and provide transparency around the work the Human Rights Commission is doing by ensuring their agendas and minutes are online and accessible to the public. Further, request City Manager honor the priorities of the Human Rights Commission, such as investigating the Worcester Police Department (WPD).

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.40A CM)

- 13g.** Motion King @ #8.40A CM – Request City Manager consider revisiting the decision to discontinue the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee, in an effort to decouple the duties of the Human Rights Commission and ensure their workload capacity is not strained.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.40A CM)

- 13h.** Motion King @ #7w CC – That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby amend the Petition brought forth by Richard Cipro, Anthony Petrone and Thomas Duffy as Item #7w CC on the December 17, 2024 City Council Agenda to include the following language: “Further, that under no circumstances, will the City Council do anything to violate the confidentiality of women who reported their experiences.”

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who introduced the amendment.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Nguyen, who moved to amend Councilor King’s amendment to replace the word, “women,” with the word, “people.”

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Russell, who moved to Table the Item Under Privilege as amended.

Tabled Under Privilege as amended – Russell (See Item #7w CC)

- 13i.** Motion King @ #7z CC – That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby support the establishment of a homeless shelter dedicated to women.

Tabled Under Privilege - Toomey (See Item #7z CC)

13j. Motion King @ #7z CC – Request City Manager work with the Interim Police Chief and various Worcester Police Department Union leadership to inform and educate all law enforcement officials regarding the facts outlined in the Department of Justice (DOJ)’s Investigation of the Worcester Police Department (WPD) and the City of Worcester, Massachusetts.

Tabled Under Privilege - Toomey (See Item #7z CC)

13k. Motion King @ #7z CC – Request City Manager work to provide City Council with a thorough review of the summary of facts outlined in the Department of Justice (DOJ)’s Investigation of the Worcester Police Department (WPD) and the City of Worcester, Massachusetts.

Tabled Under Privilege - Toomey (See Item #7z CC)

13l. Motion Russell @ #10c CC – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing financial options available relative to installing automatic sprinkler systems in buildings rehabilitated or substantially renovated.

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

13m. Motion King @ #10c CC – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning any financial assistance available to individuals installing sprinkler alarm systems in their properties when starting a business.

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

13n. Motion King @ #11j CC – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing any and all options that were considered as uses for the 51 and 61 Sever St. property.

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

Contact Info:
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