

CITY OF WORCESTER

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Esther Howland (South) Chamber

Convened: 5:05 P.M.

Recessed: 7:13 P.M.

Reconvened: 7:53 P.M.

Adjourned: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at 12:06 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 Mayor Petty as the Chair, except for Councilor Bergman, who arrived at 5:12 p.m. Councilor Bilotta participated in the meeting remotely.
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:

Superintendent of Public Schools Brian Allen and Staff
Chief Development Officer Peter Dunn and Staff
Chief Human Resources Officer William Bagley and Staff
Chief Equity Officer Kevin Lovaincy
Deputy Chief Information Officer Samantha Sendrowski
City Solicitor Alexandra Kalkounis

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

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to suspend the rules to allow for a resolution originally listed on the May 19, 2026 City Council agenda related to May being ALS Awareness Month. Motion approved on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Ojeda absent).

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Bilotta, who read a resolution, "That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby recognize May 2026 as ALS Awareness Month in the City of Worcester and call upon all Americans to join in supporting ALS research, advocating for increased funding, and stand in solidarity with those affected by this relentless disease."

*Note: This item will be formally before the City Council at its meeting on June 2, 2026 and was read in order to honor the work being done during the month of May on ALS Awareness.

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 May 19, 2026.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to adopt the item. Order adopted on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Bergman absent)

3. FY 2027 Budget Hearing Held - Worcester Public Schools

- a. Worcester Public Schools - VIII-1, pg. 211

In Committee May 19, 2026 - Held

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

Mayor Petty recognized the Chief Financial Officer, who provided an overview of the funds allocated to the Worcester Public Schools (WPS).

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Fresolo, who discussed the amount of funding within the WPS budget that is Chapter 70 funding, as well as the rationale and logistics associated with closing the Worcester Alternative School with the Chief Financial Officer and Superintendent of Public Schools.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Rivera, who discussed the size of the WPS administration against the administration in Springfield, why the WPS administration determined the Worcester Alternative School would be closed and student supports/restorative justice practices being undertaken in the schools with the help of clinical social workers and/or others who are qualified to help students with mental health needs with the Superintendent of Public Schools.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Economou, who discussed the funding formula used to determine allocations to the WPS with the Chief Financial Officer.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Mitra, who discussed the amount of money the city is required to allocate to the WPS budget to become eligible for state funding, the City Council's authority related to making changes to the budget, the differences between Chapter 70 allocations and net school spending, whether the WPS administration is meeting with the parents of students who attend the Worcester Alternative School to allow for proper transitions into the Central Mass. Collaborative School, how to ensure students at WPS are not held to lower standards, including standards related to financial literacy and civics, than other communities in the State and how the auditoriums at each of the new high schools are utilized with the Chief Financial Officer and Superintendent of Public Schools.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Toomey, who discussed whether teachers at the Worcester Alternative School would remain in the WPS system, how projected enrollment trends could impact the WPS budget, positive changes associated with transportation practices in the department and the use of cameras in school zones with the Superintendent of Public Schools and Chief Financial and Operations Officer.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Bergman, who discussed the feasibility of displaying the colleges and universities WPS students plan to attend on school lawns, how the conditions of the roads during winter weather events/snowstorms impact whether school is closed and whether teachers include Worcester-specific history in their curriculum with the Superintendent of Public Schools.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Rosen, who discussed the feasibility of combining the city's Human Resources Department with the school's Human Resources Department, how the city advocates to the State when there are issues around underfunding the schools, whether the department would consider expanding the amount of magnet schools in the district, how the use of phones and social media affect the students of WPS and the recruitment process used to bring in new teachers with the Superintendent of Public Schools.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who discussed the drivers of shortfalls associated with

net school spending, the total amount of money the city is allocating to the schools and school-related expenses, the procedures followed related to rental agreements associated with WPS, the impact closing the Worcester Alternative School will have on student to teacher ratios in the schools, how the size of the student population impacts the foundational budget and overall operations of the department, how the WPS administration interacts with the Public Facilities Department, best practices related to ensuring clinical social workers are employed by the WPS, safety concerns related to traffic patterns and infrastructure needs in and around schools, the use of grant writers by the WPS, the pension system utilized by the WPS and the bid process associated with a potential sale of 51 and 61 Sever St. with the Chief Financial Officer, Superintendent of Public Schools, City Manager and Chief Financial and Operations Officer.

