

CITY OF WORCESTER
JOURNAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, September 15, 2026
Esther Howland (South) Chamber
Convened: 6:35 P.M.
Adjourned: 10:47 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

2. STAR SPANGLED BANNER

3. ROLL CALL - All present with the Mayor as the Chair. Councilor Bilotta and Councilor Toomey participated in the meeting remotely.

4. PROCLAMATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, MOMENTS OF SILENCE

- 4a.** Mayor Petty read a Proclamation declaring the week of September 17, 2026 through September 23, 2026 Constitution Week in the City of Worcester. The Proclamation was presented to Deborah Nurse, the State Chair of Commemorative Events for the Massachusetts Daughters of the American Revolution.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- 5a.** Order - That the City Council of the City of Worcester hereby approves the minutes of the City Council Meeting of August 18, 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 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

6a. Mayor Petty read the item and recognized the following Speakers:

1. Nicole Apostola, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
2. Idella Hazard, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM and spoke in favor of item #11b CC
3. Dante Comparetto, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
4. Sean Johnson, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
5. Gary Hunter, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to items #8.19A CM and #11d CC
6. Abby Mortillaro, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM and spoke in favor of items #9h CC, #9m CC, #10a CC
7. Nicolai Adams, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
8. Ilsa (no last name given), Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
9. Keith Linhares, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM and spoke in favor of item #7a CC
10. Jillian Joseph, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
11. Brittany Chapman, (no residence given), spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
12. Ex Todd, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
13. Alicia (no last name given), Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
14. Angelina Coco, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
15. Maria (no last name given), Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
16. Brady (no last name given), Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
17. Thea (no last name given), Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
18. Gabriella (no last name given), Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
19. Dylan Young, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
20. Julia (no last name given), Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
21. Mini (no last name given), Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
22. Philip Donald Gerard, II, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
23. Nelly Medina, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM and spoke in favor of item #7l CC
24. James Powell, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
25. Adam (no last name given), Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
26. Dangelo Aponte, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
27. Phyn Vermin, Boxboro resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
28. Athena Haddon, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
29. Manolo Garcia, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #7l CC

30. Justin LaPorte, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
31. Jamerson (no last name given), Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
32. Fred Nathan, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #7a CC and spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
33. Principe Virtuez, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
34. Feanna Jattan-Singh, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
35. Kevin Lynch, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
36. Terri Kelley, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
37. David Webb, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of items #7z CC and #10a CC and spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
38. Karin Valentine Goins, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to items #7g CC, #7h CC, and #8.19A CM
39. Eric Stratton, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
40. Dina Tedeschi, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
41. Chrissi Bates, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
42. Nathalie Gibson, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
43. Andrew (last name indiscernible), Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
44. Zakeem Benjamin, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
45. Echo Louissaint-Collins, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to item #8.19A CM
46. Keith Boucher, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of item #7a CC

7. PETITIONS

- 7a. Keith Boucher request a public report be written regarding the city's procedures for ensuring that zoning conditions, permit prerequisites, approved plans, and other required regulatory approvals are satisfied before construction is authorized to proceed, and for monitoring compliance after work begins. Said report should address how responsibilities are coordinated among departments when multiple municipal approvals apply to the same project; how outstanding conditions and requirements are tracked and verified before subsequent stages of construction are authorized; how Stop Work orders and other corrective actions are monitored through resolution; and how material compliance concerns reported by residents are reviewed, documented, and communicated. Further, request that the administration identify any procedural or coordination improvements that may strengthen consistent enforcement, accountability, and public confidence in the city's development and construction oversight process.

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

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to the City Manager. Referred to the City Manager on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

- 7b.** James Porter et al. request installation of a speed hump on Cohasset St. at its intersection with Puritan Ave.
Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to refer items #7b CC through #7w CC, except items #7f CC through #7h CC, to Traffic and Parking Committee. Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 7c.** James Porter et al. request installation of a speed hump on Puritan Ave. at its intersection with Cohasset St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7b CC)
- 7d.** Councilor John P. Fresolo request the handicap parking space in front of 18 Strathmore Rd. be relocated to the opposite side of the street in the vicinity of 21 Strathmore Rd.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7b CC)
- 7e.** Councilor Luis A. Ojeda request the existing “No Parking Anytime” zone in the vicinity of 48 Windham St. be moved to across the street from the driveway of 48 Windham St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7b CC)
- 7f.** Elaine Poulo request installation of a rotary at the intersection of May St. and Chandler St.
Mayor Petty read the item and moved to take items #7f CC through #7h CC up collectively.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who moved to refer item #7f CC to Education Committee. – Withdrawn.

