

CITY OF WORCESTER

JOURNAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Esther Howland (South) Chamber

Convened: 6:23 P.M.

Adjourned: 8:26 P.M.

MAYOR

Joseph M. Petty

AT-LARGE COUNCILORS

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



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DISTRICT COUNCILORS

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

CITY CLERK

Nikolin Vangjeli

CITY MANAGER

Eric D. Batista

CITY AUDITOR

Robert V. Stearns

City Hall - 455 Main Street Worcester, Massachusetts

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. STAR SPANGLED BANNER

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

4. PROCLAMATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, MOMENTS OF SILENCE

- 4a. Mayor Petty presented a KEY TO THE CITY to Dea Kamberi to honor her receiving the 2025 Distinguished Young Woman of Massachusetts award. This marks the first time the award has been awarded to a Worcester Public Schools woman.

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 April 1, 2025.

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

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

1. Fred Nathan, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #9f CC, #12a CC, and #13a CC
2. John Edward Keough, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #9g CC
3. Jason Pincomb, Worcester resident, spoke neither in favor of nor opposed to item #13a CC
4. Walt Yarbrough, Worcester resident, spoke neither in favor of nor opposed to item #12f CC
5. David Webb, Worcester resident, spoke neither in favor of nor opposed to item #9g CC and spoke in opposition to item #10.13A CM
6. Mike Kelleher, Worcester resident, spoke neither in favor of nor opposed to item #12f CC
7. Athena Haddon, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #10.35C CM

7. ELECTION OF TWO RESIDENTS TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

7a. ELECTION - To fill one (1) vacancy for a term ending December 31, 2028.

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

Mayor Petty provided an opening statement, including information from, “Rules Appendix D – Election of the Library Board,” from the Rules of City Council, which outlines the process for electing members of the Library Board of Directors.

Mayor Petty recognized Kwesi Foster, Mary Chenaille, Felix Afranie, Danielle Babineau, and Juliet Feibel, who spoke relative to their qualifications to be elected to the Library Board of Directors.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to elect one member for the term ending on December 31, 2028. After two roll calls, Mary Chenaille, having received the most votes and a majority vote of the City Council, was elected to serve the term ending on December 31, 2028.

7b. ELECTION - To fill one (1) vacancy for a term ending December 31, 2025.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to elect one member for the term ending on December 31, 2025. After three roll calls, William Wallace, having received the most votes and a majority vote of the City Council, was elected to serve the term ending on December 31, 2025 (See Item #7a CC).

8. HEARING AND ORDER

- 8a. Hearing: EVERSOURCE for a plastic gas main at: UNDERWOOD ST.

Granting permission to EVERSOURCE for a plastic gas main at: UNDERWOOD ST.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to open the hearings for items #8a CC and #12f CC. Mayor Petty's motion was approved on a voice vote.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Mero-Carlson, who moved to, "Request City Manager work with the appropriate utility company representatives to ensure the prevention of any further damage to the roads being negatively impacted by the National Grid conduit location work on Hemans St." (See Item #15a CC).

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

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

9. PETITIONS

- 9a. Matthew C. Morse et al. request installation of "No Parking School Bus Only 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. School Days Only" on Main St. along the front of the property of Jacob Hiatt Magnet School (772 Main St.).

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to refer items #9a CC through #9e CC to Traffic and Parking Committee. Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee

- 9b. Matthew C. Morse et al. request installation of "No Parking School Bus Only 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. School Days Only" signage on the sidewalk on Murray Ave. along the property of Jacob Hiatt Magnet School (772 Main St.).

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #9a CC)

- 9c. Keith J. Linhares request installation of Safety Zone on Highland St. between Park Ave. and Newton Ave.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #9a CC)

- 9d. Keith J. Linhares request installation of Safety Zone on Newton Ave. from the rotary up through Chani's Kosher Deli (22 Newton Ave.).