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager request Chief Financial Officer work with the Superintendent of Public Schools to provide City Council with a report outlining the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) calculations associated net school spending, including the minimum legal amount Worcester Public Schools (WPS) must spend on public education, as calculated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) through the Chapter 70 formula. Said report should include by how much the city fell short of net school spending thresholds in Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24), Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) and Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26). (King)”.

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager request Chief Financial Officer ensure City Council is provided numbers and specific details related to any rental agreement, including parking agreements, associated with the Worcester Public Schools (WPS), prior to any vote of such an agreement. (King)”.

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager request Superintendent of Public Schools provide City Council with a report concerning the differences in per pupil cost for students in the Worcester Alternative School against students in the Central Mass. Collaborative School. (King)”.

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the timeline for creating a master plan to allocate funding that addresses the various infrastructure needs of the city’s schools. (King)”.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Bilotta, who discussed the various ADA improvements occurring in WPS buildings with the Superintendent of Public Schools and Chief Financial and Operations Office.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Fresolo for a second time, who discussed the impact of the finalization of Massachusetts State Legislature’s budget could have on the WPS system with the Superintendent of Public Schools and Chief Financial Officer.

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 9 Yeas and 0 Nays (King absent) (Ojeda recused).

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to approve the budget. Budget approved on a roll call vote of 9 Yeas and 0 Nays (King absent) (Ojeda recused)

Chairman's Orders

Request City Manager request Chief Financial Officer work with the Superintendent of Public Schools to provide City Council with a report outlining the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) calculations associated net school spending, including the minimum legal amount Worcester Public Schools (WPS) must spend on public education, as calculated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) through the Chapter 70 formula. Said report should include by how much the city fell short of net school spending thresholds in Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24), Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) and Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26). (King)

Request City Manager request Chief Financial Officer ensure City Council is provided numbers and specific details related to any rental agreement, including parking agreements, associated with the Worcester Public Schools (WPS), prior to any vote of such an agreement. (King)

Request City Manager request Superintendent of Public Schools provide City Council with a report concerning the differences in per pupil cost for students in the Worcester Alternative School against students in the Central Mass. Collaborative School. (King)

Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the timeline for creating a master plan to allocate funding that addresses the various infrastructure needs of the city's schools. (King)

4. FY 2027 Budget Hearings - Economic Development

- a. Economic Development - VII-1, pg. 173

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to take up items #4a through #4f collectively.

Mayor Petty recognized the Chief Financial Officer, who provided an overview of the funds allocated to the Executive Office of Economic Development.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Economou, who discussed the importance of establishing an ombudsman position.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who discussed changes in the marketing funding budget of Discover Central Massachusetts (DCMA), the closure of the consultant contract for the Worcester Now | Next Plan, whether the city has oversight over the operations and effectiveness of DCMA's marketing efforts/campaigns, the funding for the DCU Center Special Funding District, oversight and management of city's contracts, the average daily room rate for hotels in the city, the budget allocation for the Community Preservation Act (CPA) and how the CPA funds are distributed, funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, the tenant revenue, vacancies and usage related to the Union Station, plans related to generating more revenue for Union Station, upgrades to the Worcester-Framingham MBTA line, fiscal impact, operations and staff capacity of the MassHire Worcester Career Center (WCC), the changes to the recommended appropriations for the WCC, and funding for the MassHire Central Region Workforce Board (MCRWB) with the Chief Financial Officer, Chief Development Officer, City Manager, Director of the Worcester Career Center Operations and Director of the MassHire Workforce Investment Board.

Councilor King then moved, "That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby support/commend the work done by the Executive Office of Economic Development. (King)".

Councilor King then moved to, "Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning the city's contract with Discover Central Massachusetts (DCMA) prior to the final confirmation of the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) budget. (King)".

Councilor King then moved to, "Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning the effectiveness and economic/fiscal impact of the marketing campaigns associated with Discover Central Massachusetts (DMCA). Said report should include measurables/outcomes/outputs, as well as the city's oversight over the contract/funding and/or operations of DMCA. (King)".

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Mitra, who discussed the vision statement of making Worcester a world-class city, the importance of making the city business-friendly, how the department promotes the city, challenges related to real-time tracking data related to employment and wage growth, challenges related to increasing commercial growth in the city and concerns related to the general contractor appointed by Central Mass Housing Alliance (CMHA) for the new Day Resource Center with the Chief Development Officer.

