

CITY OF WORCESTER
JOURNAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, September 24, 2024
Esther Howland (South) Chamber
Convened: 6:31 P.M.
Adjourned: 8:15 P.M.

MAYOR

Joseph M. Petty

AT-LARGE COUNCILORS

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



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DISTRICT COUNCILORS

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

CITY CLERK

Nikolin Vangjeli

CITY MANAGER

Eric D. Batista

CITY AUDITOR

Robert V. Stearns

City Hall - 455 Main Street Worcester, Massachusetts

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. STAR SPANGLED BANNER

3. ROLL CALL - All present with the Mayor as the Chair. Councilor Toomey participated in the meeting remotely.

4. PROCLAMATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, MOMENTS OF SILENCE

- 4a.** MOMENT OF SILENCE in memory of Adrian Angus, who passed away on September 18, 2024 at thirty-nine (39) years of age. Mr. Angus was an active member of the community and had served as a member of the Planning Board since 2022.
- 4b.** Mayor Petty read a Proclamation declaring the week of September 23, 2024, to September 29, 2024, as National Diaper Need Awareness Week in the City of Worcester. Mayor Petty presented the Proclamation, as well as a Certificate of Mayoral Recognition, to Sarah Galvin of Marie's Mission, whose mission is to ensure that families in need have an adequate supply of diapers for their infants and toddlers and to provide resources that support healthy childhood development.

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 September 10, 2024.

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

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

1. Fred Nathan, Worcester resident, spoke neither in favor or opposed to item #11b CC and in favor of item #11e CC
2. Idella Hazard, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #11b CC and in favor of item #11e CC
3. Adam Thielker, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to items #11a CC and #11b CC
4. Dean Fisher, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #11b CC
5. Kirsten Frazier, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to items #11a CC and #11b CC
6. Janet Davis, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #11b CC
7. Kelsey Crisostomo, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #11b CC
8. David Webb, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #13f CC, #10k CC through #10t CC and #11d CC through #11f CC, as well as opposed to items #11a CC and #11b CC
9. Yenni Desroches, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to items #10t CC and #11b CC, as well as in favor of items #11d CC, #11c CC and #11f CC
10. Eric Stratton, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to items #11b CC
11. Nathalie Gibson, Worcester resident, spoke neither in favor opposed to items not listed on the agenda, as well as in opposition to item #11b CC

7. HEARINGS AND ORDERS

- 7a. Hearing: NATIONAL GRID for a conduit location at: ORNE ST., LINCOLN ST. and PAINE ST.

Granting permission to NATIONAL GRID for a conduit location at: ORNE ST., LINCOLN ST. and PAINE ST.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to take the item collectively with Items #7b CC and #7c CC. Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to open the hearings. Mayor Petty's motion was approved on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays.

Mayor Petty asked if any abutters wished to be heard on the items. Hearing no speakers, Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to close the hearings. Mayor Petty's motion was approved on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays.

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

- 7b. Hearing: NATIONAL GRID and VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC. for a jointly-owned pole at: BEDFORD AVE.

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

Hearing held and Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7a CC)

- 7c. Hearing: NATIONAL GRID and VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC. for a jointly-owned pole at: CHRISTINE ST.

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

Hearing held and Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7a CC)

8. RECONSIDERATION

- 8a.** ORDER of Councilor Morris A. Bergman – In accordance with Rule 30 of the Rules of City Council, Councilor Morris A. Bergman requests reconsideration of the vote of City Council taken on September 17, 2024, in regard to the following item: Chairman’s Order from the Committee on Municipal and Legislative Operations – That the Rules of City Council of the City of Worcester be and are hereby amended to amend Rule 21 to read as follows: Rule 21. No Speaking for More Than Five Minutes. After being recognized by the chair no councilor shall speak for more than five (5) minutes at a time nor more than ten (10) minutes total on any agenda item, or a group of calendar items taken collectively, at any City Council or Standing Committee on Finance meeting. The chair may grant additional time to any councilor if comments made by the city manager or other individuals in response to questions have taken an unusual amount of time. The chair shall make note of the time each member is recognized. Whenever any member substantially exceeds five minutes during their first time speaking on an item, the chair may rule that the member is being allocated his or her second five minutes and the member shall be deemed to have waived his or her right to speak twice on an item.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to adopt the item. Order adopted on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 3 Nays (Yeas - Bergman, Colorio, Mero-Carlson, Ojeda, Pacillo, Russell, Toomey, Petty) (Nays - Haxhij, King, Nguyen)

