



# CITY OF WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

## WEEKLY SUMMARY

12/10/2024 - 12/16/2024



### CITY COUNCIL VOTES ON CITY TAXES FOR FY25

#### ITEM #8A

**TO DETERMINE TAX RATES FOR RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND PERSONAL PROPERTIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025**

THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL VOTED 7-4 WHEN SETTING THE FY25 TAX RATE. THE RESIDENTIAL RATE WILL BE \$13.19 PER \$1,000 VALUATION FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES. \$28.61 PER \$1,000 FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES.

SETTING THE DUAL TAX RATES HAS BEEN VOTED ON BY WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL SINCE THE 1980S WHEN THE CITY ABANDONED THE SINGLE TAX RATE PRACTICE AND INSTEAD SPLIT THE RATES BETWEEN RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL RATES.

LAST YEARS TAX RATE FOR FY24 WAS \$13.75 PER \$1,000 FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES AND \$30.04 PER \$1,000 FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES.



### CITY MANAGER ERIC BATISTA'S NEW THREE YEAR CONTRACT IS APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

#### ITEM # 10A

**THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WORCESTER DOES HEREBY CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AT ITS DECEMBER 10, 2024, MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REAPPOINTMENT OF ERIC D. BATISTA AS CITY MANAGER, AS WELL AS ALL TERMS RECOMMENDED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL AND LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS. THE CITY COUNCIL WILL RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION.**

THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL VOTED 9-2 TO APPROVE CITY MANAGER ERIC BATISTA'S NEW CONTRACT THAT WILL GIVE HIM A 4.5% INCREASE ON DECEMBER 31ST 2024 . THIS WILL RAISE THE CITY MANAGER'S BASE SALARY TO \$295,995 WITH HIS NEXT TWO ANNUAL RAISES EXPECTED TO BE 3%.

AFTER NEGOTIATIONS, HIS SEVERANCE WAS ADJUSTED FROM THE INITIAL 12 MONTHS PROPOSED TO 9 MONTHS, WHICH IS A 3 MONTH INCREASE FROM BATISTA'S 2022 CONTRACT.

THE CITY COUNCIL ALSO REMOVED THE LANGUAGE THAT WOULD REQUIRE THE CITY TO PAY BATISTA \$10,000 MORE THAN THE NEXT-HIGHEST-PAID EMPLOYEE INCLUDING EMPLOYEES OF THE WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS.





# CITY COUNCIL

## WEEKLY SUMMARY

### Standing Committee Meetings

#### PUBLIC WORKS:

**MET ON WEDNESDAY, 12/11/2024**

- [CLICK HERE TO VIEW FULL AGENDA!](#)
- [CLICK HERE TO VIEW MEETING!](#)



- CHAIRPERSON - **COUNCILOR GEORGE RUSSELL-D3 CITY COUNCILOR**
- VICE CHAIRPERSON - **COUNCILOR CANDY MERO-CARLSON - D2 CITY COUNCILOR**
- COMMITTEE MEMBER - **COUNCILOR JENNY PACILLO - D1 CITY COUNCILOR**

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- **MONDAY, 12/16/2024**
  - **@ 5:30 P.M. - VETERANS' MEMORIALS, PARKS AND RECREATION STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING**
    - @ CITY HALL, ESTHER HOWLAND CHAMBER, 3RD FLOOR, 455 MAIN STREET
    - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW AGENDA!](#)
    - [CLICK HERE TO JOIN VIRTUALLY THE DAY OF!](#)
    - City Council ZOOM Phone Number: (929) 205 6099
    - City Council ZOOM Access Code: 969 5192 9457
- **TUESDAY, 12/17/2024**
  - **@ 6:30 P.M. - CITY COUNCIL MEETING**
    - @ CITY HALL, ESTHER HOWLAND CHAMBER, 3RD FLOOR, 455 MAIN STREET
    - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW AGENDA!](#)
    - [CLICK HERE TO JOIN VIRTUALLY THE DAY OF!](#)
    - CITY COUNCIL ZOOM PHONE NUMBER: (929) 205 6099
    - CITY COUNCIL ZOOM ACCESS CODE: 917 2757 4825
- **WEDNESDAY, 12/18/2024**
  - **@ 5:00 P.M. - TRAFFIC & PARKING STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING**
    - @ CITY HALL, ESTHER HOWLAND CHAMBER, 3RD FLOOR, 455 MAIN STREET
    - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW AGENDA!](#)
    - [CLICK HERE TO JOIN VIRTUALLY THE DAY OF!](#)
    - Public Works ZOOM Phone Number: (929) 205 6099
    - Public Works ZOOM Access Code: 928 9396 0051



