

CITY OF WORCESTER

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 21, 2026
Esther Howland (South) Chamber
Convened: 4:02 P.M.
Adjourned: 5:26 P.M.

MAYOR

Joseph M. Petty

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson Tony Economou
Vice Chairperson Satya B Mitra
Councilor John P Fresolo



CLERK OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Nikolin Vangjeli

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City Hall - 455 Main Street Worcester, Massachusetts

Present Were:

Chairperson Councilor Tony Economou
Councilor Satya B. Mitra
Councilor John P. Fresolo

Also:

Councilor Robert A. Bilotta
Commissioner of Public Works John K. Westerling
Assistant Commissioner of Engineering Jay Mello
Deputy City Clerk Stephen A.J. Pottle, clerk

1. Virtual Attendee Call-In Information

- a. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 and in order to ensure active, public engagement, the City of Worcester currently allows for both in-person and remote participation at all City Council and Standing Committee meetings. To partake in the meeting, you may attend the meeting in-person within the meeting location, follow the below link to join via Zoom or dial the direct line as indicated. If you join a Zoom meeting by dialing in with a phone number, you can raise your hand by dialing *9.

Public Works Committee Zoom Link: <https://worcesterma.zoomgov.com/j/1615992759>

Public Works Committee Zoom Phone Number: +1 646 828 7666

Public Works Committee Zoom Access Code: 161 599 2759

2. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Order - That the City Council Standing Committee on Public Works hereby approves the minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting on June 30, 2026.

**Chairperson Councilor Economou read the item and moved for a roll call vote to adopt the item.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays**

3. Streets to Make Public - Priority 3

- a. Report of the Planning Board Upon the Petition of Timothy Bateman request Wildwood Ave. from Apricot St. to 301 Wildwood Ave. be made public.
12d CC May 6, 2025

In Committee June 30, 2026 - Held

Chairperson Councilor Economou read the item and recognized the Deputy City Clerk, who spoke concerning the one hundred seven (107) public notices with non-binding ballots sent out to abutters of the area, including information related to receiving ten (10) ballots voting in favor of the item and twenty seven (27) ballots voting in opposition to the item.

Chairperson Councilor Economou recognized the following Speakers:

1. Karen Solomon, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to the item
2. Phil Gagnon, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to the item
3. Edward Pietrewicz, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to the item
4. Timothy Bateman, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to the item
5. Fred Warner, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to the item
6. Mike Donovan, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to the item

Chairperson Councilor Economou recognized the Assistant Commissioner of Engineering, who provided an overview relative to the Department of Public Works' (DPW) communications with the Law Department relative to private roads which included limitations resulting in private way temporary repairs as an infeasible option for Wildwood Ave. and estimated costs associated with converting the road to a public way at four hundred thirty dollars (\$430) per linear foot.

Chairperson Councilor Economou discussed the city's responsibility to address resident safety concerns on private ways such as raised manholes and flooding with the Assistant Commissioner of Engineering and Commissioner of Public Works.

Chairperson Councilor Economou brought forth the following Chairman's Order: "Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works, and other departments as needed, inspect the culvert located in the vicinity of 102 Wildwood Ave. and provide City Council with a report detailing the cause of current flooding conditions in the area. Further, request said report include remedial steps that can be taken to address raised water gates and/or manhole covers sticking out of the ground at the location."

Chairperson Councilor Economou moved for a roll call vote to recommend the item be denied.

Recommend Deny on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

Chairman's Orders

Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works, and other departments as needed, inspect the culvert located in the vicinity of 102 Wildwood Ave. and provide City Council with a report detailing the cause of current flooding conditions in the area. Further, request said report include remedial steps that can be taken to address raised water gates and/or manhole covers sticking out of the ground at the location.

4. Construct Sidewalk Petitions

- a. Craig Thomas request construction of new sidewalks on upper portion of Orient St.
8d CC July 15, 2025

In Committee June 30, 2026 - Held

Chairperson Councilor Economou read the item and moved to take the item up collectively with item #4b.

Chairperson Councilor Economou recognized the Deputy City Clerk, who spoke concerning the seventy-seven (77) public notices with non-binding ballots sent out to abutters of the area, including information related to receiving four (4) ballots voting in favor of the item and thirteen (13) ballots voting in opposition to the item.