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

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to Traffic and Parking Committee. Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 7g.** Amy M. Kalogeropoulos and Mardi Coleman request the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) intersection improvement project at Chandler St. and May St. (Project No. 608961) be paused, pending the completion of a corridor-wide traffic study analysis and new public hearings (see attached).
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7f CC)
- 7h.** Demetrios Koutoulas and Anila Hasanaj request that no rotaries be installed in the vicinity of Worcester State University, located at 486 Chandler St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7f CC)
- 7i.** Jasmelin Martinez request removal of a handicap parking space at 18 Lafayette St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7b CC)

- 7j. Patrick Grady request installation of stop signage at the intersection of Indian Lake Pkwy. and Grove St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7b CC)
- 7k. Tracy Heather Harding on behalf of Harding Pediatrics request installation of "No Parking Anytime" signage in the vicinity of the driveway located at 41 Oak Ave. and 45 Oak Ave.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7b CC)
- 7l. Nelly Medina and Manolo Garcia request the crosswalk at the intersection of Lakeside Ave. and Lovell St. be repainted.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7b CC)
- 7m. Councilor John P. Fresolo request installation of a stop sign at the intersection of Upsala St. and Esther St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7b CC)
- 7n. Dacheliz and Brayden Ramos Ruiz request installation of two (2) handicap parking spaces in front of 243 Tacoma St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7b CC)
- 7o. Marielis Manzueta request the walking paths in the vicinity of South High Community School, including the intersections of Main St. and Sylvain St., Main St. and Apricot St., and Apricot St. and Goddard Memorial Dr., be reviewed for the purposes of improving pedestrian safety for students walking to school.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7b CC)
- 7p. Angelica Cintron request a traffic study be conducted on Belmont St. that includes the review of installing various pedestrian safety improvements throughout the street (see attached).
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7b CC)
- 7q. Angelica Cintron request a traffic study be conducted on Lake Ave., in the vicinity of Tivnan Field, that includes the review of installing various pedestrian safety improvements throughout the street (see attached).
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7b CC)
- 7r. Heather Cooper request installation of speed humps on Deerfield St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7b CC)

- 7s. Councilor Jose A. Rivera on behalf of Peter Flinkfelt request installation of speed humps on Lovell St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7b CC)
- 7t. Councilor John P. Fresolo request installation of speed humps on Harold St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7b CC)
- 7u. Councilor John P. Fresolo request installation of “No Parking” signage on both sides of Blackstone River Rd., 20’ from its intersection with Whipple St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7b CC)
- 7v. Councilor John P. Fresolo request installation of “No Parking” signage on both sides of Whipple St., 20’ from its intersection with Blackstone River Rd.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7b CC)
- 7w. Councilor John P. Fresolo request installation an All Way Stop Control on Blackstone River Rd. at Whipple St.
Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7b CC)
- 7x. NATIONAL GRID for a conduit location at: GATES ST.
Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to set hearings for items #7x CC and #7y CC on September 22, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. Hearing set for September 22, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 7y. NATIONAL GRID for a conduit location at: PATCH ST.
Hearing set for September 22, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #7x CC)
- 7z. Tom Marino request City Council consider adopting the attached proposal, in part or in whole, titled, "Executive Summary: A Proposal for Police Reform in Worcester," (see attached for proposal).
Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Bilotta, who moved to Hold the Item Under Privilege.

Held Under Privilege - Bilotta

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER

8.1 APPOINTMENTS
Non-City Council Confirmation

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 a resolution authorizing a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Agreement Amendment for 30-36 Washington Sq.

**Mayor Petty read the item and 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 Dog Waste Disposal Advisory.

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 moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to Public Works Committee.
Referred to Public Works Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays**

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 CEMETERY
Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., Commissioner

8.11 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

Stephen S. Rolle, P.E., Commissioner

- A. Transmitting Informational Communication Relative to Street and Sidewalk Construction Progress Report for August 2026.

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

Mayor Petty recognized the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Bilotta.

