

CITY OF WORCESTER

JOURNAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, July 15, 2025
Esther Howland (South) Chamber
Convened: 6:04 P.M.
Adjourned: 11:30 P.M.

MAYOR
Joseph M. Petty

AT-LARGE CITY COUNCILORS

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

CITY CLERK
Nikolin Vangjeli



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CITY MANAGER
Eric D. Batista

DISTRICT CITY COUNCILORS

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

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**
- 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 May 13, 2025.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to adopt items #5a CC through #5c CC. Order adopted.

- 5b.** Order - That the City Council of the City of Worcester hereby approves the minutes of the City Council Meeting of June 10, 2025.

Order adopted (See Item #5a CC)

- 5c.** Order - That the City Council of the City of Worcester hereby approves the minutes of the City Council Executive Session Meeting of February 4, 2025 relative to the litigation strategy concerning Natale Cosenza, United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit No. 23-1123.

Order adopted (See Item #5a CC)

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - A person may speak for no more than two (2) minutes on any items appearing on the agenda

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized the following speakers:

1. Fred Nathan, Worcester resident, spoke neither in favor nor opposed to items #8aw CC and #8ax CC and spoke in opposition to item #13b CC
2. Andrew Marsh, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to items #13b CC and #13c CC
3. Ashley Spring, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #11q CC, #13b CC and #13c CC and spoke in favor of item #11g CC
4. Keith Linhares, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to items #13b CC and #13c CC
5. Ann Bureau, Worcester resident, spoke neither in favor nor opposed to item #11f CC
6. Shameeka Pearson, Worcester resident, who spoke in favor of item #11f CC
7. Echo Collins, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #11f CC
8. Jaylen Gibbon Osafu, Worcester resident, who spoke in favor of item #11f CC
9. Anaya Cyrus, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #11f CC
10. Will Talbot, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #8h C and spoke in opposition to items #13b CC and #13c CC
11. Mike Kane, No resident given, spoke in opposition to item #11g CC
12. John Foreman, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #8h CC
13. Idella Hazard, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #11g CC, #13b CC through #13d CC
14. Shirley Wright, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #11n CC
15. Jonathan Morales, Worcester resident, spoke neither in favor nor opposed to item #11f CC
16. Gary Hunter, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to items #13b CC and #13c CC
17. Benjamin Kane, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to items #13b CC, #13c CC and #11q CC
18. Bartholomew O'Brien, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #11n CC
19. Margot Barnett, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #13c CC and spoke neither in favor nor opposed to item #11f CC
20. Jenn-E MaJEntic Memnon, Worcester resident, spoke neither in favor nor opposed to item #11f CC and item #21a CC
21. John Edward Keough, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to items #13b CC through #13d CC, #20a CC and #11a CC
22. Tom Marino, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #13c CC, spoke in favor of item #11g CC
23. Ted Kostas, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #11g CC, #13b CC through #13d CC
24. Seth Ward, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #11g CC
25. Moira Coakley, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to items #13b CC and #13c CC
26. Glenn Pape, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #8j CC and #8k CC
27. Eric Stratton, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to items #13b CC and #13c CC, spoke in favor of item #8h CC and #11g CC
28. David Webb, Olympia resident, spoke in opposition to items #13a CC through #13d CC, #11k CC, spoke neither in favor nor opposed to items #2a CM and #2b CM, spoke in favor of items #8h CC, #11f CC, #11g CC, #11p CC, #11s CC, #11q CC, #12a CC, #12b CC, #15a CC and #15b CC
29. Cayden Davis, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to items #13b CC, #13c CC and #11q CC and spoke neither in favor nor opposed to item #11f CC
30. Rob (No last name given), No resident given, spoke in favor of item #8ax CC, #11g CC, #11f CC, spoke in opposition to item #11a CC
31. Alex Salcedo, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #8h CC

7. HEARINGS AND ORDERS

7a.

Petition and Hearing: National Grid for a conduit location at Institute Rd.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to open the hearings for items #7a CC through #7c CC. Mayor Petty's motion was approved on a voice vote.

Mayor Petty asked if any abutters wished to be heard on the items.

Hearing no speakers, Mayor Petty moved to close the hearings. Mayor Petty's motion was approved on a voice vote.

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

7b.

Petition and Hearing: National Grid for a conduit location at Laurel St.

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

7c.

Petition and Hearing: National Grid for a conduit location at Madison St.

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

8. PETITIONS

8a.

Petition of Craig Thomas request installation of city shade trees on the lower portion of Orient St. in a manner compliant with the city's Complete Streets program.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to refer the item to the Department of Public Works and Parks. Referred to the Department of Public Works and Parks.

8b.

Petition of Craig L. Blais request Zoning Map be amended by extending the B.G.-3.0 zoning district in the vicinity of 305 Belmont St. and Reactory Biomanufacturing Campus to include the existing, adjacent ML-0.5 zoning district located north of Belmont St., west of Plantation St. and south of Plantation Pkwy.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to refer items #8b CC and #8c CC to Planning Board. Referred to Planning Board.

8c.

Petition of Paul Conger request the zoning map be amended to lay the zoning overlay district AR - Adaptive Reuse over the parcel located at 31 Harlow St., 09-008-00002.

Referred to Planning Board (See Item #8b CC)

8d.

Petition of Craig Thomas request construction of new sidewalks on upper portion of Orient St.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to refer items #8d CC through #8h CC to Public Works Committee. Referred to Public Works Committee.

8e.

Petition of Paul Kawolis et al. on behalf of Linder's Inc. request installation of a storm sewer and catch basin in the vicinity of 195-198 Granite St. to collect street runoff and to protect downstream adjacent wetlands.

Referred to Public Works Committee (See Item #8d CC)

8f.

Petition of Paul Kawolis et al. on behalf of Linder's Inc. request installation of a low profile berm on both sides of Granite St. to help control street runoff and to prevent its migration to adjacent properties.

Referred to Public Works Committee (See Item #8d CC)

8g.

Petition of Tonya Gaston request the wall at the dead end of Ingalls St. be torn down and replaced with a guardrail.

Referred to Public Works Committee (See Item #8d CC)

8h.

Petition of Altagracia Abreu request installation of a streetlight in front of 32 Stoneland Rd.

Referred to Public Works Committee (See Item #8d CC)

8i.

Petition of Joseph Borrelli et al. request installation of "Go Slow Children" signage on Nanita St.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to refer items #8i CC through #8ay CC to Traffic and Parking Committee. Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee.

- 8j. Petition of Glenn Pape request installation of cross street signage on Hycrest Dr. at its intersection with Dennis Dr.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

- 8k. Petition of Glenn Pape request installation of cross street signage on Hycrest Dr. at its intersection with Mary Ann Dr.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

- 8l. Petition of Ryan Chamberlain request Elm St. from Linden St. to Main St. be converted to a two-way street.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

- 8m. Petition of Councilor Luis A. Ojeda on behalf of Jonisha DeLeon request installation of a handicap parking space across from 55 Ward St., on the even side of the road, to account for the winter parking ban.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

- 8n. Petition of Dennis O'Brien request installation of one way signage on Oak St. in the vicinity of parking lot of The Worcester Club, located at 1 Oak St., to ensure patrons exiting the facility turn in the correct direction.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

- 8o. Petition of Dennis O'Brien request installation of an additional handicap parking space in front of 53 Elm St.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

- 8p. Petition of Councilor Etel Haxhiaj on behalf of the Columbus Park Neighborhood Association request installation of a stop sign at the corner of Minthorne St. and Clive St.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

- 8q. Petition of Erika Gonzalez request installation of an additional handicap parking space in front of 34 Gardner St.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

- 8r. Petition of Ismael Reyes request installation of speed humps on Beacon St. between Hammond St. and Boys and Girls Club Way.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

- 8s. Petition of Ismael Reyes request installation of additional one way street signage on Beacon St. at its intersection with Ripley St.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