- 8b. CHAIRMAN'S ORDER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL AND LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS** - That the Rules of City Council of the City of Worcester be and are hereby amended to amend Rule 21 to read as follows: Rule 21. No Speaking for More Than Five Minutes. After being recognized by the chair no councilor shall speak for more than five (5) minutes at a time nor more than ten (10) minutes total on any agenda item, or a group of calendar items taken collectively, at any City Council or Standing Committee on Finance meeting. The chair may grant additional time to any councilor if comments made by the city manager or other individuals in response to questions have taken an unusual amount of time. The chair shall make note of the time each member is recognized. Whenever any member substantially exceeds five minutes during their first time speaking on an item, the chair may rule that the member is being allocated his or her second five minutes and the member shall be deemed to have waived his or her right to speak twice on an item. (Tabled Under Privilege - King August 27, 2024 and Tabled Under Privilege - Russell September 10, 2024)

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Russell, who moved to amend the item to read as follows: That the Rules of City Council of the City of Worcester be and are hereby amended to amend Rule 21 to read as follows: Rule 21. No Speaking for More Than Five or Ten Minutes. After being recognized by the chair no councilor shall speak for more than five (5) minutes at a time nor more than ten (10) minutes total on any agenda item, or a group of calendar items taken collectively at any City Council meeting. At any Finance Committee meeting, no councilor shall speak for more than ten (10) minutes at a time nor more than twenty (20) minutes total on any agenda item, or a group of calendar items taken collectively. The chair may grant additional time to any councilor if comments made by the city manager or other individuals in response to questions have taken an unusual amount of time. The chair shall make note of the time each member is recognized. Whenever any member substantially exceeds five minutes during their first time speaking on an item, the chair may rule that the member is being allocated his or her second five minutes and the member shall be deemed to have waived his or her right to speak twice on an item.

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

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

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 Ojeda for a second time, who spoke concerning the item.

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

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote on Councilor King's motion to place the item on file. Motion denied on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 8 Nays (Yeas – Haxhij, King, Nguyen) (Nays – Bergman, Colorio, Mero-Carlson, Ojeda, Pacillo, Russell, Toomey, Petty).

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King for a second time, who moved to Table the Item Under Privilege as amended. – Not Put, as the item had previously already been Tabled Under Privilege on two (2) separate occasions.

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

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

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King for a third time, who moved to Table the Item.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who moved to, "Request City Manager request City Solicitor provide City Council with written clarification on whether an item that is amended resets the amount of times an item can be Tabled Under Privilege." (See Item #18a CC).

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

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

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote on Councilor King's motion to Table the Item. Motion denied on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 8 Nays (Yeas – Haxhiaj, King, Nguyen) (Nays – Bergman, Colorio, Mero-Carlson, Ojeda, Pacillo, Russell, Toomey, Petty).

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 3 Nays. (Yeas – Bergman, Colorio, Mero-Carlson, Ojeda, Pacillo, Russell, Toomey, Petty) (Nays – Haxhiaj, King, Nguyen)

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

9. PETITIONS

- 9a. Austin Tepsic request the overgrowth on Hadwen Rd. be cut back.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to refer items #9a CC through #9d CC to the Department of Public Works and Parks. Referred to the Department of Public Works and Parks on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

- 9b. Austin Tepsic request the overgrowth on Intervale Rd. be cut back.

Referred to the Department of Public Works and Parks on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9a CC)

- 9c. Austin Tepsic request the overgrowth on Amherst St. be cut back.

Referred to the Department of Public Works and Parks on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9a CC)

- 9d. Austin Tepsic request the overgrowth on Pleasant St. be cut back.

Referred to the Department of Public Works and Parks on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9a CC)

- 9e. Austin Tepsic request street resurfacing on Hadwen Ln.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to refer items #9e CC through #9j CC to Public Works Committee. Referred to Public Works Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

- 9f. Austin Tepsic request sidewalk resurfacing on Hadwen Ln.

Referred to Public Works Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See item #9e CC)

- 9g. Austin Tepsic request sidewalk resurfacing on Hadwen Rd.