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

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

Councilor King then moved to, “Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works work with the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility to provide City Council with a report detailing best practices the departments can implement to: 1) establish, monitor and measure the effectiveness of project timelines associated with the rehabilitation of the city’s streets and sidewalks; 2) issue notices detailing when construction will occur; 3) hold contractors accountable relative to the bid process required for street and sidewalk rehabilitation; and 4) implement completion frameworks for roadway and sidewalk construction projects. (See Item #12c CC).

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

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

Mayor Petty moved to take the item up collectively with item #9o CC.

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

Mayor Petty recognized the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility, who responded to questions raised by Councilor Fresolo.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King for a second time, who moved, “That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby suspend Rule 21 of the Rules of City Council to allow for Councilor John P. Fresolo to speak beyond the typically allotted ten (10) minutes on item #8.11A CM.” (See Item #12d CC).

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

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

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

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Economou for a second time, who spoke concerning the item.

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Rivera for a second time, who moved to amend item #9o CC: “Further, request said discussion consider ways in which project scheduling for street and sidewalk rehabilitation can be made more predictable, as well as whether the current role of district councilors is the most effective approach for such a process.”

Councilor Rivera then moved, “Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works and Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility create and provide City Council with a detailed process related to selecting streets and sidewalks for rehabilitation work, similar to the process used to install speed humps throughout the city.” (See Item #12e CC).

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King for a third time, who spoke concerning the item.

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

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to refer item #9o CC to Public Works Committee. Referred to Public Works Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays.

Mayor Petty moved to place the item on file. Placed on file on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

- B.** Transmitting Informational Communication Concerning New Policies and Procedures for Administering the Traffic-calming Speed Hump Program.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to Traffic and Parking Committee. Referred to Traffic and Parking Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

8.12 FIRE DEPARTMENT
Martin Dyer, Fire Chief

8.13 POLICE DEPARTMENT
Paul B. Saucier, Police Chief

8.14 DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS
Charles R. Goodwin, Commissioner

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 Dixit, Commissioner

A. Recommend Adoption of Proposed Public Camping Ordinance in the Context of “Disrupting the Cycle,” a Strategic Framework for Supporting Unhoused Individuals.

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor King, who moved to Hold the Item Under Privilege.

Held Under Privilege - King

B. Transmitting Informational Communication Relative to the City of Worcester Opioid Allocation.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to Public Health and Human Services Committee. Referred to Public Health and Human Services Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

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 Relative to July 2026 Financial Update.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to Municipal and Legislative Operations Committee. Referred to Municipal and Legislative Operations Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

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

A. Transmitting Informational Communication Relative to the Upcoming DCU Special Tax District Borrowing.

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to Municipal and Legislative Operations Committee. Referred to Municipal and Legislative Operations Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

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

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 Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$7,500.00) from Massachusetts Vest-a-Dog, Inc. to support the purchase of one canine for the Worcester Police Department.

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

8.36 FINANCE ITEMS
Operational Transfers

- A. Recommend that Twelve Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$12,000.00) be transferred from Cost Center #CC1017-610100, Communications Ordinary Maintenance, and be appropriated to Cost Center #CC1017-699399, Communications Capital Outlay, to fund the replacement of the HVAC unit in the Mack Truck radio tower building.

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 Twenty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Dollars and No Cents (\$24,720.00) be authorized from Fiscal Year 2027 Cost Center #CC1017, Emergency Communications Ordinary Maintenance, for the payment of a prior year invoice.

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

- B. Recommend that One Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Four Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$1,794.50) be authorized from Fiscal Year 2027 Cost Center #CC1017, Emergency Communications Salaries, to allow for the processing of a prior year payroll expense.

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

- C. Recommend that One Hundred Forty-Nine Dollars and Ninety-Five Cents (\$149.95) be authorized from Fiscal Year 2027 Cost Center #CC1055, Public Works Ordinary Maintenance, for the payment of a prior year invoice.

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

- D. Recommend that Two Hundred Forty-Six Thousand Sixteen Dollars and Twenty-Seven Cents (\$246,016.27) be authorized from Fiscal Year 2027 Cost Center #CC1004, Economic Development Ordinary Maintenance, for the payment of a prior year invoice.

