

CITY OF WORCESTER
JOURNAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, September 16, 2025
Esther Howland (South) Chamber
Convened: 6:32 P.M.
Adjourned: 6:51 P.M.

MAYOR

Joseph M. Petty

AT-LARGE COUNCILORS

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



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DISTRICT COUNCILORS

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

CITY CLERK

Nikolin Vangjeli

CITY MANAGER

Eric D. Batista

CITY AUDITOR

Robert V. Stearns

City Hall - 455 Main Street Worcester, Massachusetts

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. STAR SPANGLED BANNER

3. ROLL CALL - All present with the Mayor as the Chair, except for Councilor King and Councilor Nguyen. Councilor King arrived at 6:38 P.M.

4. PROCLAMATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, MOMENTS OF SILENCE

- 4a.** Mayor Petty read a Proclamation declaring September 29, 2025 through October 5, 2025 as the Week Without Driving in the City of Worcester. The Proclamation was presented to Karin Valentine Goins, Jaffney Roode, and the WalkBike Worcester organization.
- 4b.** Mayor Petty read a Proclamation declaring September 2025 as Emergency Preparedness Month in the City of Worcester. The Proclamation was presented to Luca Calvani and Emily Mew.

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 August 19, 2025.

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

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

1. Fred Nathan, Worcester resident, spoke neither in favor of nor opposed to items #8.13A CM and #8.35A CM
2. Gary Hunter, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #8.11A CM, spoke neither in favor of nor opposed to item #8.13A CM, and spoke concerning items not listed on the agenda
3. Nathalie Gibson, Worcester resident, spoke concerning an item not listed on the agenda

7. PETITIONS

7a. Kevin J. Breen, Head of Worcester Academy (fka Trustees of Worcester Academy), request Zoning Map be amended by changing the zoning designation of the property located at and known as 232 Stafford St. aka 242 Stafford St. (MBL 28-042-00001) from the current zoning designation of RS-7 (Residence, Single Family) to RG-5 (Residence, General), as shown in the plan attached hereto.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to refer the item to Planning Board. Referred to Planning Board

7b. Idella Hazard request sidewalk resurfacing in front of 75 Providence St.

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

7c. Jacqueline Grampetro et al. request installation of speed humps on Mason St.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to refer items #7c CC through #7l CC to Traffic and Parking Committee. Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee

7d. Kelly Ann Druskis-Abreu request installation of resident permit parking on Elliott St. from the corner of Edward St. and Elliot St. intersection to Liberty St.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #7c CC)

7e. Sheila F. Shea request "Private Way" signage on the street sign of Greenleaf Terrace be reinstalled.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #7c CC)

7f. Holly Hartley request installation of handicap parking space in front of 2 Blodgett Pl.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #7c CC)

7g. Robert Bilotta request installation of speed humps in the vicinity of 85 Merrifield St.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #7c CC)

7h. Matthew C. Morse et al. request installation of a crosswalk in the vicinity of 974 Main St. at Beaver St. for daily usage by caregivers and students at Goddard School of Science and Technology.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #7c CC)

- 7i. Paul Smith request installation of handicap parking space in front of 73 Florence St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #7c CC)
- 7j. Councilor George J. Russell on behalf of Yessica Rivas request installation of speed humps on Malmo St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #7c CC)
- 7k. Mayor Joseph M. Petty on behalf of William McCarthy et al. request installation of four-way stop signage at the intersection of Davenport St. and Electric St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #7c CC)
- 7l. Mayor Joseph M. Petty on behalf of William McCarthy et al. request installation of four-way stop signage at the intersection of Davenport St. and Dutton St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #7c CC)

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER

- 8.1 APPOINTMENTS**
Non-City Council Confirmation
- 8.2 APPOINTMENTS**
City Council Confirmation
- 8.3 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES**
William Bagley, Jr., Esq., Chief Human Resources Officer
- 8.4 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
Peter Dunn, Chief Development Officer
- 8.5 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION**
Kevin Lovaincy, Chief Equity Officer
- 8.6 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION**
Division of Human Rights and Accessibility
Patricia M. LaFore, Director
- 8.7 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**
Administration Division
John K. Westerling, Commissioner
- 8.8 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**
Engineering and Architectural Services Division
John K. Westerling, Commissioner
- 8.9 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**
Operations Division
John K. Westerling, Commissioner
- 8.10 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND CEMETARY**
Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., Commissioner

8.11 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

Stephen S. Rolle, P.E., Commissioner

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to the construction status of ongoing and forthcoming street and sidewalk projects as of Aug. 31, 2025.