Referred to Public Works Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9e CC)

- 9h. Austin Tepsic request sidewalk resurfacing on Amherst St.

Referred to Public Works Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9e CC)

- 9i. Austin Tepsic request sidewalk resurfacing on Intervale Rd.

Referred to Public Works Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9e CC)

- 9j. Amy Pagan request installation of "No Littering" signage on Shelby St.
Referred to Public Works Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9e CC)
- 9k. Heather Smith request installation of "No Parking Anytime" signage across from 35-39 Berkman St.
Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to refer items #9k CC through #9s CC to Traffic and Parking Committee. Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 9l. Celia Blue request installation of resident permit parking on Newport St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9k CC)
- 9m. Hoi Nguyen request handicap parking space at 21 Vineyard St. be removed.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9k CC)
- 9n. Joseph Walsh request installation of handicap parking space at 75 West St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9k CC)
- 9o. Garret Mierzejewski request installation of a crosswalk in the vicinity of Price Rite Marketplace, located at 520 Southbridge St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9k CC)
- 9p. Councilor George J. Russell on behalf of the residents of Greenwood Gardens and Edward Laliberty request the installation of a flashing crosswalk light on Greenwood St. in the vicinity of Greenwood Gardens, located between 327 and 341 Greenwood St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9k CC)
- 9q. Councilor Etel Haxhij on behalf of Meaghan Culkeen request installation of a crosswalk at the intersection of South Ludlow St. and Clover St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9k CC)
- 9r. Councilor Etel Haxhij request repainting of yellow lines at Coes St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9k CC)
- 9s. Councilor Etel Haxhij request repainting the lines at the Lovell St. roundabout.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9k CC)
- 9t. Councilor Etel Haxhij on behalf of Serge Belozarov request installation of a second basketball court at Logan Field.
Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to Veterans' Memorials, Parks and Recreation Committee. Referred to Veterans' Memorials, Parks and Recreation Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

- 9u. CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS for a conduit location at: MADISON ST.
Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to set hearings for items #9u CC and #9v CC on October 1, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. Hearing set for October 1, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 9v. CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS for a conduit location at: 702 SOUTHBRIDGE ST.
Hearing set for October 1, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9u CC)
- 9w. Michael Grandone request City Council request City Manager request City Solicitor provide City Council with a report concerning the legality of billing the city's colleges and non-profits a monetary fee of \$1,000.00 per hour for the use of the city's police and fire resources and services.
Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to the City Manager. Referred to the City Manager on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

10. CHAIRMAN'S ORDERS

- 10a. FROM THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING - Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility relocate the bus stop in front of 18 Chestnut St. 20 ft. north. Further, request installation of additional Bus Stop and No Parking signage to demarcate the stop location.
Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to adopt items #10a CC through #10t CC. Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 10b. FROM THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING - Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility work with Clark University to address parking challenges in the vicinity of the university.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #10a CC)
- 10c. FROM THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING - Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility review and remove the parking line markings at the cul-de-sac at the end of Merlin Ct.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #10a CC)
- 10d. FROM THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING - Request City Manager consider establishing an ordinance that creates a requirement or allowance of passenger side wheels against the curb parking (parallel parking).
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #10a CC)
- 10e. FROM THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING - Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility review signage for existing No Parking ordinance on Carlisle St.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #10a CC)
- 10f. FROM THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING - Request City Manager consider establishing funding in future Capital Improvement Budgets for the design and construction of a traffic light at the intersection of Plantation St. and Natural History Rd.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #10a CC)

- 10g.** FROM THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING - Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility install a painted right turn arrow at the intersection of Dorchester St. and Vernon St.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #10a CC)
- 10h.** FROM THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING - Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility review the crosswalk in the vicinity of Chandler Magnet Elementary School (525 Chandler St.) to relocate the crosswalk to the most appropriate location.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #10a CC)
- 10i.** FROM THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING - Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility communicate with the permit holders at O'Connell Field concerning safety concerns relative to traffic exiting the driveway.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #10a CC)
- 10j.** FROM THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING - Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility prioritize traffic calming and pedestrian improvements on Barry Rd. and Lynnwood Ln.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #10a CC)
- 10k.** FROM THE COMMITTEE ON URBAN TECHNOLOGIES, INNOVATION AND ENVIRONMENT - Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning the negotiation between the City of Worcester and Charter/Spectrum.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #10a CC)
- 10l.** FROM THE COMMITTEE ON URBAN TECHNOLOGIES, INNOVATION AND ENVIRONMENT - Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning strategies that could be implemented to increase competition in the city amongst internet providers.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #10a CC)
- 10m.** FROM THE COMMITTEE ON URBAN TECHNOLOGIES, INNOVATION AND ENVIRONMENT - Request City Manager work with the Superintendent of Public Schools to provide City Council with a report concerning plans to provide more hotspots and enhance access strategy to internet in the city.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #10a CC)
- 10n.** FROM THE COMMITTEE ON URBAN TECHNOLOGIES, INNOVATION AND ENVIRONMENT - Request City Manager provide City Council with a timeline concerning when public service campaigns regarding digital literacy and healthy device internet youth education will begin.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #10a CC)