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. HELD UNDER PRIVILEGE

- 9a. COMMUNICATION of the City Manager transmitting informational communication relative to Economic Development Initiatives. (Held Under Privilege - Bilotta September 8, 2026)

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to Economic Development Committee. Referred to Economic Development Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

- 9b. COMMUNICATION of the City Manager transmitting Informational Communication Relative to Housing and Neighborhood Development Activities. (Held Under Privilege - Bilotta September 8, 2026)

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to Economic Development Committee. Referred to Economic Development Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

- 9c. COMMUNICATION of the City Manager transmitting an informational Communication Relative to Semi-Annual TIF/TIE Reporting June 30, 2026. (Held Under Privilege - Bilotta September 8, 2026)

Mayor Petty read the item and moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to Economic Development Committee. Referred to Economic Development Committee on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

- 9d. ORDER of Councilor Tony Economou - Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works provide City Council with a report detailing the preparations occurring within the department for the upcoming winter weather and snowstorm season. Said report should include a breakdown of the department's available personnel, equipment and anticipated improvements in snow and ice removal operations. (Held Under Privilege - Rosen September 8, 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 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

- 9e. ORDER of Councilor Satya B. Mitra - Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing the conversion of private streets into public streets in the city. Said report should include information related to 1) how many miles of private streets currently exist in the city; 2) the process used by residents to convert streets from private to public; 3) the legality of and fiscal amount required to have the city pay to convert all private streets to public streets; and 4) the process used by other municipalities to convert their private streets into public streets. (Held Under Privilege - Rosen September 8, 2026)

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

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

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

- 9f. ORDER of Councilor Satya B. Mitra - Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning any responsibility the city has to ensure private streets are kept at a basic, minimum standard that allows public safety vehicles to pass through the road. Further, request said report include information concerning how the city could allocate funding to ensure the roads are kept at said standard. (Held Under Privilege - Rosen September 8, 2026)

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

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

- 9g. ORDER of Councilor Satya B. Mitra - Request City Manager request Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility provide City Council with a report detailing the monetary allocations required to resurface each of the city's major arteries, as defined in the city's pavement management program, respectively. Said report should only include major arteries that are in need of such repairs. (Held Under Privilege - Rosen September 8, 2026)

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

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

- 9h. ORDER of Councilor Gary Rosen - Request City Manager consider reviewing existing Homelessness Response Action Plans in communities such as Seattle, Portland, Sacramento and Spokane for the purpose of adopting a similar plan in Worcester, in an effort to enhance the city's ability to serve the many needs of the growing unhoused population. Said Homelessness Response Action Plan should include but not be limited to 1) the utilization of key, existing support systems in the city like shelters, social and job-finding services, food banks, and medical care; and 2) entering into formal, interlocal agreements with several surrounding cities and towns to share the financial and operational expenses of a regional homelessness response. (Held Under Privilege - Rosen September 8, 2026)**

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

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

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Bilotta, who moved to add his name as a sponsor of the item.

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

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

Councilor King then moved to, "Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning how the dissolution of the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA) has impacted the city's ability to provide support for the unhoused population. Further, request said report include details of the mission and structure of said network." (See Item #12e 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

- 9i. ORDER of Councilor Jose A. Rivera - Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning best practices the public can use to report and take action against the invasive insect known as the spotted lanternfly. (Held Under Privilege - Rosen September 8, 2026)

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Rivera, who moved to amend the item: "Further, request said report include the following: 1) the process used by the city after egg sightings are reported; 2) the responsible entity for managing infestations on state-owned property within the city; 3) the reporting mechanisms for the public, including whether 311 can be used to report major concentrations of lanternflies and/or their eggs; 4) the review of current practices in place to ensure tree of heaven is managed and controlled; 5) how the city coordinates with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), railroad owners and other major landowners to locate and maintain an inventory or mapping of tree of heaven locations on municipal properties and public rights-of-way, ensuring proper removal techniques are used to prevent root regeneration, including the use of appropriate native species as replacements; 6) the feasibility of establishing a program to plant milkweed on public property to mitigate the spotted lanternfly population; and 7) any state assistance and resources available to the city."

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

- 9j. ORDER of Councilor Tony Economou - Request City Manager create an immediate action plan to address the recent violent incidents that have occurred in and around the Worcester Common/Downtown Central Business District, which have taken place over the last several months. (Held Under Privilege - Rosen September 8, 2026)

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Toomey, who recused herself from the item and did not participate in the discussion.