- 8t. Petition of Councilor Morris A. Bergman and Councilor Etel Haxhiaj request installation of speed humps on the northern section of Moore Ave.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

- 8u. Petition of Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson request installation of speed humps on Melrose St.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

- 8v. Petition of Laura Kane request installation of “Turtle Crossing” signage near the end of Massasoit Rd. and SW Cutoff/Route 20 between 519 Massasoit Rd. and the public entrance to Mass Audubon’s Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, 414 Massasoit Rd.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

- 8w. Petition of Christopher Sacco et al. request installation of speed humps on Middlesex Ave.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

- 8x. Petition of Christopher Sacco et al. request installation of posted speed limit signage on Middlesex Ave.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

- 8y. Petition of Patricia Ogbalu request installation of 15 minute parking signage in front of 90B Grand St. that accommodates for two (2) parking spaces

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

- 8z. Petition of Gilberto Jimenez request installation of a handicap parking space in front of 11 Rodney St.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

- 8aa. Petition of Patrick Burnett request installation of a handicap parking space in front of 9 West Oberlin St.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

- 8ab. Petition of Altagracia Abreu request installation of a handicap parking space in front of 32 Stoneland Rd.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

- 8ac. Petition of Gloryvee Boria request installation of a handicap parking space in front of 101 Illinois St.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

- 8ad. Petition of Shaista Khan Lal Jadin request installation of a handicap parking space in front of 56 Cohasset St.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

8ae.

Petition of Krystle M. O'Clair request installation of an additional handicap parking space in front of 15 Caroline St.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

8af.

Petition of Robert Bilotta request installation of a speed hump in the vicinity of 47 Stanton St.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

8ag.

Petition of Alyssa Rogers request installation of speed humps on Clover St. in the vicinity of Edlin St. and Knox St.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

8ah.

Petition of Brandon MacPhie request installation of traffic barriers/barricades in front of 1025 Millbury St.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

8ai.

Petition of Brian Dutremble request installation of a stop sign on Brussels St. at its intersection with Crompton St.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

8aj.

Petition of Brian Dutremble request increased speed enforcement on Mill St.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

8ak.

Petition of Brian Dutremble request installation of temporary speed humps on Wamsutta Ave.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

8al.

Petition of Keith J. Linhares request a traffic study be conducted on Clark St. at the intersection of Eunice Ave. and Bay State Rd. for traffic calming solutions due to multiple car accidents at said intersection.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

8am.

Petition of Albert Encarnacion request Enid St. be reviewed for the installation of traffic calming measures, including speed humps.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

8an.

Petition of Michelle Murphy request a traffic calming study be conducted in the vicinity of Apthorp St. specifically looking at issues related to speeding.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

8ao.

Petition of Lisa Romano request installation of speed humps on Whitmarsh Ave., in the vicinity of Hillcroft Ave., Claffey Ave. and Leeds St.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

8ap.

Petition of Councilor Jenny Pacillo on behalf of Sarah Blodgett request Burncoat St. be reviewed to determine the feasibility of installing speed tables on the street.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

8aq.

Petition of Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson on behalf of Maria Sanchez request installation of speed humps on Barnes Ave.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

8ar.

Petition of Francis Dina request installation of a speed hump in front of 8 Brightwood Ave.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

8as.

Petition of Peter Mutiga request installation of a speed hump in the vicinity of 29 Cambridge St.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

8at.

Petition of Councilor Jenny Pacillo request lane marking/painting options be reviewed on St. Nicholas Ave. to help slow traffic.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

8au.

Petition of Danies Lu et al. request installation of speed humps on Commonwealth Ave. in the vicinity of each stop sign on the street.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

8av.

Petition of Councilor Etel Haxhiaj request installation of two (2) handicap parking spaces on Franklin St. across from the Jean McDonough Arts Center (JMAC), located at 20 Franklin St., and adjacent to City Hall, located at 455 Main St.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

8aw.

Petition of Councilor Etel Haxhiaj request existing handicap parking spaces in front of Baystate Savings Bank, located at 28 Franklin St., be reviewed to ensure vans with a lift or fold-out ramp can use said spaces.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

8ax.

Petition of Councilor Etel Haxhiaj request two (2) existing handicap parking spaces on Front St. adjacent to the Worcester Common be reviewed for safety concerns, as each of these spaces have curb-cuts to nowhere with no crosswalks that get blocked when people are parked in these spaces.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

8ay.

Petition of Councilor Etel Haxhiaj request installation of three (3) additional handicap parking spaces across from City Hall, located at 455 Main St.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8i CC)

8az.

Petition and Hearing: National Grid for a conduit location at Beverly Rd.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to set hearings for August 19, 2025 at 6 p.m. for items #8az CC and #8ba CC. Hearing set for August 19, 2025 at 6 p.m.

8ba.

Petition and Hearing: National Grid for a conduit location at Harrison St.

Hearing set for August 19, 2025 at 6 p.m. (See Item #8az CC)

9. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER

1. APPOINTMENTS - Non-City Council Confirmation

1a.

Communication of the City Manager recommend appointment of Anahit Marutyan to the Human Rights Commission and amend term expirations of Robert Bilotta and Bernard Reese due to a clerical error.

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

2. APPOINTMENTS - City Council Confirmation

2a.

Communication of City Manager recommend appointment of Michael Abelson, Jules Trobough, Marc Guinette, Ann Harvey, Tasia Cerezo, and Douglas Arbetter to Advisory Commission on LGBTQIA+.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to take items #9.2A CM through #9.2C CM collectively.

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

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

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to confirm the appointments associated with item #9.2A CM through #9.2C CM. Confirmed on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent)

2b.

Communication of the City Manager recommend appointment of Sienna Ablorh, Derrick Casey, Magdelene Barjolo, Miriam Nyante, Kwesi Foster, Chris Nelson, and Miles Goodwin to the Advisory Commission on African American and Black Affairs.

Confirmed on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #9.2A CM)

2c.

Communication of the City Manager recommend appointment of Jenny Cao and Aliya-Marie Melville to the Advisory Committee on the Status of Women and amend term expiration of Lauren E. Morocco due to a clerical error.

Confirmed on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #9.2A CM)

3. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES - William Bagley, Jr., Esq., Chief Human Resources Officer

4. EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Peter Dunn, Chief Development Officer

4a.

Communication of the City Manager Recommend Disposition of Tax Title Property at 0 Endicott St. of an Order Regarding the Jurisdiction and Disposition of Real Property at 0 Endicott St.

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 (Nguyen absent).

4b.

Communication of the City Manager Recommend Adoption of an Order Regarding the Jurisdiction of Real Property at 0 Northeast Cutoff.

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 (Nguyen absent).

5. EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION - Kevin Lovaincy, Chief Equity Officer

6. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - John K. Westerling, Commissioner

6a.

Communication of the City Manager transmitting informational communication relative to maintenance scheduled over the last four (4) years at the Ernest A. Johnson Tunnel and an agreement for the use of the tunnel as a staging area.

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

7. DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CEMETERY - Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., Commissioner

8. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY - Stephen S. Rolle, P.E., Commissioner

8a.

Communication of the City Manager Recommend Adoption of an Order for 90-day trial of All-Way Stop Control at the intersections of Granite Street and Loxwood/Holcombe Street, Providence Street and Holcombe Street, Elm Street and Sever Street, and June Street and Hadwen Road/Brownell Street.

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

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

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

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

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

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

8b.

Communication of the City Manager Recommend Ordinance to Establish All-Way Stop Control at the Intersection of Granite Street and Loxwood Street/Holcombe Street.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to refer items #9.8B CM through #9.8H CM to Traffic and Parking Committee. Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee.

8c.

Communication of the City Manager recommend Ordinance to Establish All-Way Stop Control at the Intersection of Elm Street and Sever Street.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #9.8B CM)

8d.

