

CITY OF WORCESTER
MUNICIPAL AND LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 15, 2026
Esther Howland (South) Chamber
Convened: 5:09 P.M.
Adjourned: 6:11 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: Chief Financial Officer Tim McGourthy
Deputy City Clerk Clare Robbins, clerk

1. Virtual Attendee Call-In Information/Important Notice to Residents

- 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

- b. Important Notice: Please be aware our office has been notified of an ongoing scam involving the impersonation of city officials and departments. Scammers are fraudulently requesting payments be made for planning and zoning permits, as well as City Council petitions. All official emails regarding your petition will come exclusively from an @worcesterma.gov email address (such as clerk@worcesterma.gov), or via physical mail on the City of Worcester's official letterhead. Any legitimate hearing letter will always include your specific application details, along with the scheduled hearing date, time, and location. The City of Worcester will never request payments via wire transfer.

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 August 17, 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. Communications of the City Auditor

- a. Transmitting an annual report concerning the Other Post Employment (OPEB) Trust Fund.

14a CC March 10, 2026

In Committee April 14, 2026 - Held

Chairperson Councilor Mitra read the item and recognized the Chief Financial Officer, who provided an overview of the item.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Bergman, who discussed how OPEB funding affects the city's bond ratings with the Chief Financial Officer.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Rosen, who discussed how health insurance costs are split between the city and people who are part of the city's pension retiree program, the service requirement to be eligible for the city's OPEB, how the city accounts for increasing health insurance costs and paycheck deduction for new employees with the Chief Financial Officer.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra then discussed the retirement benefit coverage, whether the benefits would cover surviving spouses, the trustees of the OPEB Liability Trust Fund, the election process and the length of term for the trustees, the Pension Reserve Investment Trust (PRIT) and how the city's OPEB trust fund compares to other municipalities with the Chief Financial Officer.

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

Recommend File on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

- b. Transmitting the City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the year ended June 30, 2025, as prepared by the Auditing Department and audited by the Certified Public Accountant firm of CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP.

12b CC February 3, 2026

In Committee April 14, 2026 - Held

Chairperson Councilor Mitra read the item and moved for a roll call vote to recommend the item be held.

Recommend Hold on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

4. Communications of the City Manager

- a. Transmitting informational communication relative to a financial update for the period ending June 30, 2026.

11.26A CM August 18, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Mitra read the item and moved to take up the item collectively with items #4b through #4g.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized the Chief Financial Officer, who provided an overview of the items.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Bergman, who discussed how higher revenues and lower expenses affect free cash calculations in November and how red flags related to revenues and expenses are monitored, addressed and reported to City Council with the Chief Financial Officer.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Rosen, who discussed concerns related to decreased sewer reserves, the needs to increase the sewer reserves to match the city's reserve policy, usage of general funds in case of emergency, why the city does not provide recommendation for dual tax rates, the considerations related to making the dual tax rates into single tax rate and the impact of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) on the city's budget with the Chief Financial Officer.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Bergman, who discussed the MA Department of Revenue (DOR)'s data on property values and incomes and the median income of property owners compared to the median income of the city with the Chief Financial Officer.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra then discussed challenges related to how snow operations budget is determined, the city's ability to carry deficit for snow operations budget into the next fiscal year, whether the CPA can be paid online and plans to include CPA in the tax bill with the Chief Financial Officer.

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

Recommend File on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

- b. Transmitting informational communication relative to a financial update for the period ending on May 31, 2026.

10.26D CM July 21, 2026

Recommend File on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #4a)

- c. Transmitting informational communication relative to the financial update for the period ending April 30, 2026.
22.26B CM June 2, 2026
Recommend File on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #4a)

- d. Transmitting informational communication relative to the financial update for the period ending March 31, 2026.
22.26A CM June 2, 2026
Recommend File on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #4a)

- e. Transmitting informational communication relative to a financial update for the period ending Feb. 28, 2026.
15.26A CM April 28, 2026
Recommend File on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #4a)

- f. Transmitting informational communication to the financial update for the period ending Jan. 31, 2026.
8.26A CM March 24, 2026
Recommend File on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #4a)

- g. Transmitting informational communication relative to to the financial update for the period ending Dec. 31, 2025.
11.28A CM February 24, 2026
Recommend File on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #4a)