Councilor Mitra then moved to, "Request City Manager request Chief Development Officer increase marketing efforts to promote various attractions in the city, including Mechanic Halls, Polar Park, Hanover Theatre, the Worcester Art Museum, local colleges and more, in an effort to attract more people to coming to the city. (Mitra)".

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Bergman, who discussed commercial interest and investments in the city, the development of Greentech Park, adaptive reuse plans for Norton Hall, the development of the Auditorium and plans related to residential conversions of various properties

in the north Main St. area with the Chief Development Officer.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Toomey, who discussed the number of new ADA accessible units, permits associated with accessory dwelling units (ADUs), the feasibility of expanding the Elder Home Repair Program, the timeline associated with CPA contracts and expenditures and funding for Destination Worcester with the Chief Development Officer.

Councilor Toomey then moved to, “Request City Manager request Chief Development Officer arrange presentations related to the Elder Home Repair Program for patrons of the Worcester Senior Center to provide further information to residents about the program. (Toomey)”.

Councilor Toomey then moved to, “Request City Manager continue to work with the State’s Delegation to find ways to obtain additional funding/financial assistance for the Day Resource Center. (Toomey)”.

Councilor Toomey then moved to, “Request City Manager request Chief Development Officer provide City Council with a report, by the June 2, 2026 City Council meeting, concerning the current number of Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) permits that have been awarded in the city. (Toomey)”.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Rivera, who discussed the feasibility of creating more affordable housing units, units that are not yet built and financial challenges related to the specialized stretch code with the Chief Development Officer.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Bilotta, who discussed the housing units created by the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, additional housing units planned for 237 Chandler St., the impact of waived fees on the amount of special permits, the feasibility of scaling permit fees for smaller local organizations, whether the MCRWB have any initiatives to work with disability providers and the regrading of Project Monitor 1 to Project Monitor 2 with the Chief Development Officer and Director of MassHire Workforce Investment Board.

Councilor Bilotta then moved to, “Request City Manager request Chief Development Officer work with the Director of the MassHire Workforce Investment Board and the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce to create initiatives that provide more employment opportunities for adults with disabilities. (Bilotta)”.

Mayor Petty recognized the Councilor Rosen who discussed the enforcement of the Responsible Development Ordinance, whether the city has oversight over the contractors selected for the Day Resource Center, how to address stakeholder groups’ concerns related to selected contractors, CSX’s property rights and land use, new commercial developments in the Downtown area and the importance of the WRTA to businesses with the Chief Development Officer.

Councilor Rosen then moved to, “Request City Manager provide City Council with an analysis related to the impact the CSX contract/project has had on the city. (Rosen)”.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Fresolo, who discussed plans related to the development of the St. Vincent’s School of Nursing building at 188 Providence St. with the Chief Development Officer.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Ojeda, who discussed the MCRWB contract with the Worcester

Community Action Council, data related to the retention of young people participating in youth works programs, how to recruit teens to civil service jobs after high school, the usage of contractor debarment lists to determine the eligibilities of companies for municipal projects and whether the city monitors and addresses challenges faced by business owners in the city with the Director of MassHire Workforce Investment Board, Chief Development Officer and City Manager.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King for a second time, who discussed targeted marketing campaigns for small business opportunities and when the personal property tax exemption will go into effect with the Chief Development Officer, City Manager and Chief Financial Officer.

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager request Chief Development Officer develop a strategic marketing plan for small business opportunities in the city. (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 moved for a roll call vote to approve the budgets associated with items #4a through #4f. Budget approved on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (King abstained)

Chairman's Orders

That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby support/commend the work done by the Executive Office of Economic Development. (King)

Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning the city's contract with Discover Central Massachusetts (DCMA) prior to the final confirmation of the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) budget. (King)

Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning the effectiveness and economic/fiscal impact of the marketing campaigns associated with Discover Central Massachusetts (DMCA). Said report should include measurables/outcomes/outputs, as well as the city's oversight over the contract/funding and/or operations of DMCA. (King)

Request City Manager request Chief Development Officer increase marketing efforts to promote various attractions in the city, including Mechanic Halls, Polar Park, Hanover Theatre, the Worcester Art Museum, local colleges and more, in an effort to attract more people to coming to the city. (Mitra)

Request City Manager request Chief Development Officer arrange presentations related to the Elder Home Repair Program for patrons of the Worcester Senior Center to provide further information to residents about the program. (Toomey)

Request City Manager continue to work with the State's Delegation to find ways to obtain additional funding/financial assistance for the Day Resource Center. (Toomey)

Request City Manager request Chief Development Officer provide City Council with a report, by the June 2, 2026 City Council meeting, concerning the current number of Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) permits that have been awarded in the city. (Toomey)

Request City Manager request Chief Development Officer work with the Director of the MassHire Workforce Investment Board and the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce to create initiatives that provide more employment opportunities for adults with disabilities. (Bilotta)

Request City Manager provide City Council with an analysis related to the impact the CSX contract/project has had on the city. (Rosen)

Request City Manager request Chief Development Officer develop a strategic marketing plan for small business opportunities in the city. (King)

- b. Worcester Redevelopment Authority/Union Station - VII-2, pg. 189**

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

- c. MassHire Central Region Workforce Board - VII-3, pg. 193

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

- d. MassHire Central Career Center - VII-4, pg. 199

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

- e. Community Preservation Act - VII-5, pg. 205

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

- f. Marketing Campaign - VII-6, pg. 209

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

5. FY 2027 Budget Hearing - Financial Integrity Plan

- a. Financial Integrity Plan Funds - XXII-1, pg. 411

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to take the item up collectively with item #5b.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who discussed the costs associated with renovations at Burncoat High School, the new High School Construction Fund for Worcester Public Schools (WPS), the ESCO Improvement Fund deposit of \$1 million, the Ballpark DIF Reserve and debt service obligations related to Polar Park, including tax revenue associated with to permit fees, with the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Development Officer.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to approve the budgets associated with items #5a and #5b. Budget approved on a roll call vote of 9 Yeas and 0 Nays (Bilotta, King abstained)

- b. Ballpark DIF Reserve - XXII-2, pg. 415

Budget approved on a roll call vote of 9 Yeas and 0 Nays (Bilotta, King abstained) (See Item #5a)

6. FY 2027 Budget Hearings - Human Resources

a. Human Resources - XII-1, pg. 269

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to take up items #6a through #6d collectively.

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King who discussed costs associated with legal consultants, funds associated with employee parking, bargaining and labor relations, health insurance costs, GLP-1 coverage and pharmaceutical costs with the Chief Financial Officer, City Manager and Chief Human Resources Officer.

Councilor King then moved to “Request City Manager request Chief Human Resources Officer provide City Council with an updated report relative to how the city balances its expenses associated with employee parking. (King)”.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Toomey, who discussed prescription drug coverage associated with GLP-1s for employees with diabetes and prediabetes with the Chief Human Resources Officer.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Fresolo, who discussed the City’s standard hiring and interview process with the Chief Human Resources Officer.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Ojeda, who discussed tuition reimbursement and professional development opportunities for City employees, including the Clark MPA program, newspaper advertising costs, recruitment costs, and costs associated with safety supplies, with the Chief Human Resources Officer and Chief Financial Officer.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Bilotta, who discussed reasonable accommodation requests with the Chief Human Resources Officer

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 #6a through #6d. Budget approved on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (King abstained)

Chairman's Orders

Request City Manager request Chief Human Resources Officer provide City Council with an updated report relative to how the city balances its expenses associated with employee parking. (King)

- b. Worker's Compensation and Public Safety IOD - XII-2, pg. 279

Budget approved on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (King abstained) (See Item #6a)

- c. Unemployment Compensation - XII-3, pg. 283

Budget approved on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (King abstained) (See Item #6a)

- d. Health Insurance - XII-4, pg. 285

Budget approved on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (King abstained) (See Item #6a)

7. FY 2027 Budget Hearing - Executive Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

a. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - XVIII-1, pg. 349

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized the Chief Financial Officer, who provided an overview of the funds allocated to the Executive Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who discussed how the different positions in the Executive Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion relate to the Department of Human Resources, the role of the Investigator in the department, the reporting mechanisms associated with harassment, ADA compliance and employee conduct, outreach/retention practices being undertaken by the department, the relationship the department has with the Bureau of Professional Standards, the volume of casework, the department's Management Academy, how the department oversees accessibility audits, the department's staffing levels, the department's partnership with the Police and Fire departments, race-related data collection, Boards and Commissions overseen by the department, the department's consulting and salaries budget in Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) and Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26), the restructuring of the positions within the Executive Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, previous equity reports provided to City Council and data software within the Department with the Chief Equity Officer, Chief Financial Officer and City Manager.

Councilor King then moved to, "Request City Manager request Chief Equity Officer provide City Council with an updated report concerning the status of equity audits associated with the various departments of the city. Further, request said report also include information related to the implementation of recommendations associated with the Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation of the Worcester Police Department (WPD). (King)".

Councilor King then moved to, "Request City Manager request Chief Equity Officer provide City Council with an updated report concerning the methods used to collect and analyze data for both the departmental equity audits, as well as the recommendations associated with the Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation of the Worcester Police Department (WPD). (King)".

Councilor King then moved to "Request City Manager request Chief Equity Officer provide City Council with an updated report concerning the status of the various Boards and Commissions related to the Executive Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. (King)".

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Bilotta, who discussed the position of the Disability Program Specialist, the department's consulting budget and resource groups available to city employees with the Chief Diversity Officer.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Bergman, who thanked the Executive Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for their efforts.

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 Chief Equity Officer provide City Council with an updated report concerning the status of equity audits associated with the various departments of the city. Further, request said report also include information related to the implementation of recommendations associated with the Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation of the Worcester Police Department (WPD). (King)

Request City Manager request Chief Equity Officer provide City Council with an updated report concerning the methods used to collect and analyze data for both the departmental equity audits, as well as the recommendations associated with the Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation of the Worcester Police Department (WPD). (King)

Request City Manager request Chief Equity Officer provide City Council with an updated report concerning the status of the various Boards and Commissions related to the Executive Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. (King)

8. FY 2027 Budget Hearing - Innovation and Technology

a. Innovation and Technology - XI-1, pg. 263

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who discussed challenges associated with messaging screenshots, blocked links, and cybersecurity, with the Deputy Chief Information Officer.

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager request Chief Information Officer investigate ways to eliminate barriers for information sharing as it relates to cybersecurity. (King)”.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to adopt the motion associated with the item. Chairman’s Order 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 Chief Information Officer investigate ways to eliminate barriers for information sharing as it relates to cybersecurity. (King)

9. FY 2027 Budget Hearing - City Auditor

- a. City Auditor - XIV-1, pg. 305

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

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)

10. FY 2027 Budget Hearing - Retirement

- a. Contributory Pensions - XV-1, pg. 311

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

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)

11. FY 2027 Budget Hearings - Law Department

a. Law Department - XIII-1, pg. 291

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to take up items #11a through #11c collectively.

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Fresolo, who discussed a constituent concern related to a claim filed against the city on Greenwood Street regarding a backup of raw sewage, as well as the claim process at large with the City Solicitor.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who discussed the department's responsiveness to claims and public record requests filed with the city, how the department interacts with the Worcester Public Schools and the decrease in funding allocated for anticipated settlements with the City Solicitor, Chief Financial Officer and City Manager.

Councilor King then moved to, "Request City Manager request City Solicitor provide City Council with a report concerning the Law Department's efficiency when responding to public records requests. (King)".

Councilor King then moved to, "Request City Manager request City Solicitor provide City Council with a report relative to the costs associated with the Town of Holden lawsuit. Further, request said report include a delineation of the payments provided to each law firm associated with the case. (King)".

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Economou, who discussed his appreciation for the Law Department.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Mitra, who discussed the Law Department budget allocations for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) compared to Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26), as well as the feasibility for obtaining insurance for torts and Civil Rights matter with the Chief Financial Officer and City Solicitor.

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 #11a through #11c. Budget approved on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (King abstained)

Chairman's Orders

Request City Manager request City Solicitor provide City Council with a report concerning the Law Department's efficiency when responding to public records requests. (King)

Request City Manager request City Solicitor provide City Council with a report relative to the costs associated with the Town of Holden lawsuit. Further, request said report include a delineation of the payments provided to each law firm associated with the case. (King)

- b. Property and Casualty Insurance - XIII-2, pg. 299

Budget approved on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (King abstained) (See Item #11a)

- c. Court Judgments - XIII-3, pg. 303

Budget approved on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (King abstained) (See Item #11a)

12. 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

In Committee May 12, 2026 - Held

In Committee May 19, 2026 - Held

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to recommend items #12a, #12b, and #13a 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

In Committee May 12, 2026 - Held

In Committee May 19, 2026 - Held

Recommend Hold on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #12a)

13. 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

In Committee May 12, 2026 - Held

In Committee May 19, 2026 - Held

Recommend Hold on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #12a)