Communication of the City Manager Recommend Ordinance to Establish All-Way Stop Control at the Intersection of Providence Street and Holcombe Street.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #9.8B CM)

8e.

Communication of City Manager Recommend Adoption of Proposed Ordinance Concerning Regulation of Parking at Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #9.8B CM)

8f.

Communication of the City Manager recommend ordinance modifying 15-minute parking, 30-minute metered parking, two hour metered parking, and commercial load zones on portions of Water Street.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #9.8B CM)

8g.

Communication of the City Manager transmitting informational communication relative to School Zone signing.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #9.8B CM).

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

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

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

Councilor King then moved, “That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby support the allocation of monies for the purpose of installing School Zone safety signage.” (See Item #23d CC).

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

8h.

Communication of the City Manager transmitting informational communication relative to an 18-month review of Mill Street traffic safety and operations.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #9.8B CM).

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

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

Councilor Bergman then moved to, “Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility provide City Council with a report detailing the amount of money spent on Mill St.’s traffic safety redesign project.” (See Item #23a CC).

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

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

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

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

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a report that outlines strategic mapping, planning and timelines associated with the installation of additional crosswalks on Mill St.” (See Item #23b CC).

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

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

Councilor Russell then moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning the amount of funding required to repave Massasoit Rd.” (See Item #23c CC).

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

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

9. FIRE DEPARTMENT - Martin Dyer, Fire Chief

9a.

Communication of the City Manager transmitting informational communication relative to a report detailing the demographics pertaining to the recruits of the recent WFD Fire Academy.

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

10. POLICE DEPARTMENT - Paul B. Saucier, Police Chief

11. DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS - Charles R. Goodwin, Commissioner

11a.

Communications of the City Manager transmitting informational communication relative to use of emergency warming and cooling centers for the last two (2) years.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to refer the item to Public Health and Human Services Committee. Referred to Public Health and Human Services Committee.

12. LAW DEPARTMENT - Alexandra H. Kalkounis, Esq., City Solicitor

12a.

Communication of the City Manager transmitting informational communication relative to the number of affirmative votes required for a 2/3 majority vote of the city council.

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

12b.

Communication of the City Manager transmitting informational communication relative to the single member charter hold provision invoked on 6/17/2025.

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor King, who moved to, "Request City Manager request City Solicitor provide City Council with a legal opinion as to the difference between a motion to place an item on file and a motion to adopt an item." (See Item #23e CC).

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

- 13. DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES - Nicholas Antanavica, Commissioner**
- 14. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - Dr. Matilde "Mattie" Castiel, M.D., Commissioner**
- 15. WORCESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY - Jason L. Homer, Executive Director**
- 16. EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER - Election Commission Division - Nikolin Vangjeli, City Clerk**
- 17. PUBLIC SCHOOL DEPARTMENT - Brian Allen, Superintendent**
- 18. DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE - Timothy J. McGourthy, Chief Financial Officer**
- 19. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC FACILITIES - James Bedard, Chief of Public Facilities**
- 20. DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE - John W. Odell, Chief Sustainability Officer**

21. DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY - Michael P. Hamel, Chief Information Officer

22. FINANCE ITEMS - Capital Transfers

23. FINANCE ITEMS - Grants and Donations

23a.

Communication of the City Manager recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept, and expend a grant in the amount of One Hundred Forty-Four Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-Four Dollars and Sixty Cents (\$144,224.60) from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security Bryne State Crisis Intervention Program.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to adopt items #9.23A CM through #9.23I CM, #9.24B CM and #9.25A CM through #9.25C CM.

Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent).

23b.

Communication of City Manager recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept and expend a grant in the amount of Two Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Six Hundred Five Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$245,605.50) from the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services LAND Grant Application for Acquisition of Brooks Dairy Farm.

Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #9.23A CM)

23c.

Communication of the City Manager recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept, and expend a grant in the amount of \$84,000.00 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #9.23A CM)

23d.

Communication of the City Manager recommend adoption of a resolution to apply for, accept, and expend a grant in the amount of Two Hundred Eighty Eight Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$288,000.00) for the MassHire Worcester Career Centers FY2025/2026 Access to Recovery Program.

Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #9.23A CM)

23e.

Communication of the City Manager recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept, and expend a grant in the amount of Three Million Ten Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-Seven Dollars And No Cents (\$3,010,287.00) from the Massachusetts State 911 Department.

Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #9.23A CM)

23f.

Communication of the City Manager recommend adoption of a resolution to accept award of up to five sets of All-Way Stop Control signs sets from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #9.23A CM).

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

23g.

Communication of the City Manager recommend adoption of a resolution to accept a donation in the amount of Three Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$3,000.00) from District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. for expenses related to a new comfort dog.

Resolution adopted with gratitude on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #9.23A CM)

23h.

Communications of the City Manager recommend adoption of a resolution to accept and expend a grant in the amount of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$400,000.00) from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization under the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for design of intersection improvements at the intersection of Lake Avenue and Bigelow Davis Parkway.

Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #9.23A CM)

23i.

Communication of the City Manager recommend adoption of a resolution to accept and expend a grant in the amount of Two Million Dollars and No Cents (\$2,000,000.00) from the Joint Congressional Directed funding to be administered by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for design of improvements and corridor enhancements to Mill Street.

Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #9.23A CM)

24. FINANCE ITEMS - Operational Transfers

24a.

Communication of the City Manager Request that Three Hundred Thirty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Eight Dollars and Two Cents (\$337,708.02) be transferred from FD388, CC1004, PG10537, CPA Budgeted Reserve, and be appropriated to FD388, CC1103, PG10414, CPA - Open Space & Recreation, to facilitate grant award distributions for the Spring 2025 CPA Pilot Funding Round.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to take the item up collectively with item #9.24C CM.

Mayor Petty 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.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 9 Yeas and 0 Nays
(Nguyen absent) (Ojeda recused).**

24b.

Communication of the City Manager recommend operating transfers to make adjustments to municipal accounts to balance the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.

**Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays
(Nguyen absent) (See Item #9.23A CM)**

24c.

Communication of the City Manager recommend that Four Million Eighty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Dollars And No Cents (\$4,088,940.00) be accepted from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Year LI Community Development Block Grant program, and One Hundred Thousand Dollars And No Cents (\$100,000.00) in anticipated Year LI Program Income, be appropriated, when and as received, to provide financing for eligible projects and programs as described.

**Order adopted on a roll call vote of 9 Yeas and 0 Nays
(Nguyen absent) (Ojeda recused) (See Item #9.24A CM)**

25. FINANCE ITEMS - Prior Year

25a.

Communication of the City Manager recommend that Fifty-Nine Dollars and Seventy-Six Cents (\$59.76) be authorized from Cost Center #CC1038, WPD Administration, for the payment of prior year salary and overtime.

**Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays
(Nguyen absent) (See Item #9.23A CM)**

25b.

Communication of the City Manager Recommend that Nine Hundred Eighty Dollars and No Cents (\$980.00) be authorized from Fiscal Year 2026 Cost Center #CC1004, Economic Development Ordinary Maintenance, for the payment of a year invoice.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #9.23A CM)

25c.

Communication of the City Manager Recommend Authorization of a FY25 Prior Year Invoice – Downtown Worcester BID.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #9.23A CM)

26. FINANCE ITEMS - Loan Orders

27. MISCELLANEOUS AGENDA TRANSMITTALS

10. CHAIRMAN'S ORDERS

10a.

Chairman's Order from the Committee on Traffic and Parking – Request Standing Committee of Traffic and Parking hold a hearing to consider installing a right turn only restriction at the UMASS Memorial Driveway Exit onto Belmont St.

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

10b.

Chairman's Order from the Committee on Traffic and Parking – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning interim traffic calming measures that can be implemented at the bottom of Hamilton St. and Lake Ave.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to adopt items #10b CC through #10l CC. Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent)

10c.