10o. FROM THE COMMITTEE ON URBAN TECHNOLOGIES, INNOVATION AND ENVIRONMENT - Request City Manager provide City Council with report detailing framework for a grant program that can used to help the city fill the gap for providing residents affordable internet that is being caused by the discontinuance of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).

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

10p. FROM THE COMMITTEE ON URBAN TECHNOLOGIES, INNOVATION AND ENVIRONMENT - Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning the feasibility of creating a digital navigator program with dedicated digital equity managers.

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

10q. FROM THE COMMITTEE ON URBAN TECHNOLOGIES, INNOVATION AND ENVIRONMENT - Request City Manager provide City Council with an action plan regarding strategic recommendations made by Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) in conjunction with the city.

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

10r. FROM THE COMMITTEE ON URBAN TECHNOLOGIES, INNOVATION AND ENVIRONMENT - Request City Manager request Chief Information Officer improve navigation to the Vendor Check Register and address any correlative challenges to make the process more user-friendly.

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

10s. FROM THE COMMITTEE ON URBAN TECHNOLOGIES, INNOVATION AND ENVIRONMENT - Request City Manager request Chief Information Officer consider adding language to the Vendor Check Register to help individuals understand the bidding process relative to contracts and when said process can be exempted.

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

10t. FROM THE COMMITTEE ON URBAN TECHNOLOGIES, INNOVATION AND ENVIRONMENT - Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning whether the city has any protections against cyber-attacks.

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

11. ORDERS

- 11a.** Request City Manager study the feasibility of revitalizing an annual local art and vendor market in the city to celebrate and recognize the talent of the community. (Petty)

Vice Chairperson Councilor King read the item and recognized Mayor Petty, who moved to, “Request City Manager meet with leadership teams of various longstanding events in the city, including stArt on the Street, to discuss some of the successes and challenges they have when creating events in the city.”

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning any permit fees that can be waived associated with running various events in the city.” (See Item #18b CC).

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

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

- 11b.** Request City Manager install full-body scanner safety equipment at City Hall, similar to the equipment used at Polar Park, the Worcester District Court and other public places, on or before December 31, 2024. (Russell, Bergman)

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Russell, who moved to amend the item to replace the words, “full body scanner,” with “metal detectors,” and include the phrase, “whenever open.”

Councilor Russell then moved to Table the Item Under Privilege as amended. Tabled Under Privilege as amended.

Tabled Under Privilege – Russell

- 11c.** Request City Manager provide City Council with draft language, within thirty (30) days, that would implement an institutional zoning ordinance and require institutions such as colleges, universities and hospitals to file ten (10) year institutional master plans with the city. (Mero-Carlson, Petty, Pacillo, Toomey, Bergman, Russell, Colorio)

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Mero-Carlson and Councilor Pacillo, 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 report outlining best practices associated with institutional zoning ordinances. Said report should also review all previous City Council orders regarding nonprofit organizations in the city.” (See Item #18c CC).

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

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

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

- 11d.** Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning the history and reasons for the merger between the Parks Department and the Department of Public Works. Further, request City Manager include in said report an analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of separating said departments. (Bergman)

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

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

- 11e.** Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility provide City Council with a report concerning best practices regarding cars making right turns that conflict with pedestrian crosswalk signals. (Bergman)

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

- 11f. Request City Manager work with the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) Administrator provide City Council with a report assessing ridership levels at the WRTA. (Bergman)

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a qualitative analysis of Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) ridership that includes the reasons why people ride their busses. Further, request City Manager work with any interested local institutions to gather any relevant data for said report.” (See Item #18d 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 Pacillo, who spoke concerning the item.