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

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

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

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to place the item on file. Placed on file on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Toomey recused)

- 9k. ORDER of Councilor Kathleen M. Toomey - Request Standing Committee on Public Safety invite all social service agencies working with homeless and addiction treatment programs to discuss their efforts in assisting the city in ameliorating the public safety issues occurring over the past few months. (Held Under Privilege - Rosen September 8, 2026)

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Toomey, who moved to withdraw the item.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who moved to, “Request Standing Committee on Public Health and Human Services invite all social service agencies working with homeless and addiction treatment programs to discuss their efforts in assisting the city in ameliorating the public health and public safety issues over the last few months.” (See Item #12f CC).

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

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

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote on Councilor Toomey’s motion to grant the item Leave to Withdraw. Leave to Withdraw on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 1 Nay (Nay – Bilotta).

- 9l. ORDER of Councilor Tony Economou - Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works ensure various subpar street and sidewalk projects throughout the city are reviewed and addressed by reinstalling improved materials and/or by redesigning and reinstalling work done below acceptable standards. Said reinstallations/replacements should include: 1) the installation of more suitable loam and hydroseeding for new grass along Florida Ave. and Park Ave., from Salisbury St. to Highland St.; 2) the improvement of driveway installations that were worked on last year along Florida Ave.; 3) the removal of the sand between the bricks on Germain St., with polymeric sand being installed in its place; 4) the installation of more suitable loam and hydroseeding along the grass strip of Germain St.; 5) the removal and replacement of the section of sidewalk that has heaved and cracked on Burncoat St. in the vicinity and opposite of Arbutus Rd. and Rollinson Rd.; and 6) the redesign and reinstallation of the grade change of the sidewalk as you approach Thorndyke Rd. along Burncoat St. from the north. (Held Under Privilege - Rosen September 8, 2026)

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. Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

- 9m. ORDER of Councilor Satya B. Mitra - Request City Manager install two (2) WooBin trash receptacles on Southbridge St. in the vicinity of 114 and 148 Southbridge St. (Held Under Privilege - Rosen September 8, 2026)

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

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

- 9n.** ORDER of Councilor Satya B. Mitra - Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works ensure sanitation staff do not use private driveways to turn their vehicles around when collecting trash on city streets. Further, request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works also ensure sanitation staff do not leave garbage debris, including glass, on city streets when they compress trash within their collection trucks. (Held Under Privilege - Rosen September 8, 2026)

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

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

- 9o.** ORDER of Councilor John P. Fresolo - Request Standing Committee on Public Works hold a discussion relative to ways the city can improve its process used by the Department of Transportation and Mobility and Department of Public Works to make local street and sidewalk rehabilitation/resurfacing project selections with each of the city's District Councilors. Said discussion should include the timeline required to ensure streets and sidewalks are resurfaced in a timely manner. (Held Under Privilege - Rosen September 8, 2026)

Referred to Public Works Committee as amended on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.11A CM)

- 9p.** RESOLUTION of Councilor Robert A. Bilotta - That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby recognize September as National Service Dog Month. (Held Under Privilege - Rosen September 8, 2026)

Mayor Petty read the item and recognized Councilor Bilotta, 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

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 September 8, 2026 City Council meeting.

11a. ORDER of Mayor Joseph M. Petty – That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby suspend its rules to allow for the public participation section of the agenda on September 8, 2026 to occur one (1) hour beyond the typically allotted thirty (30) minutes. – Item #25a CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

11b. ORDER of Councilor Luis A. Ojeda – Request City Manager request Police Chief provide City Council with a report concerning the reasons why the city has seen an increase in the number of individuals being arrested over the past five (5) years, in an effort to educate residents at neighborhood meetings and reduce the number of arrests occurring in the city through proactive community engagement. – Item #25b CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays

- 11c.** ORDER of Councilor Satya B. Mitra – Request City Manager work with the Chief Equity Officer and Police Chief to provide City Council with a biannual report detailing the various SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound) goals and objectives of the Worcester Police Department (WPD), in an effort to increase accountability and transparency within the community. Said report should include, but not be limited to, information related to the number of instances where misconduct of officers occurred, as well as the number of times the excessive use of force was used. – Item #25c CC Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays
- 11d.** ORDER of Mayor Joseph M. Petty – That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby suspend Rule 21 of the Rules of City Council to allow for Councilor Khrystian E. King to speak beyond the typically allotted then (10) minutes on item #22a CC. – Item #25d CC Order denied on a roll call vote of 5 Yeas and 6 Nays
- 11e.** ORDER of Councilor Khrystian E. King – Request Standing Committee on Education meet jointly with the School Committee’s Standing Committee on Operations and Governance for the purpose of reviewing matters pertaining to public education, the public libraries, arts, culture and higher education listed on their agenda. – Item #25e CC Referred to Education Committee on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays

12. NEW BUSINESS UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES - Items brought forth under suspension at the September 15, 2026 City Council meeting.