Chairman's Order from the Committee on Traffic and Parking – Request City Manager explore ways to address litter concerns in the vicinity of Elm Park.

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

10d.

Chairman's Order from the Committee on Traffic and Parking – Request City Manager request Police Chief review potential ways to increase the effectiveness in monitoring against illicit activities, including drug use, occurring in the vicinity of Elm Park.

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

10e.

Chairman's Order from the Committee on Traffic and Parking – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning what steps the Worcester Red Sox are taking to mitigate the institutional impact of their employees parking in neighborhoods surrounding the ballpark, such as whether the team is utilizing spaces in the adjacent parking garages for their employees.

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

10f.

Chairman's Order from the Committee on Traffic and Parking – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility install a "Do Not Block Intersection" signage on Nelson Park Dr. at Nelson Pl.

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

10g.

Chairman's Order from the Committee on Traffic and Parking – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility convert the existing Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at the intersection of Belmont St. and UMASS Memorial Driveway/Edwards St. to a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Traffic Signal, pending funding.

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

10h.

Chairman's Order from the Committee on Traffic and Parking – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility consider establishing interim traffic calming measures at the intersection of Salisbury St. and Forest St., including but not limited to additional signage, lane markings and all way stop control.

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

10i.

Chairman's Order from the Committee on Traffic and Parking – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility install edge lane markings to define travel lanes and establish bike lanes on Holden St.

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

10j.

Chairman's Order from the Committee on Traffic and Parking – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility install a speed feedback sign with accompanying 25 mph Thickly Settled speed limit signs facing each direction of traffic on Holden St., pending funding.

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

10k.

Chairman's Order from the Committee on Traffic and Parking – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility review Holden St. for the feasibility of installing temporary speed tables, pending funding.

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

10l.

Chairman's Order from the Committee on Traffic and Parking – Request City Manager request the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility provide City Council with a report concerning any additional MUTCD-compliant signage that could be installed on Holden St.

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

11. ORDERS

11a.

Order of Councilor Kathleen M. Toomey – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning the economic impact property owners may feel should the city adopt Mass. General Law Ch. 148, Section 26I, which mandates the installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems in residential buildings with four or more dwelling units. Said report should include any residual effect said adoption may have on renters. Further, request said report also include examples of the buildings that would be impacted by the adoption of such legislation due to changes in building codes over the last twenty (20) years.

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Toomey, who moved to amend the item: “Further, request said report also include examples of the buildings that would be impacted by the adoption of such legislation due to changes in building codes over the last twenty (20) years.”

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Haxhiaj, who moved to, “Request City Manager request Fire Chief provide City Council with a report breaking down the cost of losing human life, should the city fail to adopt Mass. General Law Ch. 148, Section 26I. Said report should

include the costs associated with the risk of injury to civilians and firefighters, as well as costs associated with health and psychological harms, long term health issues and any estimations on additional strains the failure to adopt the measure could have on emergency services.” (See Item #23f CC).

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

11b.

Order of Councilor Etel Haxhij – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works and Parks review all work orders related to filling potholes on Scenic Dr. to ensure safe passage on the roadway.

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

11c.

Order of Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson – Request City Manager ensure additional steps are taken to increase and improve communication with residents abutting Indian Lake and Sears Island regarding pertinent information associated with the water body.

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning the reason hundreds of fish died in Indian Lake.” (See Item #23g CC).

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

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the timeline and treatment plan associated with remedying water quality concerns at Indian Lake.” (See Item #23h CC).

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing whether Indian Lake is considered property of the city or property of the State of Massachusetts.” (See Item #23i CC).

Mayor Petty moved to adopt the item. Order adopted.

11d.

Order of Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson – Request City Manager reach out to the appropriate representatives at the State to receive permission to draw down the water level at Indian Lake to address water quality and storm water concerns.

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

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

Mayor Petty moved to adopt the item. Order adopted.

11e.

Order of Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning the regulations relative to the installation of new billboards in the city. Further, request said report include information relative to the current practices for installing advertisements on existing billboards, as well as best practices used to maintain billboards in other communities. Further, request said report include information concerning banning the installation of any additional billboards in the city.

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

Mayor Petty moved to adopt the item. Order adopted.

11f.

Order of Mayor Joseph M. Petty and Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report and recommendations concerning a potential program whereby municipalities can offer property tax relief to landlords that rent their units at a federally determined affordable rate pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 50, which was signed into law in 2023.

Mayor Petty read the item.

Vice Chairperson Councilor King recognized Mayor Petty, Councilor Mero-Carlson, and Councilor Haxhijaj, who spoke concerning the item.

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

Councilor Haxhiaj then moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning how instituting a program in the city relative to M.G.L. Ch. 59, Sec. 50, which provides property tax relief to landlords that rent their units at a federally determined affordable rate, would impact the city. Said report should include information concerning: 1) Will these properties, if not registered in the rental registry, be required to register?; 2) How will Inspectional Services be engaged to provide information concerning property owners who have multiple code and sanitary violations?; 3) How will the city enforce rent and code violations, as well as what guardrails will there be to protect tenants?; 4) How does it affect the abatement overlay?; 5) What is the overlay amount that the city puts aside to manage tax abatements?; 6) What process would the city and City Council follow if the amount required to manage tax abatements would need to be increased?; 7) If a landlord who rents property potentially asks for an abatement based on the tax policy provision the Governor signed into law in 2023, does the Assessor’s Office know whether a property owner is an LCC? Further, does the Assessor’s Office know where the principal of the LLC resides or whether there are investors of such an LLC that live in Worcester or elsewhere?; and 8) How many staff currently work on abatements in the Assessor’s Office currently?” (See Item #23j CC).

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to suspend the rules to allow for Councilor Haxhiaj to speak longer than the typically allotted ten (10) minutes for one (1) Councilor on an item. Motion approved on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent).

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 50.” (See Item #23k CC).

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a prospective draft ordinance within any report from the city that recommends the implementation of a program stemming from the adoption of M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 50.” (See Item #23l CC).

Mayor Petty moved to adopt the item. Order adopted.

11g.

Order of Councilor Jenny Pacillo – Request City Manager work with community partners, as well as the city’s State and Federal delegation to explore the feasibility of creative grocery store solutions to expand access to affordable groceries within the city.

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Pacillo, who moved to amend the item to read as follows: “Request City Manager work with community partners, as well as the city’s State and Federal delegation to explore the feasibility of creative grocery store solutions to expand access to affordable groceries within the city.”

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

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

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning efforts to bring additional grocery stores to the city.” (See Item #23m CC).

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a report defining food deserts.” (See Item #23n CC).

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

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

Councilor Colorio then moved to, “Request City Manager work with the WRTA Administrator to provide City Council with a report detailing the feasibility of providing a bus route that takes residents of Lincoln St. to Market 32, located at 72 Pullman St.” (See Item #23o CC).

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

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

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to adopt the item as amended. Order adopted as amended on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 2 Nays (Yeas – Haxhiaj, King, Mero-Carlson, Ojeda, Pacillo, Russell, Toomey, Petty) (Nays – Bergman, Colorio) (Nguyen absent).

11h.

Order of Councilor Etel Haxhiaj – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility provide City Council with a report investigating the feasibility of making Wayne St. a one-way street.

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

11i.

Order of Councilor Kathleen M. Toomey – Request City Manager apply to the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) to install fencing along all major railroad crossings and all known paths leading to railroad tracks throughout the city. Further, request City Manager ensure MBTA install appropriate signage warning residents of trains. Further, request City Manager ensure MBTA conduct an education program in Worcester Public Schools that teaches children not to walk on train tracks.