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

12. RECESS TO FINANCE COMMITTEE - No items pending

13. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING

- 13a. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING Upon the Communication of the City Manager Recommend adoption of an ordinance to establish on-street parking on Grove Street in the vicinity of O’Connell Field: recommend passage of the accompanying Ordinance.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to advertise the proposed Ordinance. Voted to advertise proposed Ordinance on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

- 13b. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING Upon the Petition of Councilor Luis A. Ojeda request installation of “No Parking” signage 20’ from all crosswalks at all crosswalks on Freeland St.: recommend adoption of the accompanying Order.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to accept and adopt items #13b CC through #13i CC. Accepted and adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

- 13c. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING Upon the Petition of Councilor Luis A. Ojeda request installation of “No Parking” signage 20’ from all crosswalks at all crosswalks on Richards St.: recommend adoption of the accompanying Order.

Accepted and adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #13b CC)

- 13d.** REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING Upon the Petition of Nathalie Gibson request installation of left turn signal at the intersection of Main St. and Mill St.: recommend adoption of the accompanying Order.
Accepted and adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #13b CC)
- 13e.** REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING Upon the Petition of Mayor Joseph M. Petty, on behalf of Nicholas Gage, request installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Plantation St. and Natural History Rd.: recommend adoption of the accompanying Order.
Accepted and adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #13b CC)
- 13f.** REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING Upon the Petition of Em Quiles request traffic review at the intersection of Fairmont St. and Hamilton St.: recommend adoption of the accompanying Order.
Accepted and adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #13b CC)
- 13g.** REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING Upon the Petition of Sarah Williams request a traffic study be conducted in the Rockdale St. and Mount Ave. neighborhood for the purpose of determining the feasibility of installing truck ban/weight restriction signage within the neighborhood.: recommend adoption of the accompanying Order.
Accepted and adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #13b CC)
- 13h.** REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING Upon the Petition of Austin and Chloe Brough et al. request traffic study be conducted on Valmor St. for traffic calming solutions: recommend adoption of the accompanying Order.
Accepted and adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #13b CC)
- 13i.** REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING Upon the Petition of Petition of Councilor Luis A. Ojeda request improvements be made to pedestrian safety and access at the intersection of Richards St. and Cambridge St. by adding a pedestrian refuge island at the location: recommend adoption of the accompanying Order.
Accepted and adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #13b CC)
- 13j.** REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING Upon the Petition of Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson on behalf of Spectrum Health Systems, Inc. request the bus stop in front of Spectrum Health Systems on the Pasadena Parkway side of Lincoln St. be moved to a different location: recommend Petition be placed on file.
Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to accept items #13j CC through #13w CC, except for item #13u CC. Accepted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 13k.** REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING Upon the Petition of Councilor Khrystian E. King on behalf of Gayle Anderson request the bus stop currently in front of 18 Chestnut St. be moved back 22 Chestnut St., with “No Parking Anytime” signage being installed near the 22 Chestnut St. location: recommend Petition be placed on file.
Accepted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #13j CC)

- 13l.** REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING Upon the Petition of Councilor George J. Russell request installation of speed humps on Enid St.: recommend Petition be placed on file.
Accepted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #13j CC)
- 13m.** REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING Upon the Petition of Kathia Gonzalez request installation of No Parking Anytime signage in the vicinity of the driveway at 9 Blaine Ave.: recommend Petition be placed on file.
Accepted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #13j CC)
- 13n.** REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING Upon the Petition of Marc LePain request installation of No Parking Anytime signage in the cul-de-sac at the end of Merlin Ct.: recommend Petition be placed on file.
Accepted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #13j CC)
- 13o.** REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING Upon the Petition of Molly Gallagher install No Parking Anytime signage for the odd side of Carlisle St.: recommend Petition be placed on file.
Accepted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #13j CC)
- 13p.** REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING Upon the Petition of Ivette Rosa et al. request installation of No Parking Anytime signage from 22A Milton St. to 19 Milton St.: recommend Petition be placed on file.
Accepted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #13j CC)
- 13q.** REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING Upon the Petition of Jimmy Kang request installation of 30 Minute Parking zone in front of 32-49 Pleasant St.: recommend Petition be placed on file.
Accepted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #13j CC)
- 13r.** REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING Upon the Petition of John Yanczewski request traffic review on Dorchester St. from top of Dorchester St. to the intersection of Dorchester St. and Vernon St.: recommend Petition be placed on file.
Accepted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #13j CC)
- 13s.** REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING Upon the Petition of Mark Borenstein request installation of signage indicating no right turns from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. (Monday through Friday) at: 1) the northwesterly corner of Parkton Ave. and Grove St., 2) the northwesterly corner of Lansing Ave. and Grove St., 3) the northwesterly corner of Chester St. and Grove St., and 4) the northwesterly corner of Chester St. and Holden St.: recommend Petition be placed on file.
Accepted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #13j CC)