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #9a CC)

- 9e. Julia King and Ellen Greenlaw request installation of "Dead End" signage on Stark Rd. at the intersection of Juniper Rd.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #9a CC)

- 9f. Fred Nathan request installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Bigelow Davis Parkway and Lake Ave.

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

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

- 9g. CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS for a conduit location at: 3 EATON PL.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to set hearings for items #9g CC and #9h CC for April 29, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. Hearing set for April 29, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

- 9h. NATIONAL GRID for a conduit location at: BRIDGEPORT ST. and GRANITE ST.

Hearing set for April 29, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. (See Item #9g CC)

10. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER

10.1 APPOINTMENTS

Non-City Council Confirmation

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to the reappointment of Francisco Valdes and Jason Pincomb to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board of Trustees.

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

10.2 APPOINTMENTS

City Council Confirmation

- A. Recommending appointment of Elana Rosenbaum to the Citizen Advisory Council.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to confirm the appointments for items #10.2A CM and #10.2B CM. Confirmed on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent)

- B. Recommending reappointment of Pablo Santiago and Deborah Gonzalez to the Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs.

Confirmed on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #10.2A CM)

10.3 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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

10.4 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Peter Dunn, Chief Development Officer

10.5 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Kevin Lovaincy, Chief Equity Officer

10.6 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Division of Human Rights and Accessibility

Patricia M. LaFore, Director

10.7 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

Administration Division

John K. Westerling, Commissioner

10.8 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

Engineering and Architectural Services Division

John K. Westerling, Commissioner

10.9 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

Operations Division

John K. Westerling, Commissioner

10.10 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

Parks Division

John K. Westerling, Commissioner

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to the Tree City USA Award 2024.

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

- B. Transmitting informational communication relative to improvements to the tennis courts at Newton Square in Elm Park.

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

Mayor Petty recognized Parks and Recreation Assistant Commissioner, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Colorio.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Pacillo, who moved to, “Request City Manager request Assistant Commissioner of Public Works and Parks consider creating additional pickleball court options at the tennis courts at Newton Square in Elm Park.” (See Item #15b CC).

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Russell, who moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing a timeline associated with renovating the tennis courts at Blithewood Park.” (See Item #15c CC).

Mayor Petty moved to refer the item to Veterans’ Memorials, Parks and Recreation Committee. Referred to Veterans’ Memorials, Parks and Recreation Committee

- C. Transmitting informational communication relative to Arbor Day 2025.

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

10.11 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

Stephen S. Rolle, P.E., Commissioner

10.12 FIRE DEPARTMENT

Martin Dyer, Fire Chief

10.13 POLICE DEPARTMENT

Paul B. Saucier, Police Chief

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to the ShotSpotter Contract.

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

- B. Transmitting informational communication relative to a report on 2024 hate crimes.

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

10.14 DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Charles R. Goodwin, Commissioner

10.15 LAW DEPARTMENT

Alexandra H. Kalkounis, Esq., City Solicitor

10.16 DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES

Administration

David Horne, Interim Commissioner

10.17 DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES

Building and Zoning Division

David Horne, Deputy Building Commissioner

10.18 DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES

Housing and Health Inspections Division

Lee R. Hall, Director

10.19 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration

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

10.20 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Elder Affairs

Amy Vogel Waters, Director

10.21 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Veterans Services

Dr. Joe Robinson, Veterans' Services Officer/Director

- 10.22 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Youth Services
Raquel Castro-Corazzini, Director
- 10.23 WORCESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY**
Jason L. Homer, Executive Director
- 10.24 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**
Election Commission Division
Nikolin Vangjeli, City Clerk
- 10.25 PUBLIC SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**
Rachel Monárrez, Superintendent
- 10.26 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**
Administration
Timothy McGourthy, Chief Financial Officer
- 10.27 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**
Assessing Division
Samuel E. Konieczny, City Assessor
- 10.28 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**
Budget Office Division
Erin E. Taylor, Director
- 10.29 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**
Purchasing Division
Christopher Gagliastro, Director
- 10.30 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**
Treasury and Collections Division
Francisco Hernandez, Treasurer and Collector of Taxes
- 10.31 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC FACILITIES**
James Bedard, Chief of Public Facilities
- 10.32 DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE**
John W. Odell, Chief Sustainability Officer
- 10.33 DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY**
Michael P. Hamel, Chief Information Officer