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Toomey, who moved to amend the item to read as follows: “Request City Manager apply to the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) to install fencing along all major railroad crossings and all known paths leading to railroad tracks throughout the city. Further, request City Manager ensure MBTA install appropriate signage warning residents of trains. Further, request City Manager ensure MBTA conduct an education program in Worcester Public Schools that teaches children not to walk on train tracks.”

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Mero-Carlson, who moved to, “Request City Manager ensure any actions associated with the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) installing fencing around railroad crossings and train tracks for public safety include CSX, where applicable.” (See Item #23p CC).

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

11j.

Order of Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson – Request City Manager routinely provide City Council with an updated copy of the Streets and Sidewalks Construction Progress Report. Further, request City Manager provide City Council with an update concerning any upcoming major issues and/or projects occurring in the city.

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

11k.

Order of Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson – Request City Manager prioritize the expansion of services provided through the city’s Keep Worcester Clean (KWC) program, as well as the City Manager’s Clean Team.

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

11l.

Order of Mayor Joseph M. Petty – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility provide City Council with a report detailing any information compiled from formal traffic studies conducted at the intersection of Carter Rd., Brigham Rd. and Moreland St. Said report should include information concerning the feasibility of installing four-way stop signs at the intersection, as well as any short-term measures that can be/have been implemented at the location.

Mayor Petty read the item.

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

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

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

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

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

11m.

Order of Mayor Joseph M. Petty – Request City Manager provide City Council with an update concerning the maintenance timeline and schedule for all city water facilities, including the pool at Crompton Park. Further, request City Manager include in said update information concerning the feasibility of constructing and maintaining additional pools in the city.

Mayor Petty read the item.

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

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

Mayor Petty moved to adopt the item. Order adopted.

11n.

Order of Councilor Morris A. Bergman, Councilor Etel Haxhiaj, Councilor Donna M. Colorio, Councilor Khrystian E. King, Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson, Councilor Luis A. Ojeda, Councilor Jenny Pacillo, Councilor George J. Russell, Councilor Kathleen M. Toomey and Mayor Joseph M. Petty – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility provide City Council with a report concerning any means available to the city that could restrict commercial vehicular usage from the developer(s) at 1015 Pleasant St. from using Biltmore Rd.

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

Mayor Petty moved to add the entire City Council as sponsors of the item.

Mayor Petty moved to adopt the item. Order adopted.

110.

Order of Councilor Morris A. Bergman – Request City Manager consider “upgrading” the 311-customer service program to allow for text messaging to residents with timelines, as well as updates for addressing service requests and confirmation when a service request is completed.

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

Mayor Petty moved to adopt the item. Order adopted.

11p.

Order of Councilor Kathleen M. Toomey – Request City Manager request Police Chief provide City Council with an annual report concerning body-worn cameras used by the Worcester Police Department.

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

Mayor Petty moved to adopt the item. Order adopted.

11q.

Order of Councilor George J. Russell – Request City Manager request City Solicitor provide City Council with an opinion as to whether a councilor, or a councilor who has immediate family, who is a landlord or a tenant and therefore has a financial interest (i.e., receives or pays rent) must recuse themselves from all matters affecting housing rental costs or controls.

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

Mayor Petty moved to adopt the item. Order adopted.

11r.

Order of Councilor Kathleen M. Toomey and Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report regarding the steps the city needs to take to initiate a Central Massachusetts substance use disorder and mental health fund. Such fund should be a pooled, intermunicipal fund requiring proportional financial contributions from Worcester and surrounding cities and towns in Central Massachusetts to support coordinated, long-term solutions to the crisis (e.g., housing, treatment, mobile outreach, public health infrastructure), in the city of Worcester and surrounding areas. Further, request City Manager request City Solicitor provide City Council with a report concerning whether any legal or legislative pathways such as a home rule petition or state enabling legislation is necessary to implement the fund.

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who moved to add his name as a sponsor of the item.

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a detailed report outlining the pros and cons of discontinuing the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance. (See Item #23q CC).”

Mayor Petty moved to adopt the item. Order adopted.

11s.

Order of Councilor Etel Haxhiaj – Request City Manager review the exit of the City Hall parking garage to repair the tactile warning strip at the location, which is in extreme disrepair and heaving, creating a tripping hazard. Further, request City Manager review and repair the several broken and missing sidewalk tiles on the sidewalk adjacent to City Hall on the Worcester Common side.

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

11t.

Order of Councilor Morris A. Bergman and Councilor Jenny Pacillo – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works inspect the concrete pillars and walls abutting Burncoat St. at Thorndyke Rd., Monterey Rd., Brighton Rd., Coventry Rd., Bellingham Rd., and Devens Rd. that are adjacent to the current sidewalk reconstruction to immediately determine if any public safety issues are occurring (see attached).

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Pacillo, who moved to add her name as a sponsor of the item.

Mayor Petty moved to adopt the item. Order adopted.

12. RESOLUTIONS

12a.

Resolution of Mayor Joseph M. Petty, Councilor Morris A. Bergman, Councilor Donna M. Colorio, Councilor Etel Haxhiaj, Councilor Khrystian E. King, Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson, Councilor Luis A. Ojeda, Councilor Jenny Pacillo, Councilor George J. Russell and Councilor Kathleen M. Toomey – That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby proudly recognize July 19, 2025, as "EcoTarium Day" in honor of the EcoTarium's 200th birthday, and encourages all residents to join in celebrating this milestone and the remarkable legacy of the EcoTarium as a pillar of our community. Further, that the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby extend its sincere gratitude to the EcoTarium for its enduring contributions to the enrichment of our city and its residents, with best wishes for continued success in its mission to inspire a passion for science and nature for another 200 years.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to add the entire City Council as sponsors of the item.

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

13. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE CITY CLERK

13a.

Communication of the City Clerk transmitting an informational communication detailing a Honorary Street Sign Process Guide to aid residents through the process of petitioning for an Honorary Street Sign.

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who opposed the motion to place the item on file.

Placed on file.

13b.

Communication of the City Clerk transmitting an informational communication regarding the process used in other communities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regarding residents petitioning their elected officials.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to take items #13b CC through #13d CC collectively.

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

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

Mayor Petty moved to take the items up collectively with item #20a CC.

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

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

Councilor Haxhiaj then moved, “That the City Council does hereby reaffirm its support to preserve residents’ right of to petition the City Council using the same process currently in place in the city.” (See Item #23r CC).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mayor Petty recognized the City Clerk, who responded to questions

raised by Councilor Ojeda.

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

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

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote on Councilor Haxhiaj's motion #23r CC. Resolution denied on a roll call vote of 4 Yeas and 6 Nays (Yeas – Haxhiaj, King, Pacillo, Ojeda) (Nays – Bergman, Colorio, Mero-Carlson, Russell, Toomey, Petty) (Nguyen absent).

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to refer item #13b CC to Municipal and Legislative Operations Committee. Referred to Municipal and Legislative Operations Committee on a roll call vote of 6 Yeas and 4 Nays (Yeas – Bergman, Colorio, Mero-Carlson, Russell, Toomey, Petty) (Nays – Haxhiaj, King, Pacillo, Ojeda) (Nguyen absent).

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to refer item #13c CC to Municipal and Legislative Operations Committee. Referred to Municipal and Legislative Operations Committee on a roll call vote of 6 Yeas and 4 Nays (Yeas – Bergman, Colorio, Mero-Carlson, Russell, Toomey, Petty) (Nays – Haxhiaj, King, Pacillo, Ojeda) (Nguyen absent).

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to refer item #13d CC to Municipal and Legislative Operations Committee. Referred to Municipal and Legislative Operations Committee on a roll call vote of 9 Yeas and 1 Nay (Nay – King) (Nguyen absent).

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to adopt item #20a CC. Order adopted on a roll call vote of 6 Yeas and 4 Nays (Yeas – Bergman, Colorio, Mero-Carlson, Russell, Toomey, Petty) (Nays – Haxhiaj, King, Pacillo, Ojeda) (Nguyen absent).

