

CITY OF WORCESTER

URBAN TECHNOLOGIES, INNOVATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, April 27, 2026
Esther Howland (South) Chamber
Convened: 6:01 P.M.
Adjourned: 6:34 P.M.

MAYOR

Joseph M. Petty

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson Luis A Ojeda
Vice Chairperson Jose A Rivera
Councilor Khrystian E King



CLERK OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Nikolin Vangjeli

www.worcesterma.gov

City Hall - 455 Main Street Worcester, Massachusetts

Present Were:

Chairperson Councilor Luis A Ojeda
Councilor Jose A Rivera

Also:

Chief Sustainability Officer John Odell
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
(DCR) Lakes and Ponds Program Manager Kara Sliwoski
Deputy City Clerk Stephen AJ Pottle, 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.

Urban Technologies, Innovation and Environment Committee Zoom Link:
<https://worcesterma.zoomgov.com/j/1600693385>

Urban Technologies, Innovation and Environment Committee Zoom Phone Number: +1
646 828 7666

Urban Technologies, Innovation and Environment Committee Zoom Access Code: 160
069 3385

2. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Order - That the City Council Standing Committee of Urban Technologies, Innovation and Environment hereby approves the minutes of the Urban Technologies, Innovation and Environment Committee meeting of January 29, 2026.

Chairperson Councilor Ojeda read the item and moved for a roll call vote to adopt the item. Order adopted on a roll call vote of 2 Yeas and 0 Nays (Ojeda absent)

3. Miscellaneous Items

- a. Order of Councilor Khrystian E. King - Request Standing Committee on Urban Technologies, Innovation and Environment invite representatives from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to attend a meeting to discuss best practices for treating the city's lakes and ponds.

14k CC August 19, 2025

In Committee December 15, 2025 - Held

Chairperson Councilor Ojeda read the item and moved to take the item up collectively with Items #3b, #4a and #4b.

Chairperson Councilor Ojeda recognized the Chief Sustainability Officer, who provided an overview concerning the city's Lakes and Ponds program.

Chairperson Councilor Ojeda recognized the DCR Lakes and Ponds Program Manager, who provided an overview concerning DCR's Lakes and Ponds program.

Chairperson Councilor Ojeda then discussed public education programs offered by the DCR and the city to public schools students, as well as the importance of providing after-school activities and environmental science education to students with the DCR Lakes and Ponds Program Manager and the Chief Sustainability Officer.

Chairperson Councilor Ojeda recognized Councilor Rivera, who discussed plans concerning water treatment at Coes Pond for the summer with the Chief Sustainability Officer.

Chairperson Councilor Ojeda then discussed installing signage to inform the public of the testing done at the city's lakes and ponds, the importance of monitoring oxygen levels in the lakes and ponds, volunteers being used to help with the city's blue spaces, the management and temporary closure of Lake Quinsigamond, whether there is a set testing schedule, and addressing invasive plants with the Chief Sustainability Officer and the DCR Lakes and Ponds Program Manager.

Chairperson Councilor Ojeda brought forth the following Chairman's Order: Request City Manager request Chief Sustainability Officer and Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery create a summer program to educate the public on conservation practices relative to lakes and ponds in the city, including plants identification classes to identify native and invasive aquatic species and cleaning techniques to prevent the spread of invasive species. Further, request City Manager work with the Superintendent of Public Schools and local colleges to ensure participation from Worcester Public Schools students and college students. Further, request City Manager explore the feasibility of creating a paid summer job/internship position for Worcester Public Schools students and college students where they can get trained and lead aspects of said summer program.

Chairperson Councilor Ojeda recognized the DCR Lakes and Ponds Manager, who discussed ways in which DCR can support the proposed summer program.

Chairperson Councilor Ojeda recognized the Deputy City Clerk, who discussed the procedural motion for the item.

Chairperson Councilor Ojeda moved for a roll call vote to recommend the item be filed.

Recommend File on a roll call vote of 2 Yeas and 0 Nays (King absent)

Chairman's Orders

Request City Manager request Chief Sustainability Officer and Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery create a summer program to educate the public on conservation practices relative to lakes and ponds in the city, including plants identification classes to identify native and invasive aquatic species and cleaning techniques to prevent the spread of invasive species. Further, request City Manager work with the Superintendent of Public Schools and local colleges to ensure participation from Worcester Public Schools students and college students. Further, request City Manager explore the feasibility of creating a paid summer job/internship position for Worcester Public Schools students and college students where they can get trained and lead aspects of said summer program.

- b.** Order of Councilor Etel Haxhijaj - Request Standing Committee on Urban Technologies, Innovation and Environment hold a public discussion with the Senior Environmental Analyst for the purposes of reviewing a presentation relative to the most recent findings from the States of the Lakes documentation.

12a CC May 9, 2023

In Committee April 13, 2026

Recommend File on a roll call vote of 2 Yeas and 0 Nays (King absent) (See Item #3a)

4. Communications of the City Manager

- a.** Transmitting informational communication relative to the State of the Lakes.
8.32A CM March 24, 2026

Recommend File on a roll call vote of 2 Yeas and 0 Nays (King absent) (See Item #3a)

- b.** Transmitting an informational communication concerning plans to remove invasive plant species in the city.

12p CC February 10, 2026

Recommend File on a roll call vote of 2 Yeas and 0 Nays (King absent) (See Item #3a)