10.34 FINANCE ITEMS
Capital Transfers

10.35 FINANCE ITEMS
Grants and Donations

- A. Recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept and expend a grant in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$10,000.00), from the the American Library Association under the Library Building Capacity program, to support the Worcester Public Library's resources and classes for the New Americans community.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to adopt items #10.35A CM through #10.3E CM, #10.36A CM through #10.35F CM, #10.37A CM and #10.37B CM. Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent)

- B. Recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept and expend a grant in the amount of One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars And No Cents (\$125,000.00) from the MA Attorney Generals Office under the Consumer Rights program.

Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #10.35A CM)

- C. Recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept, and expend a grant in the amount of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$350,000.00) from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) for the City of Worcester's Division of Public Health to develop and implement substance prevention services.

Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #10.35A CM)

- D. Recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept, and expend a grant in the amount of Sixty Three Thousand Dollars And No Cents (\$63,000.00) from the UMass Memorial Medical Center, Inc., Community Benefits Department.

Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #10.35A CM)

- E. Recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept, and expend a grant in the amount of Thirty Thousand Dollars And No Cents (\$30,000.00) from the United Way through the Fred Harris Daniels Foundation.

Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #10.35A CM)

10.36 FINANCE ITEMS

Operational Transfers

- A. Recommend that Fifty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$50,000.00) be transferred from Cost Center #CC1015-602100, Injured on Duty Fringe Benefits, and be appropriated to Cost Center #CC1012-610100, Human Resources Ordinary Maintenance, to provide additional funding for temporary worker expenses through the remainder of Fiscal Year 2025.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #10.35A CM)

- B. Recommend that Three Hundred Fifteen Thousand Four Hundred Forty Four Dollars And No Cents (\$315,444.00) be transferred from Fund #FD314, Reserve for Appropriation Premium on Loans, and be appropriated to Cost Center #CC1062-610100, Treasury Ordinary Maintenance, to fund the costs associated with the issuance of the \$62,720,000 General Obligation Bond dated March 17, 2025.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #10.35A CM)

- C. Recommend that One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Four Hundred Eleven Dollars and No Cents (\$125,411.00) be transferred from Cost Center #CC1008-699399, Sustainability and Resilience Capital Outlay, and be appropriated to Cost Center #CC1008-610100, Sustainability and Resilience Ordinary Maintenance, for the “Expanding Dual-Stream Public Waste Bins” project.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #10.35A CM)

- D. Recommend that Fifty Thousand Dollars And No Cents (\$50,000.00) be transferred from Cost Center #CC1010-600100, Elections Salaries, and be appropriated to Cost Center #CC1010-610100, Elections Ordinary Maintenance, to fund the 2025 Census Mailing and miscellaneous Election costs.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #10.35A CM)

- E. Recommend that One Thousand Six Hundred Dollars And No Cents (\$1,600.00) be transferred from Cost Center #CC1010-600100, Elections Salaries, and be appropriated to Cost Center #CC1010-601100, Elections Overtime, to fund Worcester Police Department Overtime expenses for the November 5th, 2024 Election.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #10.35A CM)

- F. Recommend that One Million Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars And No Cents (\$1,250,000.00) be transferred between various Off-Street Parking funds to provide sufficient operating funding through the remainder of Fiscal Year 2026.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #10.35A CM)

10.37 FINANCE ITEMS

Prior Year

- A. Recommend that One Thousand Six Hundred Nineteen Dollars and No Cents (\$1,619.00) be authorized from Fiscal Year 2025 Cost Center #CC1004, Economic Development Ordinary Maintenance, for the payment of a prior year invoice.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #10.35A CM)

- B. Recommend that Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Two Dollars and Fifteen Cents (\$13,462.15) be authorized from various Fiscal Year 2025 Department of Public Works and Parks cost centers for the payment of prior year invoices.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #10.35A CM)

10.38 FINANCE

Loan Orders

10.39 MISCELLANEOUS AGENDA TRANSMITTALS

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to a proposed disposition of 51 and 61 Sever Street.

