

CITY OF WORCESTER
MUNICIPAL AND LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 20, 2026
Esther Howland (South) Chamber
Convened: 5:04 P.M.
Adjourned: 6:09 P.M.

MAYOR

Joseph M. Petty

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson Satya B Mitra
Vice Chairperson Gary Rosen
Councilor Morris A Bergman



CLERK OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Nikolin Vangjeli

www.worcesterma.gov

City Hall - 455 Main Street Worcester, Massachusetts

Present Were: Chairperson Councilor Satya B. Mitra
Councilor Gary Rosen
Councilor Morris A. Bergman

Also: City Solicitor Alexandra H. Kalkounis
City Clerk Nikolin Vangjeli, clerk

1. Virtual Attendee Call-In Information

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

Municipal and Legislative Operations Committee Zoom Link:
<https://worcesterma.zoomgov.com/j/1614999501>

Municipal and Legislative Operations Committee Zoom Phone Number: +1 646 828 7666

Municipal and Legislative Operations Committee Zoom Access Code: 161 499 9501

2. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Order - That the City Council Standing Committee on Municipal and Legislative Operations hereby approves the minutes of the Municipal and Legislative Operations Committee meeting of April 14, 2026.

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

3. Miscellaneous Items

- a. Order of Councilor Gary Rosen, Councilor Morris A. Bergman, Councilor Robert A. Bilotta, Councilor Tony Economou, Councilor John P. Fresolo, Councilor Khrystian E. King, Councilor Satya B. Mitra, Councilor Luis A. Ojeda, Councilor Jose A. Rivera, Councilor Kathleen M. Toomey and Mayor Joseph M. Petty - Request Standing Committee on Municipal and Legislative Operations hold a public hearing to determine the feasibility and advisability of the City Council initiating and/or supporting efforts to review the current modified Plan E City Charter, which was implemented in 1987 and amended in 2022.

9k CC February 3, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Rosen, who spoke concerning the importance of public participation as relates to conversations associated with a charter review, the feasibility of acquiring 15% of signatures from registered voters to petition to create a charter review commission local ballot question, the number of registered voters in the City of Worcester and the estimated number of 18,000 certified signatures needed to reach 15% with the City Clerk.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Bergman, who spoke concerning the importance of taking a strategic approach to reviewing the city's charter, as well as the feasibility of raising the need for a charter commission as a non-binding public policy question and/or a referendum question.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra discussed the feasibility of scheduling a future Standing Committee on Municipal and Legislative Operations meeting related to Charter review with Councilor Rosen, the City Clerk and Councilor Bergman.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra then brought forth the following Chairman's Order: "Request City Clerk advertise the Monday, August 17, 2026 Standing Committee on Municipal and Legislative Operations meeting at 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a review of the city's charter."

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Rosen, who spoke concerning the process used to communicate with the media about the upcoming Standing Committee on Municipal and Legislative Operations meeting, timelines associated with adding the ballot question to the upcoming Municipal Election and required qualifications for potential charter commissioners with the City Clerk.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Bergman, who spoke concerning the historical context around elected officials running for the Charter Commission with the City Clerk and Councilor Rosen.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Rosen, who discussed best practices relative to acquiring 15% certified voter signatures, benefits of non-binding public policy questions, the number of ballot questions currently on the upcoming Municipal Election ballot and whether those questions also required 15% certified voter signatures with the City Clerk and Councilor Bergman.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra moved to recommend the item be held.

Recommend Hold

Chairman's Orders

Request City Clerk advertise the Monday, August 17, 2026 Standing Committee on Municipal and Legislative Operations meeting at 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a review of the city's charter.

- b.** Communication of the City Manager transmitting informational communication relative to a process to establish a charter review commission.

18b CC November 12, 2024

In Committee January 28, 2025 - Held

Chairperson Councilor Mitra read the item and recognized the City Solicitor, who provided an overview of the process required to establish a charter review commission.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Rosen, who spoke concerning potential methods to review the city's charter without the need to acquire 15% certified voter signatures with the City Solicitor.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Bergman, who spoke concerning strategies to review the city charter which included an entire review or item by item.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Rosen, who spoke concerning how often other municipalities review their charters with the City Clerk.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra brought forth the following Chairman's Order: "Request City Clerk work with the City Solicitor to provide City Council with a report detailing other cities that have made changes to their charters. Said report should include the process used by other cities to make such changes, as well as any relevant historical context associated with charter review ballot questions."

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Bergman, who highlighted the importance of understanding how creating a charter review commission will result in a complete review of the charter, not one specific item with Councilor Rosen.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Rosen, who spoke concerning the process used for City Council to approve charter amendment recommendations brought forth by a charter review commission with the City Clerk and City Solicitor.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra brought forth the following Chairman's Order: "Request City Clerk work with the City Solicitor to provide City Council with a report detailing a timeline associated with making charter amendments, the process used to approve charter amendment recommendations brought forth by a charter review commission, the role of City Council pertaining to charter amendments, and charter review commission member eligibility requirements. Further, request said report include the current version of the city's charter."

Chairperson Councilor Mitra spoke concerning the notion of individually reviewing the charter for the purpose of raising specific concerns within the charter at the upcoming meeting on the Standing Committee on Municipal and Legislative Operations.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra then spoke concerning the 2022 charter amendment relative to School Committee's redistricting with the City Solicitor.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Bergman, who spoke concerning unintended consequences associated with redistricting the School Committee.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Rosen, who spoke concerning the current city charter being created because of a charter commission and the role of City Council when adopting charter changes brought forth by a charter review commission.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized the City Clerk, who highlighted Section 10-7 Effective Date of the Charter and Certain Provisions Subsection (b) of the Charter of the City of Worcester

and spoke concerning the process to begin collecting 15% certified voter signatures.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra discussed the differences between the Plan E City Charter and Home Rule Charter form of government with the City Solicitor, Councilor Bergman and Councilor Rosen.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra moved to recommend the item be held.

Recommend Hold

Chairman's Orders

Request City Clerk work with the City Solicitor to provide City Council with a report detailing other cities that have made changes to their charters. Said report should include the process used by other cities to make such changes, as well as any relevant historical context associated with charter review ballot questions.

Request City Clerk work with the City Solicitor to provide City Council with a report detailing a timeline associated with making charter amendments, the process used to approve charter amendment recommendations brought forth by a charter review commission, the role of City Council pertaining to charter amendments, and charter review commission member eligibility requirements. Further, request said report include the current version of the city's charter.