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

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

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

Mayor Petty recognized Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Mero-Carlson.

Councilor Mero-Carlson then moved to, "Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility include the years street and sidewalk construction projects were selected for funding by City Council in all Construction Progress Reports moving forward." (See Item #11a CC).

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

8.12 FIRE DEPARTMENT

Martin Dyer, Fire Chief

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to the residential use of fire blankets.

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

8.13 POLICE DEPARTMENT

Paul B. Saucier, Police Chief

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to a quarterly report regarding the Worcester Police Department's small Unmanned Aircraft System.

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

8.14 DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Charles R. Goodwin, Commissioner

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to the municipality's Tornado Response.

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

- 8.15 LAW DEPARTMENT**
Alexandra H. Kalkounis, Esq., City Solicitor
- 8.16 DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES**
Administration
Nicholas Antanavica, Commissioner
- 8.17 DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES**
Building and Zoning Division
David Horne, Deputy Building Commissioner
- 8.18 DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES**
Housing and Health Inspections Division
Lee R. Hall, Director
- 8.19 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Administration
Dr. Matilde "Mattie" Castiel, M.D., Commissioner
- 8.20 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Elder Affairs
Amy Vogel Waters, Director
- 8.21 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Veterans Services
Dr. Joe Robinson, Veterans' Services Officer/Director
- 8.22 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Youth Services
Raquel Castro-Corazzini, Director
- 8.23 WORCESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY**
Jason L. Homer, Executive Director
- 8.24 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**
Election Commission Division
Nikolin Vangjeli, City Clerk
- 8.25 PUBLIC SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**
Rachel Monárrez, Superintendent

- 8.26 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**
Administration
Timothy McGourthy, Chief Financial Officer
- 8.27 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**
Assessing Division
Samuel E. Konieczny, City Assessor
- 8.28 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**
Budget Office Division
Erin E. Taylor, Director
- 8.29 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**
Purchasing Division
Christopher Gagliastro, Director
- 8.30 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**
Treasury and Collections Division
Francisco Hernandez, Treasurer and Collector of Taxes
- 8.31 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC FACILITIES**
James Bedard, Chief of Public Facilities
- 8.32 DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE**
John W. Odell, Chief Sustainability Officer
- 8.33 DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY**
Michael P. Hamel, Chief Information Officer
- 8.34 FINANCE ITEMS**
Capital Transfers
- 8.35 FINANCE ITEMS**
Grants and Donations

- A. Recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept, and expend a grant in the amount of Three Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Two Dollars And No Cents (\$ 3,942.00) from the UMass Chan Medical School Prevention Research Center.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to adopt items #8.35A CM through #8.35C CM and #8.37A CM and #8.37B CM. Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent)

- B. Recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept, and expend a grant in the amount of One Million Sixty-One Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Dollars and Zero Cents (\$1,061,230.00) from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management (OPEM).

Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #8.35A CM)

- C. Recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept, and expend a donation in the amount of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$25,000.00) from The Hanover Insurance Group Foundation.