- 13t. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING** Upon the Petition of Mark Borenstein request installation of signage indicating no left turns from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM (Monday through Friday) at: 1) the northeaster corner of Barry Rd. and Salisbury St., 2) the northeasterly corner of Spring Valley Rd. and Salisbury St., and 3) the northeasterly corner of Lynnwood Ln. and Salisbury St.: recommend Petition be placed on file.

Accepted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #13j CC)

- 13u. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING** Upon the Petition of Matthew Morse et al. request traffic exiting Chandler Magnet Elementary School (525 Chandler St.) be made right-turn only between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. for all vehicles with the exception of school buses: recommend Petition be placed on file.

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Colorio, who moved to amend the item to recommend passage of the accompanying proposed Ordinance to restrict traffic exiting 525 Chandler Street at Chandler St. and May St. to right turn only between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. on school days.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Haxhiaj, who moved to Table the Item Under Privilege. – Withdrawn.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to Traffic and Parking Committee.

Referred to Traffic and Parkin Committee on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Ojeda recused)

- 13v. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING** Upon the Petition of Councilor George J. Russell request the establishment of a permanent, Zone A parking ban on both sides of Vernon St. between Winthrop St and Upsala St.: recommend Petition be placed on file.

Accepted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #13j CC)

- 13w. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING** Upon the Communication of the City Manager Transmitting informational communication relative to a study of traffic safety for the intersection of Franklin Street, Suffolk Street and Norfolk Street: recommend Communication be placed on file.

Accepted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #13j CC)

14. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON URBAN TECHNOLOGIES, INNOVATION AND ENVIRONMENT

- 14a.** REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON URBAN TECHNOLOGIES, INNOVATION AND ENVIRONMENT Upon the Communication of the City Manager transmitting informational communication relative to digital equity in the city.: recommend Communication be placed on file.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to accept items #14a CC and #14b CC. Accepted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

- 14b.** REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON URBAN TECHNOLOGIES, INNOVATION AND ENVIRONMENT Upon the Communication of the City Manager transmitting informational communication relative to the Vendor Check Register and Informing Worcester.: recommend Communication be placed on file.

Accepted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #14a CC)

15. TO BE ORDAINED

- 15a.** Amending Sections 76 through 81 of Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of 2008 to Revise Speed Regulations and Establish Safety Zones.

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

Mayor petty moved for a roll call vote to reconsider the item. Reconsideration denied on a roll call vote of 0 Yeas and 11 Nays

16. TABLED ITEMS

- 16a.** ORDER of Councilor Konstantina B. Lukes - Request City Manager request City Solicitor provide City Council with a legal opinion regarding the process of instituting a residential rent control program and the resulting impact of implementing such a program. (Tabled Under Privilege - Lukes September 17, 2019 and September 24, 2019 and Tabled - Lukes October 15, 2019)

No action taken

- 16b.** RESOLUTION of Councilor Khrystian E. King - That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby support Representative Rebecca Rauch and Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz's SD 699 HD 1283, An Act effectuating equity in COVID-19 Vaccination Bill. (Tabled Under Privilege - Bergman February 9, 2021 and Tabled - Bergman February 23, 2021)

No action taken

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

No action taken

16d. CHAIRMAN'S ORDER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION - Request City Council work to ensure City Council and School Committee districts are parallel, so as to ensure public clarity. (Tabled Under Privilege - Mero-Carlson May 24, 2022 and June 7, 2022 and Tabled - Petty June 14, 2022)