Chairperson Councilor Economou recognized the following Speakers:

1. Paul Samara, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to items #4a and #4b
2. Carol Morocco, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to items #4a and #4b
3. Jack Morocco, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to items #4a and #4b

Chairperson Councilor Economou recognized Councilor Bilotta, who discussed the feasibility of amending the petition to request installation of sidewalks on Orient St. from Plantation St. to March St.

Chairperson Councilor Economou discussed historical context relative to potential existing city sidewalks on Orient St. and the estimated overall cost of seven hundred seventy-seven thousand dollars (\$777,000) associated with constructing sidewalks on Orient St. for an estimated cost of seventy-one one dollars (\$71) per linear foot with the Assistant Commissioner of Engineering.

Chairperson Councilor Economou recognized Councilor Mitra, who discussed finance options available to cost-bearing abutters and the process relative for said abutters to make payments with the Assistant Commissioner of Engineering.

Chairperson Councilor Economou moved for a roll call vote to recommend the items be denied.

Recommend Deny on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

- b. Craig Thomas request construction of a new sidewalk on Orient St. from Sultan St. to Plantation St.
8l CC August 22, 2023

In Committee June 30, 2026 - Held

Recommend Deny on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #4a)

- c. Michael Kollios request installation of new sidewalk in front of 360 May St.
8c CC March 28, 2023

In Committee May 10, 2023 - Held

Chairperson Councilor Economou read the item and recognized the Assistant Commissioner of Engineering, who provided an overview relative to the estimated total cost of twenty-one thousand four hundred dollars (\$21,400) associated with sidewalk construction and the Department of Public Works' (DPW) recommendation to approve about two hundred twenty (220) feet of sidewalk construction with wheelchair ramps utilizing potential Routes to School program funding and waive abutter betterment.

Chairperson Councilor Economou moved for a roll call vote to accept DPW's recommendation and to approve the item.

Recommend Approval on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

- d. Councilor Etel Haxhij request installation of a new sidewalk on Heard St. that that abuts 215 Heard St., 231 Heard St., 233 Heard St., 235 Heard St. and 48 Royal Rd. Further, request the fees associated with installing said sidewalk be waived, as the sidewalk is needed to provide a safe walking route to Heard Street Discovery Academy, 200 Heard St.

8c CC November 15, 2022

In Committee January 11, 2023 - Held

Chairperson Councilor Economou read the item and recognized the Assistant Commissioner of Engineering, who provided an overview relative to the Department of Public Works' (DPW) recommendation to grant Leave to Withdraw, as the sidewalk construction was completed in 2022.

Chairperson Councilor Economou moved for a roll call vote to recommend the item be granted Leave to Withdraw.

Recommend Leave to Withdraw on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

5. Sidewalk Repair Petitions

- a. Councilor Jose A. Rivera request sidewalk resurfacing in front of 15 Coombs Rd.
20f CC June 2, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Economou read the item and moved for a roll call vote to add 15 Coombs Rd. to the Sidewalk Repair List.

Recommend Approval on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

- b. Councilor Jose A. Rivera request sidewalk resurfacing in front of 5 Coombs Rd.
20g CC June 2, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Economou read the item and moved for a roll call vote to add 5 Coombs Rd. to the Sidewalk Repair List.

Recommend Approval on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

- c. Councilor Jose A. Rivera request sidewalk resurfacing on the odd side of Lovell St. from Columbus St. to Garland St.
8a CC June 23, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Economou read the item and recognized the Assistant Commissioner of Engineering, who provided the estimated total cost associated of twenty-four thousand five hundred dollars (\$24,500), potential opportunities for Routes to School program funding, and an overview relative to the Department of Public Works' (DPW) recommendation to add the odd side of Lovell St. from Columbus St. to Garland St. to the Sidewalk Repair List.

Chairperson Councilor Economou moved for a roll call vote to add Lovell St. from Columbus St. to Garland St. to the Sidewalk Repair List.

Recommend Approval on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

- d. Daniel James Bradley request sidewalk repair in front of 29 Laconia Rd. to 31 Laconia Rd.

20y CC June 2, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Economou read the item and moved to take the item up collectively with item #6g.

Chairperson Councilor Economou recognized the Assistant Commissioner of Engineering, who provided an overview relative to the Department of Public Works' (DPW) recommendation to grant Leave to Withdraw, as significant root heaving was not detected and as Nottingham Rd. is scheduled for resurfacing the missing wheelchair panel located at the intersection of Laconia Rd. and Nottingham Rd. will be replaced at that time.