- 12a.** Motion Petty @ #6a CC – That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby suspend its rules to allow for the public participation section of the agenda on September 15, 2026 to occur one (1) hour beyond the typically allotted thirty (30) minutes.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #6a CC)
- 12b.** Motion King @ #6a CC – That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby suspend its rules to allow for the public participation section of the agenda on September 15, 2026 to occur until such a time that all public speakers have had the opportunity to speak.
Order denied on a roll call vote of 6 Yeas and 5 Nays (Yeas – Bilotta, Fresolo, King, Ojeda, Rosen, Petty) (Nays – Bergman, Economou, Mitra, Rivera, Toomey) (See Item #6a CC).

(Note: The motion to suspend the rules requires the affirmative vote of at least eight (8) members regardless of the number present and voting per Rule 56 of the Worcester City Council).
- 12c.** Motion King @ #8.11A CM – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works work with the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility to provide City Council with a report detailing best practices the departments can implement to: 1) establish, monitor and measure the effectiveness of project timelines associated with the rehabilitation of the city’s streets and sidewalks; 2) issue notices detailing when construction will occur; 3) hold contractors accountable relative to the bid process required for street and sidewalk rehabilitation; and 4) implement completion frameworks for roadway and sidewalk construction projects.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.11A CM)

12d. Motion King @ #8.11A CM – That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby suspend Rule 21 of the Rules of City Council to allow for Councilor John P. Fresolo to speak beyond the typically allotted ten (10) minutes on item #8.11A CM.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.11A CM)

12e. Motion Rivera @ #8.11A CM – Request City Manager request Commissioner of Public Works and Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility create and provide City Council with a detailed process related to selecting streets and sidewalks for rehabilitation work, similar to the process used to install speed humps throughout the city.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #8.11A CM)

12f. Motion King @ #9h CC – Request City Manager provide City Council with a report concerning how the dissolution of the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA) has impacted the city's ability to provide support for the unhoused population. Further, request said report include details of the mission and structure of said network.

Order adopted on a roll call vote of 11 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #9h CC)

12g. Motion King @ #9k CC – Request Standing Committee on Public Health and Human Services invite all social service agencies working with homeless and addiction treatment programs to discuss their efforts in assisting the city in ameliorating the public health and public safety issues over the last few months.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who introduced the item.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Toomey, who moved to recuse herself from the item and did not participate in the discussion.

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to refer the item to Public Health and Human Services Committee. Referred to Public Health and Human Services Committee on a roll call vote of 10 Yeas and 0 Nays (Toomey recused) (See Item #9k CC)

12h. Motion Fresolo – Suspension of Rules – That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby suspend the Rules of City Council to allow for Councilor John P. Fresolo to discuss a matter not listed on the September 15, 2026 City Council agenda.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Fresolo, who introduced the item.

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.

- 12i.** Motion King – Suspension of Rules – That the City Council of the City of Worcester meet in Executive Session at its September 22, 2026 meeting to review matters pertaining to improper conduct of a Worcester Police Officer.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who introduced the item.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Toomey, who moved to recuse herself from the item and did not participate in the discussion.

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

Mayor Petty moved for a roll call vote to adopt the item. Order denied on a roll call vote of 4 Yeas and 6 Nays (Yeas – Bilotta, Fresolo, King, Ojeda) (Nays – Bergman, Economou, Mitra, Rivera, Rosen, Petty) (Toomey recused).

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who moved to reconsider the item. Reconsideration denied on a roll call vote of 1 Yea and 9 Nays (Yea – Bilotta) (Toomey recused)

- 12j.** Motion King – Suspension of Rules – Request Mayor provide City Council with a report concerning Rules 48 and 49 relative to Appointments to Committees and Temporary Appointments to Fill Vacancies, as well as any language in the City Charter related to such appointments.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor King, who introduced the item.

Mayor Petty recognized Councilor Toomey, who moved to recuse herself from the item and did not participate in the discussion.

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