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

11. REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

11a. REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD Upon the Petition of Mark A. Borenstein request Zoning Map of the City of Worcester be amended, as referenced in Article III, Section 2 of the City of Worcester Zoning Ordinance, by changing the zoning designation of the property located at and known as 2, 4, 6 and 8 West Oberlin St. and 437-439 Park Ave. from the current split zoning designation of Business, General (BG-3.0) and Residence, General (RG-5) to Business, General (BG-3.0) and Commercial Corridors Overlay District – Elsewhere (CCOD-E) by extending the Business, General (BG-3.0) to encompass all of 8 West Oberlin St. and establishing the Commercial Corridors Overlay District – Elsewhere (CCOD-E) at the Property, as shown on the plan attached hereto.

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

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

12. TABLED UNDER PRIVILEGE

- 12a.** ORDER of Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson and Mayor Joseph M. Petty - That the City Council place before the voters at the November 4, 2025, Municipal Election the following non-binding ballot question: Do you support requiring our private colleges and universities to invest 0.5% of their endowment annually into a community impact fund to be administered locally to help finance needed housing, economic, and community development projects? (Tabled Under Privilege - King April 8, 2025)

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to take the item up collectively with items #12b CC through #12d CC.

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 Russell, who moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing all Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Agreements currently in place between the city and its colleges and universities.” (See Item #15d CC).

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

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

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the pending state legislation relative to an act supporting debt-free higher education opportunities for all brought forth by Representative Natalie Higgins.” (See Item #15e CC).

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing discussions between the city and its colleges and universities relative to Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Agreements.” (See Item #15f CC).

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

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

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

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Russell for a second time, who moved, “That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby support requiring our private colleges and universities to invest 0.5% of their endowment annually into a community impact fund to be administered locally to help finance needed housing, economic, and community development projects.” (See Item #15g CC).

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

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Bergman, who moved to Table Councilor Russell’s motion Under Privilege. (See Item #15g CC).

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King and Councilor Mero-Carlson for second times, who spoke concerning the item.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to Municipal and Legislative Operations Committee. Motion failed on a roll call vote of 4 Yeas and 6 (Yeas – Haxhij, King, Ojeda, Pacillo) (Nays – Bergman, Colorio, Mero-Carlson, Russell, Toomey, Petty) (Nguyen 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 (Nguyen absent)

- 12b.** ORDER of Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson and Mayor Joseph M. Petty - Request City Manager consult with the Worcester Regional Research Bureau (WRRB) and Greater Worcester Community Foundation to research examples of local community impact funds or loan pools currently in existence and their manner of operation within the United States. (Tabled Under Privilege - King April 8, 2025)

Order adopted (See Item #12a CC)

- 12c.** ORDER of Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson and Mayor Joseph M. Petty - Request City Manager meet annually with each president and board chair of the city's private colleges and universities, in an effort to create a more open dialogue between the city and its colleges and universities. (Tabled Under Privilege - King April 8, 2025)

Order adopted (See Item #12a CC)

- 12d.** ORDER of Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson and Mayor Joseph M. Petty - Request City Manager work with the city's private colleges and universities to establish representation of a City of Worcester resident on their boards. Said representatives are to be appointed by the City Manager with approval by the City Council. (Tabled Under Privilege - King April 8, 2025)

Order adopted (See Item #12a CC)

- 12e.** AN ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 12 Of The Revised Ordinances Of 2008 Relative To The Creation Of An Honorary Street-Name Designation Program. (Tabled Under Privilege - King April 8, 2025)

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to ordain the item. Ordained on a roll call vote of 7 Yeas and 3 Nays (Yeas – Bergman, Colorio, Mero-Carlson, Pacillo, Russell, Toomey, Petty) (Nays – Haxhij, King, Ojeda) (Nguyen absent)

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Russell, who moved to reconsider the item. Reconsideration denied on a roll call vote of 0 Yeas and 10 Nays (Nguyen absent)

- 12f.** Hearing: NATIONAL GRID for a conduit location at: HEMANS ST.

