

CITY OF WORCESTER
MUNICIPAL AND LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Monday, September 28, 2026
Esther Howland (South) Chamber
Convened: 5:08 P.M.
Adjourned: 6:28 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, who arrived at 5:27 p.m.

Also:

City Solicitor Alexandra Kalkounis
City Clerk Nikolin Vangjeli
Deputy City Clerk Stephen AJ Pottle, 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: Residents are advised 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 September 15, 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 2 Yeas and 0 Nays (Bergman absent)

3. Miscellaneous Item

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

9k CC February 3, 2026

In Committee May 20, 2026 - Held

In Committee August 17, 2026 - Held

Chairperson Councilor Mitra read the item and recognized the following Speakers:

1. Fred Nathan, Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to a charter review
2. Gordon Davis, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of a charter review
3. Gary Hunter, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of a charter review
4. Tom Marino, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of a charter review
5. David Webb, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of a charter review
6. Francesco Bivona, Worcester resident, spoke neither in favor nor opposed to a charter review.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Rosen, who discussed the importance of using the ALERTWorcester system to notify the public of the committee meetings, his belief that a Charter Commission would benefit the city, and the process required to establish a Charter Commission.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Bergman, who discussed why a Charter Commission has not existed since 1985, as well as the importance of establishing a Charter Commission through the means of obtaining signatures from fifteen percent (15%) of the city's registered voters.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized the City Clerk, who provided a presentation concerning the requirements associated with establishing a Charter Commission for a Charter Review.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Bergman, who discussed the ballot question to create a Charter Commission in 1983, the requirements for Charter Commissioners and whether a candidate for the City Council can also be a candidate for the Charter Commission with the City Clerk and the City Solicitor.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Rosen, who discussed the Charter Revision or Adoption Petition form, the number of candidates for Charter Commissioners and that a Charter Commission can only be established through the ballot process.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra discussed the requirement of obtaining signatures of fifteen percent (15%) of the city's registered voters using Charter Revision or Adoption Petition form, as well as the types of charter changes that can occur from a Charter Commission with the City Clerk.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Bergman, who discussed the requirement for the number of signatures for a Charter Commissioner candidate with the City Clerk.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra then discussed the role of the Charter Commissioners with the City Clerk.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Rosen, who discussed the process related to establishing a Charter Commission.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Bergman, who discussed the importance of having a democratic process for Charter Change.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Speaker #3, who spoke concerning the item.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Speaker #4, who discussed the non-binding questions on the 1991 ballot with the City Clerk.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Rosen, who discussed the results of the non-binding questions regarding Charter Change on the 1991 Municipal Election ballot with the City Clerk.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Bergman, who discussed the potential for negative consequences associated with placing a non-binding question on the ballot, as well as the required to place a non-binding question on ballot with the City Clerk.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Rosen, who discussed the deadline for the submission of the signatures for Charter Revision or Adoption Petition form with the City Clerk.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra discussed the process and timeline related to placing a non-binding question on ballot with the City Clerk.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra then discussed complications associated with forth a Chairman's Resolution to City Council regarding encouraging the efforts of the members of the public to obtain the required signatures to establish a Charter Commission to review the City Charter with Councilor Rosen and Councilor Bergman.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized the Deputy City Clerk, who discussed the language concerning the Chairman's Resolution with Councilor Rosen.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra brought forth the following Chairman's Resolution: "That the City Council does hereby encourage the efforts of members of the public to get the signatures of fifteen percent (15%) of the city's registered voters to request that the City of Worcester review and/or revise its present Charter, or to adopt a new Charter."

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

Chairman's Orders

That the City Council does hereby encourage the efforts of members of the public to get the signatures of fifteen percent (15%) of the city's registered voters to request that the City of Worcester review and/or revise its present Charter, or to adopt a new Charter.

4. Communications of the City Clerk

- a. Transmitting an informational communication relative to various options available for making changes to the City Charter.

14b CC July 21, 2026

In Committee August 17, 2026 - Held

Chairperson Councilor Mitra read the item and moved for a roll call vote to recommend Items #4a through #4e be filed.

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

- b. Transmitting an informational communication detailing possible charter changes that could be done without the creation of a Charter Review Commission, charter changes that require approval of such a commission, as well as City Council's role in passing ordinance changes.

12d CC September 22, 2026

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

- c. Transmitting an informational communication relative to the process required to place a non-binding question on the ballot of the upcoming local election.

12c CC September 22, 2026

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

- d. Transmitting an informational communication relative to advertisements for the Standing Committee on Municipal and Legislative Operations meeting on Monday, September 28, 2026 related to a discussion of the City Charter.

12b CC September 22, 2026

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

- e. Transmitting an informational communication concerning resident testimony brought forth at the Monday, August 17, 2026 Standing Committee on Municipal and Legislative Operations meeting related to the discussion of a potential review of the City Charter.

12a CC September 22, 2026

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