13c.

Communication of the City Clerk transmitting an informational communication regarding the roles of residents and City Councilors when placing items on City Council agendas.

Referred to Municipal and Legislative Operations Committee on a roll call vote of 6 Yeas and 4 Nays (Yeas – Bergman, Colorio, Mero-Carlson, Russell, Toomey, Petty) (Nays – Haxhiaj, King, Pacillo, Ojeda) (Nguyen absent) (See Item #13b CC)

13d.

Communication of the City Clerk transmitting an informational communication detailing how other municipalities handle signage being displayed within Council Chambers.

Referred to Municipal and Legislative Operations Committee on a roll call vote of 9 Yeas and 1 Nay (Nay – King) (Nguyen absent) (See Item #13b CC)

14. REPORTS OF THE PLANNING BOARD

14a.

Report of the Planning Board Upon the Petition of Councilor George J. Russell and State Representative Daniel M. Donahue request the establishment of an RL-7 (Residential, Limited) Zoning district on the existing ML-0.5 & MG-2.0 portions of the following parcels: 34 Eskow Rd., 224 Southwest Cutoff, Weatherstone Drive Condos (CO-NDO-01061)(including parcel to the west – commonly owned with condominium land), 35 Balis Ave. (34-039-00218), 449 Massasoit Rd., and 483 Massasoit Rd. The existing RS-7 zoning district shall remain unaltered & the rezoning shall not include the ROW portion of the 34 Eskow Rd. parcel. Said proposed rezoning shall continue east along the southeast corner of the parcel at 449 Massasoit Ave. horizontally across 34 Eskow Rd.

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

14b.

Report of the Planning Board Upon the Petition of Anthony Bianco, on behalf of St. Anthony Realty, LLC, request acceptance of the reconstruction of the city street formerly known as Modoc St. (from existing end of Public Street +439' east) as a Public Way.

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Russell, who moved to adopt the item as presented by the Planning Board.

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

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

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote on Councilor Russell's motion to adopt the item as presented by the Planning Board. Accepted and Adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (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).

15. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

15a.

Report of the Committee on Public Safety Upon the Petition of 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 "credible 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: recommend Petition be placed on file.

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Toomey, who responded to questions raised by Councilor King.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to accept the item. Accepted on a roll call vote of 9 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (King abstained).

15b.

Report of the Committee on Public Safety Upon the Communication of the City Manager transmitting informational communication relative to Status of 2 Gage Street, Worcester, MA: recommend Communication be placed on file.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to accept the item. Accepted.

16. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

16a.

Report of the Committee on Public Works Upon the Report of the Planning Board upon the Petition of Alex Corrales, Chief Executive Officer of the Worcester Housing Authority, request the discontinuance of certain portions of Joseph P. Carlson Way, Service Rd. and Great Brook Valley Ave. and order the alteration and layout of a new portion of Great Brook Valley Ave., the alteration of a portion of Great Brook Valley Ave., portions of Service Rd. and portions of Joseph P. Carlson Way, all as depicted on the attached plans (see attached).: recommend adoption of the accompanying Order.

**Mayor Petty read the item and moved to accept and adopt the item.
Accepted and Adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays
(Nguyen absent).**

17. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING

17a.

Amending Section 42 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 To Provide Handicap Parking Across From #6 Pattison Street.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to advertise the proposed Ordinances associated with items #17a CC through #17ak CC. Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent).

17b.

Amending Section 47 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances Of 2008 to Remove School Parking Prohibitions on Portions of Gage Street and Eastern Avenue.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17c.

Amending Section 42 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Provide Handicap Parking Across From #118 Tower Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17d.

Amending Section 40 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Establish Resident Permit Parking on a Portion of Dominion Road.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17e.

Amending Section 42 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Provide 15-Minute Parking on a Portion of Meade Street Near #39 Lamartine Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17f.

Amending Section 42 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Provide 15 Minute Parking on a Portion of Grosvenor Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17g.

Amending Section 43 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Modify the Winter Parking Ban on Vernon Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17h.

Amending Section 29 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 Providing for a Stop Sign Facing Franklin Street Traffic Turning Right at Plantation Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas

and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17i.

Amending Section 29 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 Providing for a Stop Sign Facing Pratt Street at Whitman Road.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17j.

Amending Section 29 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 Providing for a Stop Sign Facing Stoneland Road at Freeland Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17k.

Amending Section 42 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Provide Handicap Parking in front of #64 Ward Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17l.

Amending Section 42 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Provide Handicap Parking in front of #1 Belvidere Avenue.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17m.

Amending Section 42 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Remove Handicap Parking in the vicinity of #35 Columbia Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17n.

Amending Section 42 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Provide Handicap Parking in front of #49 Cutler Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17o.

Amending Section 42 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Establish 30-Minute Metered Parking on a Portion of Green Island Blvd.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17p.

Amending Section 78 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 Providing for a 20 MPH Safety Zone In The Vicinity Of 337 Mill Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17q.

Amending Section 42 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Provide Handicap Parking in front of #51 Pilgrim Avenue.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17r.

Amending Section 42 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Provide Handicap Parking in front of #16 Alpine Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17s.

Amending Section 42 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Provide Handicap Parking in front of #27 Vernon Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17t.

Amending Section 42 Of Chapter 13 Of The Revised Ordinances Of 2008 To Provide Handicap Parking In Front Of #59 Windsor Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17u.

Amending Section 42 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Provide Handicap Parking in front of #26A Marjorie Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17v.

Amending Section 42 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Provide Handicap Parking in front of #16 Elizabeth Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17w.

Amending Section 42 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Provide Handicap Parking in front of #75 Norfolk Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17x.

Amending Section 42 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Provide Handicap Parking in front of #58 Haven Lane.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17y.

Amending Section 42 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances Of 2008 To Prohibit Parking On A Portion Of Catharine Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas

and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17z.

Amending Section 42 Of Chapter 13 Of The Revised Ordinances Of 2008 To Prohibit Parking On A Portion Of Henrietta Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17aa.

Amending Section 37(Q) of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Establish a Tow Zone on a Portion of Sutton Lane.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17ab.

Amending Sections 40 and 42 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Provide 15 Minute Parking on a portion of Schussler Road.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17ac.

Amending Section 42 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Provide 15 Minute Parking on a portion of Washington Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17ad.

Amending Section 46 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Establish a Commercial Loading Zone on a portion of Theodore Tonna Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17ae.

Amending Sections 42 and 46 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Establish a Commercial Loading Zone and 2-Hour Metered Parking on a portion of Pearl Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17af.

Amending Sections 45 and 46 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Establish Passenger and Commercial Loading Zones on a portion of Main Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17ag.

Amending Section 40 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Establish Resident Permit Parking on a portion of the west side of Scott Street and Prohibit Parking on the east side of Scott Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17ah.

Amending Section 79 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 Providing for a 20 MPH School Zone on Plantation Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17ai.

Amending Section 79 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 Providing for a 20 MPH School Zone on Chrome Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17aj.

Amending Section 79 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 Providing for a 20 MPH School Zone on Caroline Street.

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17ak.

Amending Section 29 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 Providing for a Stop Sign Facing Nelson Park Drive at Nelson Place

Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #17a CC)

17al.

Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking Upon the Petition of Louis Ting request installation of pedestrian walking signage, with blinking lights, at the crosswalk at the intersection of Front St. and Trumbull St., outside the 145 Front St. Apartments: recommend adoption of the accompanying Order.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to accept and adopt items #17al CC through #17ao CC. Accepted and Adopted.

17am.

Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking Upon the Petition of Jennifer Knight request installation of additional one-way signage at the corner of Russell St. and Cedar St.: recommend adoption of the accompanying Order.

Accepted and Adopted (See Item #17al CC)

17an.

Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking Upon the Petition of Reese Jane Freeman et al. request installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Salisbury St. and Forest St. with a mandatory stop on red: recommend adoption of the accompanying Order.