Granting permission to NATIONAL GRID for a conduit location at: HEMANS ST. (Tabled Under Privilege - Russell April 8, 2025)

Hearing held and Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #8a CC)

13. TABLED ITEMS

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

No action taken

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

No action taken

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

No action taken

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

No action taken

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

No action taken

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

No action taken

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

No action taken

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

No action taken

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

No action taken

13j. 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 and Tabled Under Privilege - Toomey December 17, 2024 and Tabled - Nguyen January 7, 2025)

No action taken

14. BUSINESS UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES - Items brought forth under suspension at the April 8, 2025 City Council meeting.

14a. ORDER of Councilor Jenny Pacillo – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report comparing the number of potholes created by work done by private utility companies against potholes created through traditional road usage. – Item #15a CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 9 Yeas and 0 Nays

- 14b.** ORDER of Councilor Etel Haxhij – Request City Manager work with the homelessness provider community to provide City Council, by May 8, 2025, with a twelve (12) to eighteen (18) month emergency plan relative to the city’s unsheltered population, that lists congregate and non-congregate shelter spaces in the city for unsheltered individuals including women, families with children, trans, queer, and senior residents and provides an implementation timeline of said emergency plan that outlines funding opportunities, available resources and potential barriers to implementation. – Item #15b CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 9 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 14c.** ORDER of Councilor George J. Russell – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing information relative to what the administration has completed with the State related to long-term plans relative to shelters and funding opportunities. Further, request said report include a timeline associated with developing the resource center facility for the unhoused community with an explanation as to why development will take so long. Further, request said report also include best practices used in Boston and other municipalities relative to handling their homeless crisis. – Item #15c CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 9 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 14d.** ORDER of Councilor Kathleen M. Toomey – Request City Manager ensure considerations are made relative to individuals’ personal safety when creating plans relative to providing supportive services to the city’s homeless population. – Item #15d CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 9 Yeas and 0 Nays

15. NEW BUSINESS UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES - Items brought forth under suspension at the April 15, 2025 City Council meeting.

- 15a.** Motion Mero-Carlson @ #8a CC - Request City Manager work with the appropriate utility company representatives to ensure the prevention of any further damage to the roads being negatively impacted by the National Grid conduit location work on Hemans St.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #8a CC)
- 15b.** Motion Pacillo @ #10.10B CM – Request City Manager request Assistant Commissioner of Public Works and Parks consider creating additional pickleball court options at the tennis courts at Newton Square in Elm Park.
Order adopted (See Item #10.10B CM)
- 15c.** Motion Russell @ #10.10B CM – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing a timeline associated with renovating the tennis courts at Blithewood Park.
Order adopted (See Item #10.10B CM)
- 15d.** Motion Russell @ #12a CC – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing all Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Agreements currently in place between the city and its colleges and universities.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #12a CC)

- 15e.** Motion King @ #12a CC – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the pending state legislation relative to an act supporting debt-free higher education opportunities for all brought forth by Representative Natalie Higgins.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #12a CC)

- 15f.** Motion King @ #12a CC – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing discussions between the city and its colleges and universities relative to Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Agreements.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #12a CC)

- 15g.** Motion Russell @ #12a CC – That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby support requiring our private colleges and universities to invest 0.5% of their endowment annually into a community impact fund to be administered locally to help finance needed housing, economic, and community development projects.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Russell, who introduced the item.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Bergman, who moved to Table the Item Under Privilege.

Tabled Under Privilege – Bergman