

CITY OF WORCESTER

JOURNAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

Esther Howland (South) Chamber

Convened: 6:32 P.M.

Adjourned: 7:02 P.M.

MAYOR

Joseph M. Petty

AT-LARGE COUNCILORS

Morris A. Bergman
Khrystian E. King
Satya B. Mitra
Gary Rosen
Kathleen M. Toomey



www.worcesterma.gov

DISTRICT COUNCILORS

Tony Economou - District 1
Robert A. Bilotta - District 2
John P. Fresolo - District 3
Luis A. Ojeda - District 4
Jose A. Rivera - 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 Mitra.

4. PROCLAMATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, MOMENTS OF SILENCE

- 4a. Mayor Petty read a Proclamation declaring Saturday, June 27, 2026 as WAVVZ New Age Creative Arts & Fashion Education Day in the city. The Proclamation was presented to Emmanuel "Qlynton" Carboo and Jaribel Carboo, who spoke concerning the item.

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 June 2, 2026.

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. Gary Hunter, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #17g CC and #16d CC and spoke neither in favor of nor opposed to item #17d CC
2. Idella Hazard, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #16d CC and spoke neither in favor of nor opposed to item #17d CC
3. Nelly Medina, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #8a CC, #10a CC, and #16d CC and spoke neither in favor of nor opposed to items #8f CC, #8h CC, and #9a CC

7. HEARING AND ORDER

7a. Hearing: NATIONAL GRID for a conduit location at: RUSSELL ST.

Granting permission to NATIONAL GRID for a conduit location at: RUSSELL ST.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to open the hearing. Mayor Petty's motion was approved on a voice vote.

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

Mayor Petty moved to approve the item. Hearing held and Order adopted

8. PETITIONS

8a. Councilor Jose A. Rivera request sidewalk resurfacing on the odd side of Lovell St. from Columbus St. to Garland St.

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

8b. Devon Clements request installation of speed humps on Burncoat St. between Millbrook St. and 135 Burncoat St.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to take items #8b CC through #8f CC collectively.

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

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

***Note: Councilor King stated for the record his opposition to the referral of the items.**

8c. Kimpa L. Barnes, Jr. request installation of "Do Not Block Driveway" signage in front of 15 Windham St.

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

8d. Francis Dufault request installation of a four-way stop sign at the intersection of Grove St. and Chester St.

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

- 8e. Councilor Jose A. Rivera on behalf of Heather Flavin request installation of a dynamic speed monitor display on May St. between Chandler St. and Pleasant St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8b CC)
- 8f. Councilor Gary Rosen on behalf of several residents in the Hadwen Park and Stafford St. area request installation of two (2) signs at both the entrance of the Shaw's parking lot at 68 Stafford St. and at the entrance of Heard St. alerting motorists to the fact that the area is a crossing frequently used by flocks of water fowl, especially ducks, crossing Stafford St. while waddling to the nearby park and water body.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8b CC)
- 8g. Councilor John P. Fresolo request installation of speed humps in the vicinity of 173 Ingleside Ave.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8b CC)
- 8h. Councilor John P. Fresolo request installation of "No Parking Anytime" signage on the north side of Acton St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8b CC)
- 8i. Councilor John P. Fresolo request the one-way designation on Acton St. be removed.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #8b CC)

9. CHAIRMAN'S ORDERS

- 9a. FROM THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' MEMORIALS, PARKS AND RECREATION - Request City Manager request Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery work with the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility to review and install signage related to parking at Crompton Park, as necessary.
Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to adopt the item. Order adopted on a roll call vote of 9 Yeas and 1 Nay (Nay - King) (Mitra absent)

10. ORDERS

- 10a. Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works complete immediate emergency repairs of the sidewalk on the odd side of Lovell St. in front of the Columbus Park Preparatory Elementary School, located at 75 Lovell St. (see attached). (Rivera)
Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Rivera, who spoke concerning the item.
Mayor Petty moved to adopt the item. Order adopted
- 10b. Request City Manager request Police Chief provide increased enforcement of double-parking violations from the intersection of Chino Ave. and Boylston St. westward on Boylston St. towards Pasadena Pkwy., in the interest of public safety. (Economou)
Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Economou, who spoke concerning the item.
Mayor Petty moved to adopt the item. Order adopted

- 10c.** Request City Manager request Police Chief provide increased enforcement related to the public consumption of alcohol in the vicinity of 8 Boylston St. (Economou)

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Toomey, who moved to amend the item: “Further, request City Manager hold discussions with appropriate parties within the court system to ensure citations associated with the public consumption of alcohol are upheld.”

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Toomey, Councilor Economou and Councilor King for second times, 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 request Police Chief provide City Council with a report detailing any forms of community policing utilized by the Worcester Police Department (WPD) on Boylston St.” (See Item #18a).

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to adopt the item as amended. Order adopted as amended on a roll call vote of 7 Yeas and 3 Nays (Yeas – Bergman, Economou, Fresolo, Rivera, Rosen, Toomey, Petty) (Nays – Bilotta, King, Ojeda) (Mitra absent)

11. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE CITY CLERK

- 11a.** Transmitting an annual survey to the City Council regarding the administration and operations of the City Council Office.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to Hold the Item Under Privilege.

Held Under Privilege - King

- 11b.** Transmitting an informational communication concerning the process required for City Council to hire and oversee City Council Office Staff.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to Hold the Item Under Privilege.

Held Under Privilege - King

- 11c.** Transmitting an informational communication regarding the City Council Office staff's implementation of a new employee mileage-tracking process when conducting official city business.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to Hold the Item Under Privilege.

Held Under Privilege - King

12. COMMUNICATIONS

- 12a.** Kristi L. Turgeon, Clerk of the School Committee, transmitting a request for the City Council to authorize the Worcester Public Schools (WPS) and City of Worcester to approve an easement to National Grid for property situated on the southerly side of Thorndyke Road School, located at 30 Thorndyke Rd.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to adopt items #12a CC and #12b CC. Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Mitra absent)

- 12b.** Eric D. Batista, City Manager, recommend adoption of a resolution to file and accept an in-kind grant from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) of one (1) All-Way Stop Control (AWSC) signs set.

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

13. REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

- 13a.** REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD Upon the Petition of Ali Adnan request the property located at 500 West Boylston St. be rezoned within the BL-1.0 (Business, Limited) zone.

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

14. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' MEMORIALS, PARKS AND RECREATION

- 14a.** REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' MEMORIALS, PARKS AND RECREATION Upon the Petition of Maureen Schwab request installation of "Green Island Neighborhood Center" signage with a directional arrow pointing to the building at the Crompton Park parking lot entrance on Canton St., in an effort to mitigate difficulty locating the center: recommend adoption of the accompanying Order.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to accept and adopt items #14a CC and #14b CC. Accepted and Adopted

- 14b.** REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' MEMORIALS, PARKS AND RECREATION Upon the Petition of Councilor Satya B. Mitra on behalf of the Green Island Neighborhood Group request installation of "No Alcohol Allowed," "No Loud Music," and "Park Closed at 10 p.m." signage at Crompton Park, at its entrance on Canton St.: recommend adoption of the accompanying Order.

Accepted and Adopted (See Item #14a CC)

- 14c.** REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' MEMORIALS, PARKS AND RECREATION Upon the Communication of the City Manager transmitting informational communication relative to the Veteran Services Division's efforts to the recognize Worcester residents who served in WWII, but are not currently commemorated: recommend Communication be placed on file.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to accept items #14c CC through #14g CC. Accepted

14d. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' MEMORIALS, PARKS AND RECREATION Upon the Communication of the City Manager transmitting informational communication relative to the changes to the consumption and sale of alcoholic beverages in municipal parks policy for special and sporting events: recommend Communication be placed on file.

Accepted (See Item #14c CC)

14e. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' MEMORIALS, PARKS AND RECREATION Upon the Communication of the City Manager transmitting informational communication relative to the review of eight conceptual designs for the Elm Park Master Plan: recommend Communication be placed on file.

Accepted (See Item #14c CC)

14f. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' MEMORIALS, PARKS AND RECREATION Upon the Order of Councilor John P. Fresolo - Request City Manager work with the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery to provide City Council with a report concerning the best practices for the management of invasive plant species. Said report should include best practices for the management of invasive plant species that are located on City properties, as well as the feasibility of developing a public awareness campaign that informs private property owners on how to identify and manage invasive plant species on their property: recommend Order be placed on file.

Accepted (See Item #14c CC)

14g. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' MEMORIALS, PARKS AND RECREATION Upon the Petition of Maureen Schwab request installation of Visitor Parking signage with an arrow on Canton St. at the Crompton Park parking lot entrance to inform park patrons of available parking and mitigate resident permit parking violations: recommend Petition be placed on file.

Accepted (See Item #14c CC)

15. HELD UNDER PRIVILEGE

15a. ORDER of Councilor Jose A. Rivera - Request City Auditor provide City Council with a report detailing a full financial audit and accounting of both the completed and currently underway work being done at the Beaver Brook Dog Park. (Held Under Privilege - Rivera June 16, 2026)

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Rivera, 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 (Mitra absent).

Held Under Privilege – Rivera

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

No action taken

16c. 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

16d. 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

16e. 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

16f. 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

17. BUSINESS UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES - Items brought forth under suspension at the June 16, 2026 City Council meeting.

17a. ORDER of Councilor Satya B. Mitra – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report regarding a timeline to implement improvements at the DCU Center. – Item #18a CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 8 Yeas and 1 Nay

- 17b.** ORDER of Councilor Gary Rosen – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery review the authorized swimming area at Binienda Beach, formerly known as Coes Pond Beach, for the purpose of safely expanding said area for beach patrons to have a deeper and larger area to swim. – Item #18b CC Order adopted
- 17c.** ORDER of Councilor Satya B. Mitra – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility provide City Council with a report listing and outlining each street in the city that is considered a principal arterial street. – Item #18c CC Order adopted
- 17d.** ORDER of Councilor Morris A. Bergman – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility provide City Council with a report detailing how many additional miles of bicycle lanes will be installed in the city in 2026. – Item #18d CC Order adopted
- 17e.** ORDER of Councilor Satya B. Mitra – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility review the intersection of Highland St., Main St. and Grove St. for the purposes of making improvements to the location that ensure motorists do not block the intersection at the location. – Item #18e CC Order adopted
- 17f.** ORDER of Councilor Satya B. Mitra – Request City Manager provide City Council with opportunities in public meetings to discuss budgetary priorities prior to presenting future Annual Operating and Capital budgets. – Item #18f CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 17g.** ORDER of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager provide City Council with an update concerning a previously adopted order on September 17, 2024, which read as follows: “Request City Manager request City Solicitor provide City Council with a legal opinion and any draft documentation required to begin the process of changing the City Charter and City Council Rules, if necessary, to grant City Council the authority to move, edit and/or eliminate any line item/funding listed in the City Budget by a majority vote during the annual budgeting process. – Item #18g CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 17h.** ORDER of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Clerk provide City Council with a report concerning the process used by Boston to adopt a Special Act allowing for their City Council to hold new budgetary powers, including the authority to amend budgetary line items. – Item #18h CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 17i.** RESOLUTION of Councilor Khrystian E. King – That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby support thoroughly exploring the feasibility of increasing its authority over the process used to pass and create the budget of the city. – Item #18i CC Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays

18. NEW BUSINESS UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES - Items brought forth under suspension at the June 23, 2026 City Council meeting.

18a. Motion King @ #10c CC – Request City Manager request Police Chief provide City Council with a report detailing any forms of community policing utilized by the Worcester Police Department (WPD) on Boylston St.

Order adopted as amended on a roll call vote of 7 Yeas and 3 Nays (Yeas – Bergman, Economou, Fresolo, Rivera, Rosen, Toomey, Petty) (Nays – Bilotta, King, Ojeda) (Mitra absent) (See Item #10c CC)