Accepted and Adopted (See Item #17al CC)

17ao.

Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking Upon the Petition of Councilor Etel Haxhiaj on behalf of Rich Ritchotte request installation of a truck ban/weight restriction on Victor Ave: recommend adoption of the accompanying two (2) Orders.

Accepted and Adopted (See Item #17al CC)

17ap.

Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking Upon the Petition of Rosalyn Burnett request removal of the handicap parking space at 27 Richard St.: recommend Petition be placed on file.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to accept items #17ap CC through #17av CC. Accepted.

17aq.

Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking Upon the Petition of Robert Berry request installation of a handicap parking space across from 210 Ingleside Ave. on the odd side of the street: recommend Petition be placed on file.

Accepted (See Item #17ap CC)

17ar.

Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking Upon the Petition of Fred Nathan request installation of a traffic control signal for vehicles entering and exiting UMass Memorial Medical Center - Memorial Campus, located at 119 Belmont St.: recommend Petition be placed on file.

Accepted (See Item #17ap CC)

17as.

Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking Upon the Petition of Fred Nathan request installation of additional signage throughout the city reminding motorists to come to a complete stop at stop signs: recommend Petition be placed on file.

Accepted (See Item #17ap CC)

17at.

Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking Upon the Petition of Petition of Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson on behalf of Maritza Cruz request speeding concerns on Holden St. from Grove St. to Shore Dr. be reviewed for solutions, including the installation of speed humps and the installation of a blinking traffic light at the Holden St. and Grove St. intersection: recommend Petition be placed on file.

Accepted (See Item #17ap CC)

17au.

Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking Upon the Petition of Petition of Fred Nathan request traffic light signals in the city prohibit motorists from taking turns when pedestrian crossing signals are on: recommend Petition be placed on file.

Accepted (See Item #17ap CC)

17av.

Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking Upon the Petition of Stephen Boisseau request installation of "No Overnight Parking" or "No Parking Anytime between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m." signage on portions of Russell St. that border Elm Park: recommend Petition be given Leave to Withdraw.

Accepted (See Item #17ap CC)

18. LOAN ORDERS TO BE ADOPTED

18a.

That the sum of One Hundred Fifty Eight Million Nine Hundred Thirty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Twelve Dollars and No Cents (\$158,938,412.00) be appropriated to the following accounts to pay for costs associated with the following capital improvements, planning and equipment, as well as any related architectural and engineering services in connection therewith, and including any costs incidental or related thereto; provided however, that the City of Worcester may change the account numbers listed below and/or move funds from one account to another for administrative purposes without further amendment or approval from this Council, provided that such change and/or move does not alter the project for which the funds are hereby authorized to be expended.

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

19. TO BE ORDAINED

19a.

Amending Article III of the Worcester Zoning Ordinance Adopted April 2, 1991, Relative to Extension of the Business, Limited-1.0 (BL-1.0) Zoning District in the vicinity of 66 Soutgate Street & 91 Canterbury Street.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to ordain items #19a CC through #19d CC. Ordained on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent).

19b.

Amending Chapter Seven Section Sixteen of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 Relative to Water Rates Use Charges for FY 2026.

Amending Chapter Five Section Twenty-Six of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 relative to the Sewer User Charge for FY 2026.

Two (2) Ordinances ordained on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #19a CC)

19c.

Amending the Salary Ordinance of August 20, 1996
Occupational Group A - Administrative and Supervisory for
Multiple Positions.

Amending the Salary Ordinance of August 20, 1996
Occupational Group B - General Administrative for Multiple
Positions.

Amending the Salary Ordinance of August 20, 1996
Occupational Group C - Information Services for Multiple
Positions.

Amending the Salary Ordinance of August 20, 1996
Occupational Group E – Fiscal for Multiple Positions.

Amending the Salary Ordinance of August 20, 1996
Occupational Group EM - Executive Management for
Multiple Positions.

Amending the Salary Ordinance of August 20, 1996
Occupational Group F – Inspection for the Lead Paint
Inspector Position.

Amending the Salary Ordinance of August 20, 1996
Occupational Group K – Library for Multiple Positions.

Amending the Salary Ordinance of August 20, 1996
Occupational Group M – Recreation for Multiple Positions.

Amending the Salary Ordinance of August 20, 1996
Occupational Group N – Police for the Laboratory Director
Position.

Amending the Salary Ordinance of August 20, 1996
Occupational Group NA – Fire for the Fire Protection
Engineer Position.

Amending the Salary Ordinance of August 20, 1996
Occupational Group O - Engineering and Allied for Multiple
Positions.

Sixteen (16) Ordinances ordained on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #19a CC)

19d.

Amending the Salary Ordinance of August 20, 1996, Relative to Non-Bargaining Unit Employees.

**Ordained on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent)
(See Item #19a CC)**

20. HELD UNDER PRIVILEGE

20a.

Chairman's Order from the Committee on Municipal and Legislative Operations – Request City Manager request City Solicitor provide City Council with a report detailing if the City Charter requires public participation to be open to non-Worcester residents.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 6 Yeas and 4 Nays (Yeas – Bergman, Colorio, Mero-Carlson, Russell, Toomey, Petty) (Nays – Haxhiaj, King, Pacillo, Ojeda) (Nguyen absent) (See item #13b CC)

20b.

Order of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager consider providing City Council with a report concerning the expansion of the Shannon CSI funding parameters. Said report should include information that identifies how the changes in funding parameters may impact Youth Crisis Responsiveness, as well as an update concerning the related selection committee member planning and selection process. (Held Under Privilege - King June 10, 2025 and July 15, 2025)

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

Held Under Privilege on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent).

Held Under Privilege – King

20c.

Report of the Committee on Public Works Upon the 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: recommend adoption of the accompanying Order.

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who moved to, “Request City Manager rule out whether or not the city plans to lease out the property located at 51 and 61 Sever St.” (See Item #23s CC).

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

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to accept and adopt the item. Accepted and Adopted on a roll call vote of 7 Yeas and 3 Nays (Yeas – Bergman, Colorio, Mero-Carlson, Ojeda, Pacillo, Toomey, Petty) (Nays – Haxhiaj, King, Russell) (Nguyen absent).

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

NOTE: Item #20a CC was postponed during the reconvened June 10, 2025, City Council agenda on June 17, 2025. A previous procedural motion to place the item on file failed on a roll call vote of 4 Yeas and 6 Nays (Yeas – Haxhiaj, King, Ojeda, Pacillo) (Nays – Bergman, Colorio, Mero-Carlson, Russell, Toomey, Petty).

21. TABLED ITEMS

21a.

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. (Held Under Privilege - Lukes September 17, 2019 and September 24, 2019 and Tabled - Lukes October 15, 2019)

No action taken

21b.

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. (Held Under Privilege - Bergman February 9, 2021 and Tabled - Bergman February 23, 2021)

No action taken

21c.

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. (Held Under Privilege - Mero-Carlson October 26, 2021 and Held Under Privilege - Petty November 9, 2021 and Tabled - Rivera November 16, 2021)

No action taken

21d.

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 Order be placed on file. (Held Under Privilege - Bergman January 17, 2023 and Held Under Privilege - Mero-Carlson January 24, 2023 and Tabled - Mero-Carlson January 31, 2023)

No action taken

21e.

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.

No action taken

21f.

Order of Councilor Etel Haxhiaj 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. (Held Under Privilege - Haxhiaj July 18, 2023 and Tabled - Haxhiaj August 22, 2023)

No action taken

21g.

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

21h.

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. (Held Under Privilege - Russell September 24, 2024 and October 1, 2024 and Tabled - Russell October 8, 2024)

No action taken

21i.

Order of Councilor Khrystian E. King - Request City Manager conduct an equity audit of all city departments every five (5) years. (Held Under Privilege - Mero-Carlson December 10, 2024 and Held Under Privilege - Toomey December 17, 2024 and Tabled - Nguyen January 7, 2025)

No action taken

21j.

Communication of the City Manager transmitting informational communication relative to how the U.S. Department of Justice's report on the Worcester Police Department differs from the account of the municipality. (Held Under Privilege - King April 29, 2025 and May 6, 2025 and Tabled - King May 13, 2025)

No action taken

22. BUSINESS UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES – Items brought forth under suspension at the June 10, 2025, and reconvened June 17, 2025, City Council meeting.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE Upon the Communication of the City Manager recommend approval of the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Operating Budget: recommend adoption of the accompanying Order. – Item #25a CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE Upon the Communication of the City Manager recommend approval of the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Capital Budget: recommend adoption of the accompanying Order. – Item #25b CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE Upon the Communication of the City Manager recommend the adoption of a Loan Order in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Eight Million Nine Hundred Thirty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Twelve Dollars And No Cents (\$158,938,412.00) to pay for costs associated with projects and equipment, as approved in the Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Budget: recommend passage of the accompanying proposed Loan Order. – Item #25c CC Voted to advertise proposed Loan Order on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays

CHAIRMAN'S ORDER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing maintenance schedule planning strategies utilized by the Department of Public Facilities. (King) – Item #25d CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays

CHAIRMAN'S ORDER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the program and funding dollars associated with the city's new program that creates facility work orders and tracks break fixes. (King) – Item #25e CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays

CHAIRMAN'S ORDER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing any invitations made to various internet providers to bring their services to the city, in the interest of lowering broadband prices for residents. (King) – Item #25f CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays

CHAIRMAN'S ORDER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the process and strategy used to rescind unnecessary loan authorizations. (King) – Item #25g CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays

CHAIRMAN'S ORDER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - Request City Auditor provide City Council with a report concerning whether any shortfalls associated with the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Ballpark DIF Reserve Account were anticipated. (Russell) – Item #25h CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays

ORDER of Councilor George J. Russell – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning whether door hangers and signage depicting work in the vicinity of Broad Meadow Brook is related to actions associated with the Green Worcester Plan. – Item #25i CC Order adopted

COMMUNICATION of the City Manager transmitting information communication relative to my self-evaluation of the work and accomplishments of my administration for Fiscal Year 2025. – Item #25j CC Held Under Privilege

ORDER of Councilor Jenny Pacillo – Request City Clerk provide City Council with a report detailing whether residents have always been able to petition City Council directly or if petitions have ever needed to go through elected officials. – Item #25k CC Order adopted

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

23a.

Order of Councilor Morris A. Bergman – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility provide City Council with a report detailing the amount of money spent on Mill St.’s traffic safety redesign project.

Order adopted (See Item #9.8H CM)

23b.

Order of Councilor Khrystian E. King then moved to – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report that outlines strategic mapping, planning and timelines associated with the installation of additional crosswalks on Mill St.

Order adopted (See Item #9.8H CM)

23c.

Order of Councilor George J. Russell – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning the amount of funding required to repave Massasoit Rd.

Order adopted (See Item #9.8H CM)

23d.

Resolution of Councilor Khrystian E. King – That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby support the allocation of monies for the purpose of installing School Zone safety signage.

Resolution adopted (See Item #9.8G CM)

23e.

Order of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager request City Solicitor provide City Council with a legal opinion as to the difference between a motion to place an item on file and a motion to adopt an item.

Order adopted (See Item #9.12B CM)

23f.

Order of Councilor Etel Haxhiaj – Request City Manager request Fire Chief provide City Council with a report breaking down the cost of losing human life, should the city fail to adopt Mass. General Law Ch. 148, Section 26I. Said report should include the costs associated with the risk of injury to civilians and firefighters, as well as costs associated with health and psychological harms, long term health issues and any estimations on additional strains the failure to adopt the measure could have on emergency services.

Order adopted (See Item #11a CC)

23g.

Order of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning the reason hundreds of fish died in Indian Lake.

Order adopted (See Item #11c CC)

23h.

Order of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the timeline and treatment plan associated with remedying water quality concerns at Indian Lake.

Order adopted (See Item #11c CC)

23i.

Order of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing whether Indian Lake is considered property of the city or property of the State of Massachusetts.

Order adopted (See Item #11c CC)

23j.

Order of Councilor Etel Haxhiaj – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning how instituting a program in the city relative to M.G.L. Ch. 59, Sec. 50, which provides property tax relief to landlords that rent their units at a federally determined affordable rate, would impact the city. Said report should include information concerning: 1) Will these properties, if not registered in the rental registry, be required to register?; 2) How will Inspectional Services be engaged to provide information concerning property owners who have multiple code and sanitary violations?; 3) How will the city enforce rent and code violations, as well as what guardrails will there be to protect tenants?; 4) How does it affect the abatement overlay?; 5) What is the overlay amount that the city puts aside to manage tax abatements?; 6) What process would the city and City Council follow if the amount required to manage tax abatements would need to be increased?; 7) If a landlord who rents property potentially asks for an abatement based on the tax policy provision the Governor signed into law in 2023, does the Assessor's Office know whether a property owner is an LCC? Further, does the Assessor's Office know where the principal of the LLC resides or whether there are investors of such an LLC that live in Worcester or elsewhere?; and 8) How many staff currently work on abatements in the Assessor's Office currently?

Order adopted (See Item #11f CC)

23k.

Order of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 50.

Order adopted (See Item #11f CC)

23l.

Order of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager provide City Council with a prospective draft ordinance within any report from the city that recommends the implementation of a program stemming from the adoption of M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 50.

Order adopted (See Item #11f CC)

23m.

Order of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning efforts to bring additional grocery stores to the city.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 2 Nays (Yeas – Haxhiaj, King, Mero-Carlson, Ojeda, Pacillo, Russell, Toomey, Petty) (Nays – Bergman, Colorio) (Nguyen absent) (See Item #11g CC)

23n.

Order of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report defining food deserts.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 2 Nays (Yeas – Haxhiaj, King, Mero-Carlson, Ojeda, Pacillo, Russell, Toomey, Petty) (Nays – Bergman, Colorio) (Nguyen absent) (See Item #11g CC)

23o.

Order of Councilor Donna M. Colorio – Request City Manager work with the WRTA Administrator to provide City Council with a report detailing the feasibility of providing a bus route that takes residents of Lincoln St. to Market 32, located at 72 Pullman St.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 2 Nays (Yeas – Haxhiaj, King, Mero-Carlson, Ojeda, Pacillo, Russell, Toomey, Petty) (Nays – Bergman, Colorio) (Nguyen absent) (See Item #11g CC)

23p.

Order of Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson – Request City Manager ensure any actions associated with the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) installing fencing around railroad crossings and train tracks for public safety include CSX, where applicable.

Order adopted (See Item #11i CC)

23q.

Order of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager provide City Council with a detailed report outlining the pros and cons of discontinuing the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance.

Order adopted (See Item #11r CC)

23r.

Resolution of Councilor Etel Haxhiaj – That the City Council does hereby reaffirm its support to preserve residents' right of to petition the City Council using the same process currently in place in the city.

Resolution denied on a roll call vote of 4 Yeas and 6 Nays (Yeas – Haxhiaj, King, Pacillo, Ojeda) (Nays – Bergman, Colorio, Mero-Carlson, Russell, Toomey, Petty) (Nguyen absent) (See Item #13b CC)

23s.

Order of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager rule out whether or not the city plans to lease out the property located at 51 and 61 Sever St.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 7 Yeas and 3 Nays (Yeas – Bergman, Colorio, Mero-Carlson, Ojeda, Pacillo, Toomey, Petty) (Nays – Haxhiaj, King, Russell) (Nguyen absent) (See Item #20c CC)