Chairperson Councilor Economou moved for a roll call vote to recommend the item be granted Leave to Withdraw.

Recommend Leave to Withdraw on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

6. Street Resurfacing Petitions

- a. Demitrios Voyiatzis request street resurfacing on Sagamore Rd. in the vicinity of 53 Sagamore Rd.

7a CC March 31, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Economou read the item and discussed planned repairs facilitated by Eversource with the Commissioner of Public Works

Chairperson Councilor Economou moved for a roll call vote to recommend the item be granted Leave to Withdraw.

Recommend Leave to Withdraw on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

- b. Joe Williams request street surfacing on Mellor Ave.

7g CC March 24, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Economou read the item and moved for a roll call vote to recommend Mellor Ave. be placed on the Street Resurfacing List.

Recommend Approval on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

- c. Christine Giza request First St. be resurfaced.

7c CC January 27, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Economou read the item and discussed scheduled resurfacing in the street's entirety with a current hold for water and gas utility work with the Assistant Commissioner of Engineering.

Chairperson Councilor Economou moved for a roll call vote to recommend the item be granted Leave to Withdraw.

Recommend Leave to Withdraw on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

- d. Jocelyn Casassa request Doris St. be resurfaced.

7d CC January 27, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Economou read the item and recognized the following Speaker:

1. Jocelyn Casassa, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of the item

Chairperson Councilor Economou discussed the process related to submitting and selecting streets for resurfacing, including streets affected by utility work, and timelines associated for District Councilors to select streets from the Street Resurfacing List with the Assistant Commissioner of Engineering and Deputy City Clerk.

Chairperson Councilor Economou moved for a roll call vote to recommend Doris St. be added to the Street Resurfacing List.

Recommend Approval on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

- e. Councilor Robert A. Bilotta request East Central St. be resurfaced.

8b CC January 20, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Economou read the item and moved for a roll call vote to add East Central St. to the Street Resurfacing List.

Recommend Approval on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

- f. Councilor Robert A. Bilotta request North Parkway be resurfaced.
8c CC January 20, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Economou read the item and discussed the Department of Public Works' (DPW) efforts with MassDOT to plan scheduled resurfacing in conjunction with needed bridge maintenance and developments with the Assistant Commissioner of Engineering.

Chairperson Councilor Economou moved for a roll call vote to add North Pkwy. to the Street Resurfacing List.

Recommend Approval on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

- g. Daniel James Bradley request street resurfacing in front of 31 Laconia Rd.
20x CC June 2, 2026

Recommend Leave to Withdraw on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #5d)

7. Miscellaneous Items

- a. Petition of Brian Dutremble request the city institute a ban on lift kits for city-owned trucks.
20i CC June 2, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Economou read the item and discussed research conducted resulting with no found city-owned truck being purchased or modified with lift kits with the Commissioner of Public Works.

Chairperson Councilor Economou moved for a roll call vote to recommend the item be placed on file.

Recommend File on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

- b. Petition of Councilor Satya B. Mitra request installation of “No Littering” signage on North St. along the property line of Rural Cemetery and Crematory, located at 180 Grove St.

7k CC May 19, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Economou read the item and recognized Councilor Mitra, who discussed concerns about increased illegal dumping in the area.

Chairperson Councilor Economou recognized the Assistant Commissioner of Engineering, who provided an overview relative to the Department of Public Works’ (DPW) recommendation to refer the item to Veteran’s Memorials, Parks and Recreation Committee, as the location may be outside DPW’s purview and instead within the purview of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery (DPRC).

Chairperson Councilor Economou discussed “No Littering” signage historically being heard by Public Works Committee with the Deputy City Clerk.

Chairperson Councilor Economou moved for a roll call vote to approve the item.

Recommend Approval on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

- c. Petition of Councilor Jose A. Rivera on behalf of Gloria St. Marie request installation of “No Dumping” signage that includes information regarding fine amounts at the end of Chatanika Ave. where it borders Cascade Park.

7h CC May 5, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Economou read the item and recognized the Assistant Commissioner of Engineering, who provided an overview relative to the Department of Public Works’ (DPW) recommendation to refer the item to Veteran’s Memorials, Parks and Recreation Committee, as the location may be outside DPW’s purview and instead within the purview of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery (DPRC).

Chairperson Councilor Economou moved for a roll call vote to approve the item.

Recommend Approval on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays