

**CITY OF WORCESTER
JOURNAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Esther Howland (South) Chamber

Convened: 6:31 P.M.

Recessed to Executive Session: 6:48 P.M.

Reconvened to Open Session: 8:25 P.M.

Adjourned: 10:04 P.M.

MAYOR

Joseph M. Petty

AT-LARGE COUNCILORS

Morris A. Bergman

Khrystian E. King

Satya B. Mitra

Gary Rosen

Kathleen M. Toomey



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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 AND STAR SPANGLED BANNER

2. ROLL CALL - All present with the Mayor as the Chair, except for Councilor Toomey, who arrived at 6:34 P.M.

3. PROCLAMATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, MOMENTS OF SILENCE

- 3a.** Mayor Petty read a Proclamation declaring March 24, 2026 through April 30, 2026 as the Motorcycle Safety Awareness Period in the City of Worcester, an event aimed at recognizing those who have been lost in motorcycle accidents and raising awareness for ongoing roadway safety. The Proclamation was provided to Paul Cote and Brett St.Pierre, who are Board Members of the Worcester County Motorcyclists' Survivors Fund.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- 4a.** Order - That the City Council of the City of Worcester hereby approves the minutes of the City Council Meeting of March 10, 2026.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to adopt the item. Order adopted

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

5a. Mayor Petty read the item and recognized the following Speakers:

1. Fred Nathan, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #3a CC and spoke neither in favor of nor opposed to items #8.36A CM through #8.36G CM
2. Carlos Dias, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #8d CC and #8e CC listed on the March 17, 2026 City Council agenda and spoke in favor of item #7h CC
3. Joe Carsha, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #6a CC
4. Nathalie Gibson, Worcester resident, spoke neither in favor of nor opposed to item #8.35D CM and spoke in opposition to item #8.13A CM

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

6a. ORDER of Mayor Joseph M. Petty – That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby convene in Executive Session at its Tuesday, March 24, 2026, meeting for the purpose of discussing litigation strategy with respect to the case of Town of Holden v. Department of Conservation and Recreation and the City of Worcester, Superior Court Department Civil Action No. 1385CV00910D. The City Council will reconvene in open session.

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

7. PETITIONS

7a. Councilor Jose A. Rivera request four (4) trees be planted on Pleasant St. in the pre-existing tree pits in the vicinity of On the Rise Bakery, located at 1120 Pleasant St.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to refer the item to Department of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery. Referred to Department of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery

7b. Councilor Jose A. Rivera on behalf of Ann Marie Gribbons request street resurfacing on Rich St. from Tiverton Pkwy. to Tory Fort Ln.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to refer items #7b CC through #7h CC to Public Works Committee. Referred to Public Works Committee

7c. Councilor Robert A. Bilotta request installation of a sidewalk on Eastern Ave. along the property line of City View Discovery School, located at 80 Prospect St.

Referred to Public Works Committee (See Item #7b CC)

7d. Councilor Morris A. Bergman request Mayfield St. from Parker St. to Chandler St. be officially renamed Doug Hannam Way.

Referred to Public Works Committee (See Item #7b CC)

7e. Councilor Robert A. Bilotta request the sidewalk on Harrison St., between Harding St. and Green St., be resurfaced.

Referred to Public Works Committee (See Item #7b CC)

7f. Councilor Gary Rosen and Councilor Robert A. Bilotta request Thorne St. from Wall St. to Plantation St. be given the honorary street name designation of Gordon Hargrove Way.

Referred to Public Works Committee (See Item #7b CC)

- 7g. Joe Williams request street surfacing on Mellor Ave.
Referred to Public Works Committee (See Item #7b CC)
- 7h. Maria Castillo request installation of "Pick Up After Your Dog" signage on Chapin St.
Referred to Public Works Committee (See Item #7b CC)
- 7i. Councilor Jose A. Rivera on behalf of Demi Niforos, Nia Niforos and Luis Ortiz, owners of Kalamos Market, request installation of thirty (30) minute parking on June St. from 116 June St. to 120 June St.
Mayor Petty read the item and moved to refer items #7i CC through #7t CC to Traffic and Parking Committee. Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee
- 7j. Councilor Robert A. Bilotta request installation of a crosswalk on Lincoln St. at its intersection with Sturgis St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #7i CC)
- 7k. Councilor Jose A. Rivera on behalf of Larry Marinelli et al. request removal of resident permit parking on Home St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #7i CC)
- 7l. Councilor Tony Economou on behalf of Mark Rubin request increased speed and truck traffic enforcement on Richmond Ave.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #7i CC)
- 7m. Councilor Tony Economou request installation of crosswalks on Chalmers Rd., at the midway point, to provide park access for Duffy Field.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #7i CC)
- 7n. Maria Castillo request installation of "No Parking Anytime" signage on the even side of South St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #7i CC)
- 7o. Maria Castillo request installation of "No Parking Anytime" signage at the driveway of 8 Chapin St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #7i CC)
- 7p. Aravind Melatur request traffic study on Gold Star Blvd. be conducted to make the third lane right-turn only with added right-turn only signage at the traffic light before 160 Gold Star Blvd. and change the layout of the third lane after the traffic light for the purposes of improving safety for cars navigating merging traffic around entrance to the facility at 160 Gold Star Blvd.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #7i CC)
- 7q. Shauna Gaffney request installation of crosswalk and lighted crosswalk signage at the bus stop located at 150 Blackstone River Rd.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #7i CC)
- 7r. Shauna Gaffney request installation of speed humps on Blackstone River Rd.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #7i CC)

- 7s. Jeffrey Warren request installation of an additional stop sign at the intersection of Chrome St. and Orient St.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #7i CC)

- 7t. Marilyn Rosa request installation of handicap parking space in front of 20 Shepard St.

Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee (See Item #7i CC)

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER

8.1 APPOINTMENTS

Non-City Council Confirmation

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to the appointment of David Hoffman to Constable.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to place items #8.1A CM and #8.1B CM on file. Placed on file

- B. Transmitting informational communication relative to the appointment of Stephen Mita to Constable.

Placed on file (See Item #8.1B CM)

8.2 APPOINTMENTS

City Council Confirmation

8.3 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

William Bagley, Jr., Esq., Chief Human Resources Officer

8.4 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Peter Dunn, Chief Development Officer

- A. Recommend adoption of resolution authorizing acceptance of an affordable housing restriction under MGL Chapter 184.

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

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to adopt the item. Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

8.5 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Kevin Lovaincy, Chief Equity Officer

8.6 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Division of Human Rights and Accessibility

Patricia M. LaFore, Director

8.7 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Administration Division

John K. Westerling, Commissioner

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to the results of the 2025 Fall Leaf Collection Program.

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

Mayor Petty recognized the Commissioner of Public Works, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Ojeda.

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

Mayor Petty recognized the Commissioner of Public Works, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Toomey.

Mayor Petty moved to take the item up with item #8.7B CM collectively.

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

Mayor Petty recognized the Commissioner of Public Works, who responded to questions raised by Councilor King.

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

Mayor Petty recognized the Commissioner of Public Works and the City Manager, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Rosen.

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

Mayor Petty recognized the Commissioner of Public Works, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Bergman.

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

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

- B. Transmitting informational communication relative to 2026 Spring Street Sweeping.

Referred to Public Works Committee (See Item #8.7A CM)

- C. Transmitting informational communication relative to the State's Declaration of a Level 3 Critical Drought.

Mayor Petty read the item and spoke concerning the item.

Mayor Petty recognized the Commissioner of Public Works, who responded to questions raised by Mayor Petty.

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

Mayor Petty recognized the Commissioner of Public Works, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Rosen.

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

Mayor Petty recognized the Commissioner of Public Works, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Toomey.

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

**8.8 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Engineering and Architectural Services Division
John K. Westerling, Commissioner**

**8.9 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Operations Division
John K. Westerling, Commissioner**

**8.10 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND CEMETARY
Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., Commissioner**

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to the review and master planning process for Newton Hill at Elm Park.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to place the item on file. Placed on file

- B. Transmitting informational communication relative to the Green Hill Farm 2026 event schedule.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to place the item on file. Placed on file

- C. Transmitting informational communication relative to the potential changes to the consumption or sale of alcoholic beverages in the municipal parks policy for park special and sporting events.

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

Mayor Petty recognized the City Manager and the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Rosen.

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

Mayor Petty recognized the City Manager, who responded to questions raised by Councilor King

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

Mayor Petty recognized the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Bergman.

Mayor Petty moved to place the item on file. Placed on file

- D. Transmitting informational communication relative to the Worcester Common Master Plan update.

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

Mayor Petty recognized the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Bilotta.

Mayor Petty moved to place the item on file. Placed on file

8.11 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY
Stephen S. Rolle, P.E., Commissioner

8.12 FIRE DEPARTMENT
Martin Dyer, Fire Chief

8.13 POLICE DEPARTMENT
Paul B. Saucier, Police Chief

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to the Worcester Police Department's drone report.

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

- B. Transmitting informational communication relative to the MPAC accreditation.

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

Mayor Petty moved to refer the item to Public Safety Committee. Referred to Public Safety Committee

8.14 DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Charles R. Goodwin, Commissioner

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to the relaunch of ALERTWorcester.

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

Mayor Petty moved to reconsider the item. Reconsideration approved on a voice vote.

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

Mayor Petty recognized the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management, who responded to questions raised by Councilor King.

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

Mayor Petty recognized the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Economou.

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

Mayor Petty recognized the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Mitra.

Councilor Mitra then moved to, "Request City Manager request Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management provide senior citizens with in-person registration opportunities to sign up for the new AlertWorcester system." (See Item #12a CC).

Councilor Mitra then moved to, "Request City Manager request Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management provide the City Clerk with informational pamphlets that can be provided to residents during elections to encourage residents to sign up for the new AlertWorcester system." (See Item #12b CC).

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

Mayor Petty moved to refer the item to Public Safety Committee. Referred to Public Safety Committee

- 8.15 LAW DEPARTMENT**
Alexandra H. Kalkounis, Esq., City Solicitor
- 8.16 DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES**
Administration
Nicholas Antanavica, Commissioner
- 8.17 DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES**
Building and Zoning Division
David Horne, Deputy Building Commissioner
- 8.18 DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES**
Housing and Health Inspections Division
Lee R. Hall, Director
- 8.19 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Administration
Seema Dixon, Commissioner
- 8.20 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Elder Affairs
Amy Vogel Waters, Director
- 8.21 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Veterans Services
Alex R. Arriaga, Interim Veterans Services Director
- 8.22 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Youth Opportunities
Raquel Castro-Corazzini, Director
- 8.23 WORCESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY**
Jason L. Homer, Executive Director
- 8.24 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**
Election Commission Division
Nikolin Vangjeli, City Clerk
- 8.25 PUBLIC SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**
Brian Allen, Superintendent

8.26 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Administration

Timothy McGourthy, Chief Financial Officer

- A. Transmitting informational communication to the financial update for the period ending Jan. 31, 2026.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved to refer the item to Municipal and Legislative Operations Committee. Referred to Municipal and Legislative Operations Committee

8.27 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Assessing Division

Samuel E. Konieczny, City Assessor

8.28 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Budget Office Division

Erin E. Taylor, Director

8.29 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Purchasing Division

Christopher Gagliastro, Director

8.30 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Treasury and Collections Division

Francisco Hernandez, Treasurer and Collector of Taxes

8.31 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC FACILITIES

James Bedard, Chief of Public Facilities

8.32 DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

John W. Odell, Chief Sustainability Officer

- A. Transmitting informational communication relative to the State of the Lakes.

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

Mayor Petty recognized the Chief Sustainability Officer, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Rosen.

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

Mayor Petty recognized the Chief Sustainability Officer, who responded to questions raised by Councilor King.

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King for the second time, who moved to, "Request City Manager request Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management work with the Chief Sustainability Officer to create a "Blue Spaces Notification" option through AlertWorcester that would provide interested residents with relevant updates concerning the city's various blue spaces (e.g. Indian Lake, Coes Pond)." (See Item #12c CC).

Mayor Petty moved to refer the item to Urban Technologies, Innovation and Environment Committee. Referred to Urban Technologies, Innovation and Environment Committee

- B. Transmitting informational communication relative to the Department of Sustainability and Resilience projects update.

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

Mayor Petty recognized the Chief Sustainability Officer, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Ojeda.

Mayor Petty moved to refer the item to Urban Technologies, Innovation and Environment Committee. Referred to Urban Technologies, Innovation and Environment Committee

8.33 DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Michael P. Hamel, Chief Information Officer

8.34 FINANCE ITEMS

Capital Transfers

8.35 FINANCE ITEMS

Grants and Donations

- A. Recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept, and expend a grant in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$150,000.00) from the LinkedIn “Future of Work Fund” grant program.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to adopt items #8.35A CM through #8.35D CM, #8.36A CM through 8.36G CM except for #8.36C CM and #8.37ACM through #8.37D CM. Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

- B. Recommend adoption of a resolution to accept with gratitude a donation in the amount of Two Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$200.00) from JSB WECARE Co.

Resolution adopted with gratitude on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.35A CM)

- C. Recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept, and expend a grant in the amount of up to One Hundred Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$100,000.00) from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection MassEVIP Public Access Charging Grant.

Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.35A CM)

- D. Recommend adoption of a resolution to file, accept, and expend a grant in the amount of One Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand Two-Hundred Fifty-One Dollars and No Cents (\$128,251.00) from the US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program - Local Formula.

Resolution adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.35A CM)

8.36 FINANCE ITEMS

Operational Transfers

- A. Recommend authorization to increase Fund #FD311 RRA – Cable Fund, by One Million Three Hundred Thirty-One Thousand Forty-Two Dollars and Fifty-One Cents (\$1,331,042.51).

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.35A CM)

- B. Recommend the transfer of funds for the Community Preservation Act (CPA) and Community Preservation Committee recommendations for the Fall 2025 CPA Funding Round.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.35A CM)

- C. Recommend adoption of an order authorizing a grant of One Hundred Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$100,000.00) of CSX Community Funding (FD303, GFT-1138) for the benefit of the Canal District via support of the Canal District Ambassadors program.

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

Mayor Petty recognized the Chief Financial Officer, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Fresolo.

Councilor Fresolo then moved to, "Request City Manager provide City Council with an update on a previously adopted order on January 13, 2026 which read: "Request City Manager request Chief Development Officer provide City Council with a report outlining CSX's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement with the city, including information concerning CSX's compliance, or lack thereof, with trucks operating and driving in the Grafton Hill area causing traffic concerns in the neighborhood." Further, request City Manager include in said report additional information concerning 1) the fifty (50) new jobs CSX was supposed to create in the city; and 2) whether the city can collect additional fees from CSX related to police details required to ensure trucks do not use inappropriate routes as cut-throughs on their way to the highway." (See Item #12d CC).

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to adopt the item. Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

- D. Recommend that Seven Hundred Fifty Six Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Eight Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$756,558.50) be transferred from Cost Center #CC1044-600100, Fire Salaries, and be appropriated to various Fire operating accounts.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.35A CM)

- E. Recommend that Forty-Two Thousand, Four Hundred Seventy-Six Dollars and Ninety-Seven Cents (\$42,476.97) be transferred from Cost Center #CC1021-610100, MassHire Workforce Board Ordinary Maintenance, and be appropriated to Cost Center #CC1021-600100, MassHire Workforce Board Salaries.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.35A CM)

- F. Recommend that Three Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-Seven Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$345,757.50) be transferred from Fund #FD314, Reserve for Appropriation Premium on Loans, and be appropriated to Cost Center #CC1062-610100, Treasury Ordinary Maintenance, to fund the costs associated with the issuance of the \$61,200,000 BAN dated Sept. 18, 2025.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.35A CM)

- G. Recommend that Fifty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Fourteen Dollars and Thirty Five Cents (\$58,814.35) be transferred from Cost Center #CC1040-699399, Police Capital Outlay, and be appropriated to Cost Center #CC1040-610100, Police Ordinary Maintenance, to provide funding for vendor expenses through the remainder of Fiscal Year 2026.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.35A CM)

8.37 FINANCE ITEMS

Prior Year

- A. Recommend that Three Thousand Seven Hundred Seventeen Dollars and Seventy-Eight Cents (\$3,717.78) be authorized from Fiscal Year 2026 Cost Center #CC1001, City Council Ordinary Maintenance, for the payment of prior year invoices.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.35A CM)
- B. Recommend that One Thousand Forty Eight Dollars and No Cents (\$1,048.00) be authorized from various Fiscal Year 2026 Department of Public Works cost centers for the payment of prior year invoices.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.35A CM)
- C. Recommend that Thirty One Dollars and Ninety Eight Cents (\$31.98) be authorized from Fiscal Year 2026 Cost Center #CC1055, DPW Salary & Overtime, to allow for a prior year salary adjustment.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.35A CM)
- D. Recommend that Five Hundred Fourteen Dollars and Eighty Two Cents (\$514.82) be authorized from Fiscal Year 2026 Cost Center #CC1025, Sewer Salary & Overtime, to allow for a prior year salary adjustment.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.35A CM)

8.38 FINANCE

Loan Orders

8.39 MISCELLANEOUS AGENDA TRANSMITTALS

9. COMMUNICATIONS

- 9a. Barry Lorion, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) District 3 Highway Director, transmitting the MassDOT District 3 Vegetation Management Plan.
Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Toomey, who moved to, "Request City Manager coordinate with MassDOT to determine ways the city can work with the State to address invasive plant species around the city's roadways." (See Item #12e CC).

Mayor Petty moved to place the item on file. Placed on file

10. TABLED ITEMS

10a. 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

10b. 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

10c. ORDER of Councilor Etel Haxhijaj 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 - Haxhijaj July 18, 2023 and Tabled - Haxhijaj August 22, 2023)

No action taken

10d. 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

10e. 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

10f. 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

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

- 11a.** ORDER of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the process used by the Law Office to address and investigate claims filed against the city, the role of the claims agent and claims agent assistant, and whether the department has the capacity to address each claim in a way that meets the needs of the city’s residents. Further, request said report include information concerning the process used by the Law Office to address personal injury claims and/or lawsuits, as well as the responsible role for addressing such claims and/or lawsuits. – Item #18a CC Order adopted
- 11b.** ORDER of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing any contingency plans in place should the city’s new notification system, RapidSOS, encounter any difficulties. – Item #18b CC Order adopted
- 11c.** ORDER of Mayor Joseph M. Petty – Request City Manager consider creating a financial plan to allocate additional funding in the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) budget that would aid in addressing street resurfacing repairs throughout the city. – Item #18c CC Order adopted
- 11d.** ORDER of Councilor Kathleen M. Toomey – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the impact that increased costs to oil may have on the city’s budget, as it relates to the purchasing of bituminous products used to resurface streets. – Item #18d CC Order adopted
- 11e.** ORDER of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing any impact using low-maintenance materials in median and sidewalk strips in lieu of grass would have on: 1) locations where there is a heat island effect; 2) pedestrian refuge; and 3) traffic calming measures. – Item #18e CC Order adopted
- 11f.** ORDER of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the number of years the city has hosted the NCAA’s Ice Hockey tournaments at the DCU Center, as well as any plans to host the event in the future. – Item #18f CC Order adopted
- 11g.** ORDER of Councilor Jose A. Rivera – Request Standing Committee on Economic Development discuss the feasibility of bringing the U.S. Olympic Boxing Trials back to the city, as well as any other USA Boxing, formerly known as the United States Boxing Federation, events. – Item #18g CC Referred to Economic Development Committee
- 11h.** ORDER of Councilor Morris A. Bergman – Request Standing Committee on Economic Development explore the criteria and deadlines for the city to apply to be a host city for each sports’ NCAA tournament for the purpose of providing City Council with timeframes and the process relative to said individual applications. – Item #18h CC Referred to Economic Development Committee

- 11i. ORDER of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the requirements and parameters associated with bringing the NCAA Men’s and Women’s Division I March Madness Tournament to the city. – Item #18i CC Order adopted
- 11j. ORDER of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing succession planning within the Department of Public Works (DPW). Said report should include, but not be limited to, information concerning career and educational development programs provided to the department’s employees, as well as how and to what degree each employee’s assigned workload impacts their ability to access said programs. – Item #18j CC Order adopted

12. NEW BUSINESS UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES - Items brought forth under suspension at the March 24, 2026 City Council meeting.

- 12a. Motion Mitra @ #8.14A CM – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management provide senior citizens with in-person registration opportunities to sign up for the new AlertWorcester system.
Order adopted (See Item #8.14A CM)
- 12b. Motion Mitra @ #8.14A CM – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management provide the City Clerk with informational pamphlets that can be provided to residents during elections to encourage residents to sign up for the new AlertWorcester system.
Order adopted (See Item #8.14A CM)
- 12c. Motion King @ #8.32A CM – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management work with the Chief Sustainability Officer to create a “Blue Spaces Notification” option through AlertWorcester that would provide interested residents with relevant updates concerning the city’s various blue spaces (e.g. Indian Lake, Coes Pond).
Order adopted (See Item #8.32A CM)
- 12d. Motion Fresolo @ #8.36C CM – Request City Manager provide City Council with an update on a previously adopted order on January 13, 2026 which read: “Request City Manager request Chief Development Officer provide City Council with a report outlining CSX’s Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement with the city, including information concerning CSX’s compliance, or lack thereof, with trucks operating and driving in the Grafton Hill area causing traffic concerns in the neighborhood.” Further, request City Manager include in said report additional information concerning 1) the fifty (50) new jobs CSX was supposed to create in the city; and 2) whether the city can collect additional fees from CSX related to police details required to ensure trucks do not use inappropriate routes as cut-throughs on their way to the highway.
Order adopted (See Item #8.36C CM)

- 12e.** Motion Toomey @ #9a CC – Request City Manager coordinate with MassDOT to determine ways the city can work with the State to address invasive plant species around the city’s roadways.

Order adopted (See Item #9a CC)