Resolution adopted with gratitude on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #8.35A CM)

8.36 FINANCE ITEMS

Operational Transfers

8.37 FINANCE ITEMS

Prior Year

- A. Recommend that Three Thousand Twenty-Seven Dollars and Sixty Cents (\$3,027.60) be authorized from various Fiscal Year 2026 Department of Public Works cost centers for the payment of prior year invoices.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #8.35A CM)

- B. Recommend that One Thousand Sixty-Four Dollars And No Cents (\$1,064.00) be authorized from Fiscal Year 2026 Cost Center #CC1009, Law Ordinary Maintenance, for payment of a prior year invoice.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Nguyen absent) (See Item #8.35A CM)

8.38 FINANCE

Loan Orders

8.39 MISCELLANEOUS AGENDA TRANSMITTALS

9. TABLED ITEMS

- 9a. 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

- 9b.** 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

- 9c.** 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

- 9d.** REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE AND TRANSPORTATION Upon the Order of Councilor Morris A. Bergman and Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson - Request Standing Committee on Public Service and Transportation Committee hold a public discussion with the WRTA Administrator relative to the removal of a bus route that passes the EcoTarium, 222 Harrington Way: recommend Communication be placed on file. (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

- 9e.** 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. (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

- 9f.** 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

9g. 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

9h. 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

9i. 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

9j. 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

10. BUSINESS UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES - Items brought forth under suspension at the September 9, 2025 City Council meeting.

10a. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY Upon the Communication of the City Manager recommend adoption of MGL Ch 148, Section 26I, which mandates the installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems in residential buildings with four or more dwelling units: recommend Communication be placed on file. – Item #19a CC Accepted on a roll call vote of 6 Yeas and 4 Nays

10b. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY Upon the Communication of the City Manager transmitting informational communication relative to the city's fire sprinkler policies and the potential impact of adopting M.G.L. Chapter 148, Section 26I: recommend Communication be placed on file. – Item #19b CC Accepted on a roll call vote of 6 Yeas and 4 Nays

10c. CHAIRMAN'S ORDER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning any incentives the city can implement to encourage individuals to install sprinklers in their properties. – Item #19c CC Order adopted

- 10d.** CHAIRMAN'S RESOLUTION FROM THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby reaffirm its established commitment to fire safety and prevention. – Item #19d CC Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 10e.** ORDER of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning how the city plans to be more inclusive as it relates to providing information to the public as to the progress of construction projects in the city, including information concerning sidewalk repair projects and private street conversions. – Item #19e CC Order adopted
- 10f.** ORDER of Councilor Etel Haxhijaj – Request City Manager request Chief Development Officer provide City Council with a report detailing any compliance work associated with the city's Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Tax Increment Exemption (TIE) Agreements, including details about citations and fines against TIF and TIE developers, over the past six (6) months. Further, request said report also include information concerning determinations made by the city against contractors and subcontractors working on such projects. – Item #19f Order adopted
- 10g.** ORDER of Councilor Etel Haxhijaj – Request City Manager request Chief Development Officer update future Semi-Annual Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Tax Increment Exemption (TIE) Reports to include information concerning determinations relative to the requirements of the Responsible Development Ordinance, including information concerning citations and fines of contractors working on such projects. – Item #19g CC Order adopted
- 10h.** ORDER of Councilor George J. Russell – Request City Manager provide City Council with updated information relative to rental agreements for all municipal properties, including but not limited to churches renting Worcester Public Schools properties. Said updated information should include all temporary arrangements in the city, including but not limited to such arrangements at Worcester Technical High School. – Item #19h CC Order adopted
- 10i.** ORDER of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the timeline associated with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) project relative to creating a rotary at the intersection of May St. and Chandler St. in the vicinity of Worcester State University. – Item #19i CC Order adopted
- 10j.** ORDER of Councilor George J. Russell – Request Standing Committee on Public Works hold a meeting to solicit input from the public regarding Zero Waste proposals and potential changes to the city's current trash and recycling program. Further, request said meeting also include a discussion relative to the results of the Department of Public Works researching the contents of the city's resident's trash. – Item #19j CC Referred to Public Works Committee

11. NEW BUSINESS UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES - Items brought forth under suspension at the September 16, 2025 City Council meeting.

11a. Motion Mero-Carlson @ #8.11A CM – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility include the years street and sidewalk construction projects were selected for funding by City Council in all Construction Progress Reports moving forward.

Order adopted (See Item #8.11A CM)