No action taken

16e. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE AND TRANSPORTATION Upon the Order of Councilor Morris A. Bergman and Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson - Request Standing Committee on Public Service and Transportation Committee hold a public discussion with the WRTA Administrator relative to the removal of a bus route that passes the EcoTarium, 222 Harrington Way: recommend Communication be placed on file. (Tabled Under Privilege - Bergman January 17, 2023 and Tabled Under Privilege - Mero-Carlson January 24, 2023 and Tabled - Mero-Carlson January 31, 2023)

No action taken

16f. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE AND TRANSPORTATION Upon the Order of Councilor Sarai Rivera and Councilor Khrystian E. King - Request Standing Committee on Public Service and Transportation meet with the WRTA Administrator to provide City Council with a report concerning the WRTA's winter weather plan, especially including information as to how snow will be removed at each of the bus stops: recommend Order be placed on file. (Tabled Under Privilege - Bergman January 17, 2023 and Tabled Under Privilege - Mero-Carlson January 24, 2023 and Tabled - Mero-Carlson January 31, 2023)

No action taken

16g. ORDER of Councilor Etel Haxhijaj and Councilor Thu Nguyen - Request City Manager work with appropriate departments and stakeholders to establish an Office of Housing Stability in an effort to prevent the involuntary displacement of city residents who are in the process of being evicted or at the risk of losing their housing, as well as to enact policies to combat displacement, homelessness and enhance tenants' rights. (Tabled Under Privilege - Haxhijaj July 18, 2023 and Tabled - Haxhijaj August 22, 2023)

No action taken

16h. 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

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

- 17a.** ORDER of Councilor Khrystian E. King – “Request City Manager thoroughly explore external diversity trainings or an external diversity trainer as a real potentiality. – Item #19a CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 17b.** ORDER of Mayor Joseph M. Petty – Request City Manager consider partnerships between WPI and the Worcester Public Schools, future investments WPI can make within the community, the impact the loss of two hotels and their rooms will have in the city, and how the wage theft ordinance could be impacted when conducting negotiations with WPI. – Item #19b CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 17c.** ORDER of Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson – Request City Manager work to ensure taxation numbers associated with negotiations between the City of Worcester and WPI reflect the property values after their purchase of 65 Prescott St. and 72 Grove St. – Item #19c CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 17d.** ORDER of Councilor Morris A. Bergman – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning ways in which the city can guard against more properties being taken off the tax rolls by colleges and universities. – Item #19d CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 17e.** ORDER of Councilor Kathleen M. Toomey – Request City Manager review the uses of the Dover Amendment as it relates to residential property. – Item #19c CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 17f.** ORDER of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager move forward with the implementation and creation of a taskforce to assist in Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)’s. – Item #19f CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 17g.** ORDER of Mayor Joseph M. Petty – Request City Manager request City Solicitor provide City Council with a report outlining the process relative to establishing a Charter Review Commission. – Item #19g CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 17h.** RESOLUTION of Councilor Etel Haxhijaj – That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby support the Haitian community, and all immigrant communities, in the city, as well as all immigrant communities throughout the country. – Item #19h CC Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

18. NEW BUSINESS UNDER SUSPENSION - Items brought forth under suspension at the September 24, 2024 City Council meeting.

18a. Motion King @ #8b CC – Request City Manager request City Solicitor provide City Council with written clarification on whether an item that is amended resets the amount of times an item can be Tabled Under Privilege.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 3 Nays. (Yeas – Bergman, Colorio, Mero-Carlson, Ojeda, Pacillo, Russell, Toomey, Petty) (Nays – Haxhiaj, King, Nguyen) (See Item #8b CC)

18b. Motion King @ #11a CC – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning any permit fees that can be waived associated with running various events in the city.

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

18c. Motion King @ #11c CC – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report outlining best practices associated with institutional zoning ordinances. Said report should also review all previous City Council orders regarding nonprofit organizations in the city.

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

18d. Motion King @ #11f CC - Request City Manager provide City Council with a qualitative analysis of Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) ridership that includes the reasons why people ride their busses. Further, request City Manager work with any interested local institutions to gather any relevant data for said report.

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

18e. Motion King – Suspension of Rules – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works and Parks review and improve the lighting at the intersection of South Ludlow St. and Clover St.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays