

CITY OF WORCESTER

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Esther Howland (South) Chamber

Convened: 5:05 P.M.

Recessed: 7:34 P.M.

Reconvened: 8:10 P.M.

Adjourned: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 12:41 A.M.

MAYOR

Joseph M. Petty

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson Joseph M Petty
Vice Chairperson Khrystian E King
Councilor Morris A Bergman
Councilor Robert A Bilotta
Councilor Tony Economou
Councilor John P Fresolo
Councilor Satya B Mitra
Councilor Luis A Ojeda
Councilor Jose A Rivera
Councilor Gary Rosen
Councilor Kathleen M Toomey



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CLERK OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Nikolin Vangjeli

City Hall - 455 Main Street Worcester, Massachusetts

Present Were:

All members present with the Mayor as the Chair. Councilor Bilotta and Councilor King participated in the meeting remotely. Councilor King arrived in the Chamber at 5:21 P.M.
City Manager Eric D. Batista
Assistant City Manager Hung Nguyen
Chief Financial Officer Timothy J. McGourthy
Budget Director Erin E. Taylor
City Auditor Robert V. Stearns
City Clerk Nikolin Vangjeli, clerk

Also:

Commissioner of Public Works John K. Westerling and Staff
Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility Stephen S. Rolle and Staff
Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management Charles R. Goodwin
Police Chief Paul B. Saucier and Staff

1. Virtual Attendee Call-In Information

- a. Finance Committee Zoom Link: <https://worcesterma.zoomgov.com/j/1613631913>
Finance Committee Zoom Phone Number: +1 646 828 7666
Finance Committee Zoom Access Code: 161 363 1913

2. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Order - That the City Council Standing Committee of Finance hereby approves the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on June 10, 2025.

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

3. FY 2027 Budget Hearings - Department of Public Works

- a. Administration and Finance - IV-1, pg. 89

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to take items #3a through #3h collectively.

Mayor Petty recognized the Chief Financial Officer, who provided an overview of the funds allocated to the Department of Public Works.

Mayor Petty recognized the Commissioner of Public Works, who provided an opening statement related to the Department of Public Works' budget, including his appreciation for the large increase in capital investments associated with the budget. The Commissioner of Public Works also introduced each of the Assistant Commissioners of Public Works, who were seated at the table.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Economou, who discussed efforts made by the department to repair multiple water main breaks on Norton Dr. and Shore Dr., as well as the department's expectations regarding increased and improved services in Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27), including a five-million (5,000,000.00) dollar investment in new snow clearing equipment, with the Commissioner of Public Works.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Mitra, who discussed limitations placed on the City Council related to the budget process, as well as ensuring the department had Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound (SMART) goals for the upcoming fiscal year with the Commissioner of Public Works.

Councilor Mitra then moved to, "Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works work with the city's vendor Apex Engineering to create a database of the city's potholes, in an effort to ensure each pothole in the city is indexed and addressed in a Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound (SMART) manner. (Mitra)".

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Bilotta, who discussed potential improvements to the city's practices related to road maintenance, as well as snow equipment to be purchased and/or repaired using capital investments with the Commissioner of Public Works.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Fresolo, who discussed instances where the practice of long-patching roads may be utilized, including the need for such a patch on Lake Ave., as well as best practices associated with ensuring trash is picked up in a timely manner with the Commissioner of Public Works and Assistant Commissioner of Public Works – Engineering Department.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Bergman, who discussed the cost of snow removal per lane mile, the number of snow inspectors and supervisors in the city, the instances where brine is used, when local contractors register to be snowplow drivers and an incorrect statement made related to a water treatment facility issue with the Commissioner of Public Works and Chief Financial Officer.

Councilor Bergman then moved to, "Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works provide City Council with a report detailing the costs associated with snow removal in the city per lane mile. (Bergman)".

Councilor Bergman then moved to, "Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works provide City Council with a report breaking down the costs associated with the snow operations inspectors and supervisors in the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Budget. (Bergman)". –

Withdrawn.

Councilor Bergman then moved to, “Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works provide City Council with a report concerning the number of times brine has been used during winter weather events/snowstorms over the past five (5) years. (Bergman)”.

Councilor Bergman then moved to, “Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works provide City Council with an annual report on or before December 1 of each year that details preparations occurring within the department related to the upcoming winter weather and snowstorm season. Said report should include a breakdown of the department’s available personnel and equipment. (Bergman)”.

Councilor Bergman then moved to, “Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works provide City Council with a report detailing the streets in the city that require the most repeat visits related to snowplowing and snow removal. Said report should include information related to how the department tracks such information, as well as how the snow removal inspectors and supervisors are retrained to ensure such duplicative work is minimized. (Bergman)”.

Councilor Bergman then withdrew his motion related to the costs associated with the snow operations inspectors and supervisors in the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Budget.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Rivera, who discussed necessary investments in roadway infrastructure being required to ensure the city’s deteriorating streets are addressed.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Rosen, who discussed additional training needs for inspectors and supervisors during winter weather events/snowstorms, the work that can be done during a snowstorm by a contractor versus a department employee, the amount of snow operations equipment that is close to end-of-life, the potential for creating a new Department of Public Works facility and money allocations associated with the Town of Holden court settlement with the Commissioner of Public Works, City Manager and Chief Financial Officer.

Text continued on item #3b.

Budget approved on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (King abstained) (See Item #3b)

Chairman's Orders

Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works work with the city's vendor Apex Engineering to create a database of the city's potholes, in an effort to ensure each pothole in the city is indexed and addressed in a Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound (SMART) manner. (Mitra)

Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works provide City Council with a report detailing the costs associated with snow removal in the city per lane mile. (Bergman)

Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works provide City Council with a report concerning the number of times brine has been used during winter weather events/snowstorms over the past five (5) years. (Bergman)

Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works provide City Council with an annual report on or before December 1 of each year that details preparations occurring within the department related to the upcoming winter weather and snowstorm season. Said report should include a breakdown of the department's available personnel and equipment. (Bergman)

Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works provide City Council with a report detailing the streets in the city that require the most repeat visits related to snowplowing and snow removal. Said report should include information related to how the department tracks such information, as well as how the snow removal inspectors and supervisors are retrained to ensure such duplicative work is minimized. (Bergman)

Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility provide City Council with an updated list of the local streets and sidewalks approved for resurfacing, broken down by district and pavement condition index (PCI). (Toomey)

Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works provide City Council with a report detailing upcoming and past actions/initiatives/investments associated with the city's Integrated Water Resources Plan, submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2019. Further, request said report include a weblink to the plan. (Toomey)

Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works work with appropriate representatives from Eversource to determine the company's long-range plans as they relate to replacing aging gas mains in the city. (Toomey)

Request City Manager provide City Council with an update concerning efforts being made to mitigate flooding concerns throughout the city, including any efforts being made at the intersection of Grand St. and Main St. (King)

Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning how much money has been allocated to the Department of Public Works in each of the last four (4) years related to unfilled positions. (King)

Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works work with the City Solicitor to provide City Council with a report concerning the feasibility of granting Department of Public Works employees the authority to issue tickets to property owners who do not shovel their sidewalks. (King)

b. Engineering - IV-2, pg. 101

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Toomey, who discussed the need for resurfacing Lake Ave., how the Integrated Water Resources Plan submitted to EPA in 2019 guides the upkeep of the city's water and sewer systems, professional development goals/successes within the department, locations where repeat water main breaks occurred within the city and the city's investments related to dam infrastructure with the Commissioner of Public Works, Assistant Commissioner of Public Works – Water and Sewer Operations, City Manager and Assistant Commissioner of Public Works – Engineering.

Councilor Toomey then moved to, “Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility provide City Council with an updated list of the local streets and sidewalks approved for resurfacing, broken down by district and pavement condition index (PCI). (Toomey)”.

Councilor Toomey then moved to, “Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works provide City Council with a report detailing upcoming and past actions/initiatives/investments associated with the city's Integrated Water Resources Plan, submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2019. Further, request said report include a weblink to the plan. (Toomey)”.

Councilor Toomey then moved to, “Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works work with appropriate representatives from Eversource to determine the company's long-range plans as they relate to replacing aging gas mains in the city. (Toomey)”.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Ojeda, who discussed the department's participation in the Massachusetts Safe Routes to Schools program, the department's representation at Vision Zero Working Group meetings, potential practices/locations associated with smart streetlight sensors, the implementation of a pilot program where homeowners could replace aging lateral pipes associated with their water/sewer service lines, the successes of the use of brine in the city's winter weather/snowstorm operations, concerns around prioritizing storm water flows in District 4 and continued efforts to decrease the vacancy rates within the department with the Assistant Commissioner of Public Works – Engineering, Assistant Commissioner of Public Works – Water and Sewer Operations and Commissioner of Public Works.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who discussed sanitation vehicles being purchased to replace older machinery, the magnitude of flooding concerns at the intersection of Grand St. and Main St., funding allocations for filled and vacant positions within the department, leadership development/succession planning being implemented within the department, whether snow equipment purchased in recent years has been utilized, overtime allocations associated with the department, costs/practices associated with the use of brine in the city, whether Department of Public Works employees have the authority to issue tickets to property owners who do not shovel their sidewalks and how the department works with the Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to ensure a diverse pool of candidates are available for all open positions with the Commissioner of Public Works, Assistant Commissioner of Public Works – Water and Sewer Operations, Chief Financial Officer, City Manager and Assistant Commissioner of Public Works – Engineering.

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with an update concerning efforts being made to mitigate flooding concerns throughout the city, including any efforts being made at the intersection of Grand St. and Main St. (King)”.

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning how much money has been allocated to the Department of Public Works in each of the last four (4) years related to unfilled positions. (King)”.

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works work with the City Solicitor to provide City Council with a report concerning the feasibility of granting Department of Public Works employees the authority to issue tickets to property owners who do not shovel their sidewalks. (King)”.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to collectively adopt all motions associated with the item. Chairman’s Orders adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays.

Mayor Petty discussed the status of the drought conditions in the city with the Assistant Commissioner of Public Works – Water and Sewer Operations.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to approve the budgets associated with items #3a through #3h. Budget approved on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (King abstained)

c. Streets and Sanitation - IV-3, pg. 105

Budget approved on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (King abstained) (See Item #3a and #3b CC)

d. Fleet Management - IV-4, pg. 109

Budget approved on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (King abstained) (See Item #3a and #3b CC)

e. Snow Removal - IV-5, pg. 113

Budget approved on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (King abstained) (See Item #3a and #3b CC)

f. Streetlights - IV-6, pg. 115

Budget approved on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (King abstained) (See Item #3a and #3b CC)

- g.** Enterprise: Sewer Operations - IV-7, pg. 117

Budget approved on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (King abstained) (See Item #3a and #3b CC)

- h.** Enterprise: Water Operations - IV-8, pg. 125

Budget approved on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (King abstained) (See Item #3a and #3b CC)

4. FY 2027 Budget Hearings - Department of Transportation and Mobility

- a.** Transportation and Mobility - V-1, pg. 133

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to take the item up collectively with item #4b.

Mayor Petty recognized the Chief Financial Officer, who provided an overview of the funds allocated to the Department of Transportation and Mobility (DTM).

Mayor Petty recognized the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility, who provided an opening statement related to the department's emphasis on infrastructure in their Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Budget.

Mayor Petty discussed the allocation of \$5.6 million for roadway improvements (with a focus on traffic signal systems), the city's transportation improvement program, complete streets projects and arterial improvement programs with the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Economou, who discussed the absence of crosswalks at school bus stops, the city's need for traffic signal improvements and timelines associated with stairway replacement repairs at the Federal Plaza Garage with the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Rivera, who discussed budget allocations related to speed humps, as well as the feasibility of allocating funds to install speed feedback/dynamic speed display signage on Chandler St. in the vicinity of Rockwood Field with the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Mitra, who discussed the process used to evaluate traffic signal issues, DTM sharing access to the traffic signal camera systems with the Worcester Police Department (WPD), the process used to address street resurfacing requests and the feasibility of providing residents who request street resurfacing estimated timelines associated with resurfacing with the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Fresolo, who discussed the implementation of the "No Parking" ordinance on Grafton St., the reversal of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) project to make Acton St. one-way, the feasibility of rerouting CSX truck traffic on Lake Ave. to Route 122 and the feasibility of allocating funds from the CSX Neighborhood Improvement Fund to install permanent and additional temporary speed limit signage on Lake Ave.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Rosen, who discussed the need for traffic signal improvements on West Boylston St. at its intersection with Mountain St. West and Mountain St. East, whether bike lanes are required in every state and/or city project, the effectiveness of implementing the citywide statutory speed limit, estimated costs and traffic data associated with the Newton Square and Highland St. projects, project considerations relative to Suburban Rd., an update relative to the Chandler St./May St. reconfiguration project in the vicinity of Worcester State University and the ability for DTM to use AI technology with the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility and City Manager.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Bilotta, who discussed the feasibility of allocating CSX Neighborhood Improvement funds for crosswalk installations (with flashing beacons) on Shrewsbury St., the city's ability to use high visibility crosswalk paint and how many Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) are installed at high pedestrian locations with the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Bergman, who discussed an estimate that ninety percent (90%) of residents traverse the city by vehicle, the importance of prioritizing vehicular traffic improvements, the differences between the Vision Zero Safety Action Plan and the Mobility Action Plan, future plans related to mitigating intersection congestion, the feasibility of establishing a pilot program that synchronizes traffic signals, reasons why businesses located near major reconstruction projects do not receive communication regarding the projects and the process used to schedule and send notices for MassDOT Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) meetings with the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility.

Text continued on item #4b.

Budget approved on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (King abstained) (See Item #4b)

Chairman's Orders

Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility provide City Council with a report detailing the Department of Transportation and Mobility's (DTM) budget allocation percentages for bike, pedestrian, and vehicular projects. (Toomey)

Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility provide City Council with a report detailing the requirements/warrants used to assess the appropriateness of installing mid-block crosswalks in the city, including whether there are requirements associated with crosswalk distance. (King)

Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility provide City Council with a report detailing flexible on-street parking options used by the City of Boston during Red Sox games at Fenway Park. (King)

Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility provide City Council with a report detailing the Madison Properties capital fund and the company's lease of the Green Island Boulevard Garage. (King)

- b.** Enterprise: Off Street Parking - V-2, pg. 143

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Ojeda, who discussed efforts made to work with the Worcester Public Schools (WPS) to identify problem areas requiring traffic calming measures, the importance of the Vision Zero Safety Action Plan, the process used to assess and install speed humps, best practices for mitigating street sweeping delays, the importance of the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan, the process relative to maintaining stanchions, creating a survey to obtain more accurate data relative to bike users, best practices for maintaining operational RRFBs, and the feasibility of creating new positions in lieu of hiring contractors with the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility and City Manager.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Toomey, who discussed the areas in the city that have the most bike travel, as well as budget allocations for bike-related projects with the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility.

Councilor Toomey then moved to, “Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility provide City Council with a report detailing the Department of Transportation and Mobility’s (DTM) budget allocation percentages for bike, pedestrian, and vehicular projects. (Toomey)”.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who discussed the facility conditions assessment at the Federal Plaza Garage, the process used to notify emergency vehicles of extended railroad crossings, joint projects between DTM and the Department of Emergency Communications and Management, the Lincoln Square and Washington Square intersection projects, budget allocations for pedestrian hybrid beacons, efforts to alleviate congested parking in highly populated neighborhoods, the process used to appeal projects after the twenty five percent (25%) Design public hearing, adjusting the Capital Outlay budget to the Ordinary Maintenance budget, considerations made for on-street parking for businesses in the downtown and Canal District, the purpose and feasibility of installing mid-block crossings, how the city assesses warrants for the installation of various traffic calming measures, the feasibility of implementing the use of “Game Day Parking” around Polar Park, the department’s involvement in economic development projects, parking garage revenue/operations costs, why the Union Station Ordinary Maintenance is allocated to DTM and the revenue gained from the Green Island Boulevard Garage being leased to Madison Properties with the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility, City Manager and Chief Financial Officer.

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility provide City Council with a report detailing the requirements/warrants used to assess the appropriateness of installing mid-block crosswalks in the city, including whether there are requirements associated with crosswalk distance. (King)”.

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility provide City Council with a report detailing flexible on-street parking options used by the City of Boston during Red Sox games at Fenway Park. (King)”.

Councilor King moved to, “Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility provide City Council with a report detailing the Madison Properties capital fund and the company’s lease of the Green Island Boulevard Garage. (King)”.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Economou for a second time, who discussed budget allocations relative and timelines associated with replacing the four (4) failed solar stop signs at the intersection of Clark St. and St. Nicholas Ave. with the Commissioner of Transportation and

Mobility.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to collectively adopt all motions associated with the item. Chairman's Orders adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to approve the budgets associated with items #4a and #4b. Budget Approved on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (King abstained)

5. FY 2027 Budget Hearing - Emergency Communications and Management

- a. Emergency Communications and Management - III-3, pg. 69

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized the Chief Financial Officer, who provided an overview of the funds allocated to the Department of Emergency Communications and Management.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Rivera, who discussed various operational issues related to the city's ALERTWorcester system with the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who discussed how the department manages and tracks progress on its strategies and plans, allocations in the budget to improve and analyze responses to 311 requests, responsiveness goals for both 911 and non-emergency calls, whether there are vacancies within the department, how the department budgets for and activates its overtime operations, whether additional collective bargaining is required to schedule overtime hours for its employees and grant funding available to the department with the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management and the Chief Financial Officer.

Councilor King then moved to, "Request City Manager request Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management provide City Council with a report concerning 311 operations, including an analysis of the gap in time when 311 was inoperable. (King)".

Councilor King then moved to, "Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the fiscal impact of implementing overtime hours in the Department of Emergency Communications and Management from 2023 to present. (King)".

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Toomey, who discussed the number of people enrolled in the ALERTWorcester service with the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Fresolo, who discussed concerns related to 311 reports being closed when issues have not been resolved, as well as the need for operators to use plain language when inputting notes in the 311 system with the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Ojeda, who discussed accomplishments of the city's 311 program, the benefits of the Customer Service Center, opportunities to increase the size of the Department of Emergency Communications and Management and plans to open additional customer service centers with the City Manager.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Bilotta, who discussed departmental training and workshop opportunities for hazard mitigation at CSX and its railyard with the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management.

Councilor Bilotta then moved to, "Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning hazard mitigation trainings and exercises at CSX and its railyard. (Bilotta)".

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Mitra, who discussed concerns related to closing of 311 tickets before issues are addressed, how 311 is managed and operated, the number of people enrolled in ALERTWorcester services, goals to increase enrollment for the program through advertising plans at polling locations during election season, working with Worcester Senior Center staff and advertising at the Out to Lunch program with the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King for a second time, who discussed how disruptions of the power system can impact dispatch and communications for the department, as well as alternative power sources available to the department during power disruptions, including the Uninterruptible Power System (UPS) and backup power generators, with the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to collectively adopt all motions associated with the item. Chairman's Orders adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to approve the budget. Budget Approved on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (King abstained)

Chairman's Orders

Request City Manager request Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management provide City Council with a report concerning 311 operations, including an analysis of the gap in time when 311 was inoperable. (King)

Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the fiscal impact of implementing overtime hours in the Department of Emergency Communications and Management from 2023 to present. (King)

Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning hazard mitigation trainings and exercises at CSX and its railyard. (Bilotta)

6. FY 2027 Budget Hearing - Police Department

- a. Police Department - III-1, pg. 41

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized the Chief Financial Officer, who provided an overview of the funds allocated to the Worcester Police Department (WPD).

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Toomey, who discussed 2025 crime statistics, operational transfers between WPD and the Department of Public Facilities (DPF), plans to create a centralized custodial team, a reduction of the number of police officers in the FY27 budget, lateral transfers in and out of the department, when new legislation to raise the age of when individuals can become a police officer will take effect, outreach to new recruits, the importance of retaining current personnel, challenges related to fleet acquisition, how medical issues of people in custody are addressed, how long SWAT vests last and how Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) are presented discussed during collective bargaining negotiations with the Chief Financial Officer, City Manager and Police Chief.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who discussed budget allocations for improving officer wellness, co-response jail diversion programs, body camera stipends, the status of the city's contracts/collective bargaining agreements with NEPBA Local 911, budget allocations related to overtime, how officers are paid for hours in court, public safety software/ongoing tech equipment leases in place in the department, plans and challenges related to the usage of 51 and 61 Sever St. for archival purposes, whether the archival storage of evidences and rape kits are climate-controlled, concerns related to the HVAC system in WPD facilities, funding and loan authorizations for WPD facility improvements, the emergency power system utilized by the WPD and the priority lists for improvement needs at municipal and school buildings with the Police Chief, City Manager, Budget Director and City Clerk.

Councilor King then moved to, "Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning grant funding available to the Worcester Police Department (WPD) for its Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and/or Jail Diversion Program. (King)".

Councilor King then moved to, "Request City Manager provide City Council with a report analyzing the current practices of the Worcester Police Department (WPD) related to the storage of rape kits. Said analysis should include the exploration and feasibility of maintaining archival storage space for the materials at various facilities owned by the city, including the properties at 51 Sever St. and 61 Sever St. (King)".

Councilor King then moved to, "Request City Manager provide City Council with a report of a workplace safety audit of the Worcester Police Department (WPD) facilities. (King)".

Councilor King then moved to, "Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning the parking plan in place at the Worcester Police Department (WPD) building, located at 9-11 Lincoln St. (King)".

Councilor King then moved to, "Request City Manager provide City Council with a report outlining any grievances filed against the city related to unhealthy working conditions at the Worcester Police Department (WPD) Headquarters, located at 9-11 Lincoln St. (King)".

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Bergman, who discussed the maximum amount of police officers who can be on staff in the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Budget, as well as the ratio of police officers to residents in Worcester compared to similar sized cities with the Police Chief.

Councilor Bergman then moved to, "Request City Manager provide City Council with a report

analyzing the projected cost and timeframe required to increase the maximum capacity of police officers to five hundred (500) officers. (Bergman)”.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Ojeda, who discussed the Arts and Music Police Partnership (AMPP) and Police Athletic League (PAL) programs, challenges related to accessing details of conversations between WPD Police Officers and the public with the Police Chief.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Fresolo, who discussed issues related to excessive speeding and trailer truck traffic on Lake Ave., the feasibility of using CSX funds to pay for police details and the purchasing of boats to be used for traffic enforcement and patrols on Lake Ave. and Lake Quinsigamond with the Police Chief.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Mitra, who discussed traffic violation citations, the impact lowering the city’s speed limit to 25 mph has had on reducing the number of traffic accidents in the city, public feedback related the High Visibility Blue Lights Pilot Program and the impact the use of drones has had on WPD operations with the Police Chief.

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Rosen, who discussed the School Liaison Officer (SLO) model with the Police Chief.

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Economou, who discussed traffic and speed enforcement by the WPD, as well as plans concerning increasing number of recruits within the department with the Police Chief.

Mayor Petty discussed the timeline associated with the city’s Summer Impact Program with the Police Chief.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to collectively adopt all motions associated with the item. Chairman’s Orders adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to approve the budget. Budget Approved on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (King abstained)

Chairman's Orders

Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning grant funding available to the Worcester Police Department (WPD) for its Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and/or Jail Diversion Program. (King)

Request City Manager provide City Council with a report analyzing the current practices of the Worcester Police Department (WPD) related to the storage of rape kits. Said analysis should include the exploration and feasibility of maintaining archival storage space for the materials at various facilities owned by the city, including the properties at 51 Sever St. and 61 Sever St. (King)

Request City Manager provide City Council with a report of a workplace safety audit of the Worcester Police Department (WPD) facilities. (King)

Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning the parking plan in place at the Worcester Police Department (WPD) building, located at 9-11 Lincoln St. (King)

Request City Manager provide City Council with a report outlining any grievances filed against the city related to unhealthy working conditions at the Worcester Police Department (WPD) Headquarters, located at 9-11 Lincoln St. (King)

Request City Manager provide City Council with a report analyzing the projected cost and timeframe required to increase the maximum capacity of police officers to five hundred (500) officers. (Bergman)

7. FY 2027 Budget Hearing - Fire Department

- a. Fire Department - III-2, pg. 57

Budget held on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9a)

8. FY 2027 Budget Hearing - Inspectional Services

- a. Inspectional Services - III-4, pg. 77

Budget held on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9a)

9. Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

- a. Communication of the City Manager recommend approval of the Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget.

9.39A CM May 5, 2026

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to take items #7a, #8a, #9a, #9b and #10a up collectively.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to recommend the items be held.

Recommend Hold on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

- b. Communication of the City Manager recommend approval of the Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Budget.

9.39B CM May 5, 2026

Recommend Hold on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9a)

10. Communication of the City Manager

- a. Recommend the adoption of a Loan Order in the amount of Forty Three Million Four Hundred Sixty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Sixteen Dollars and No Cents (\$43,468,416.00) to pay for costs associated with projects and equipment, as approved in the Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Budget.

9.38A CM May 5, 2026

Recommend Hold on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9a)