**REMEMBER, YOU CAN ALWAYS LOOK BACK TO  
REVIEW OUR PREVIOUS ISSUES!**





# CITY OF WORCESTER

## CITY COUNCIL

### WEEKLY SUMMARY

## Events in the Community



### MEETS & GREET WITH DISTRICT 4 CITY COUNCILOR LUIS A. OJEDA - WHA LAFAYETTE PLACE APARTMENTS - 12/9



DISTRICT 4 CITY COUNCILOR LUIS A. OJEDA HOSTED A MEET-AND-GREET AT THE WORCESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (WHA) LAFAYETTE PLACE APARTMENTS ON DECEMBER 9TH. THE EVENT PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS OF THE GREEN ISLAND APARTMENT BUILDING TO VOICE THEIR CONCERNS AND SHARE IDEAS DIRECTLY WITH THEIR DISTRICT COUNCILOR.

COUNCILOR OJEDA ADDRESSED TOPICS SUCH AS HOUSING MAINTENANCE, NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT. HE EMPHASIZED HIS COMMITMENT TO WORKING WITH THE WHA TO ENSURE RESIDENTS' NEEDS ARE PRIORITIZED. THE GATHERING FOSTERED A SENSE OF COLLABORATION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE COUNCILOR AND LAFAYETTE PLACE RESIDENTS.

### RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY FOR GAMEDAY MEN'S HEALTH - 12/9

THE GAMEDAY MEN'S HEALTH RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY ON DECEMBER 9TH SHOWCASED A NEW RESOURCE DEDICATED TO IMPROVING MEN'S HEALTH. AT GAMEDAY MEN'S HEALTH, THEIR MISSION IS TO HELP MEN REGAIN THEIR VITALITY, CONFIDENCE, AND OVERALL WELL-BEING.

MAYOR JOSEPH PETTY SPOKE AT THE CEREMONY, CONGRATULATING OWNER JOE GARCIA AND HIS FAMILY ON OPENING A WORCESTER LOCATION.

DISTRICT 2 CITY COUNCILOR CANDY MERO-CARLSON ALSO ADDRESSED ATTENDEES, EMPHASIZING THE NEED FOR SPECIALIZED HEALTH SERVICES FOR MEN.

COUNCILOR AT-LARGE KHRYSTIAN E. KING WAS PRESENT AS WELL TO SHOW HIS SUPPORT FOR THE CLINIC'S EFFORTS.

GAMEDAY MEN'S HEALTH AIMS TO CREATE A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE STAFF AND PERSONALIZED CARE TO ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES OF HEALTH ISSUES. THE CLINIC'S APPROACH PRIORITIZES COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE, ENCOURAGING MEN TO TAKE CHARGE OF THEIR HEALTH.



### WREATH LAYING/REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY FOR FIREFIGHTER CHRISTOPHER ROY - 12/9

ON DECEMBER 9TH, 2024, A REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY WAS HELD AT THE WEBSTER SQUARE FIRE STATION HONORING FALLEN FIREFIGHTER CHRISTOPHER ROY, WHO TRAGICALLY LOST HIS LIFE BATTLING A FIRE IN A MULTI-FAMILY HOME ON LOWELL STREET IN 2018.

IN ATTENDANCE WERE, MAYOR JOSEPH PETTY, DISTRICT 4 COUNCILOR LUIS A. OJEDA, AND PUBLIC SAFETY STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON - COUNCILOR KATHLEEN TOOMEY WHO JOINED THE COMMUNITY IN PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROY, REFLECTING ON HIS SACRIFICE AND SERVICE.

A DISPLAY OF ROY'S FIREFIGHTER HELMET, SIMILAR TO THE ONE HE WORE, AND AN AXE ENGRAVED WITH THE WORD "PERSEVERANCE" SYMBOLIZED HIS DEDICATION AND BRAVERY. LOCAL 1009 PRESIDENT WILLIAM MOSLEY HIGHLIGHTED THE PROFOUND IMPACT ROY HAD DURING HIS SHORT CAREER AND EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF ENSURING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS THE RESOURCES AND STAFFING TO PREVENT FUTURE TRAGEDIES. THE EVENT SERVED AS A POIGNANT REMINDER OF THE SACRIFICES MADE BY FIRST RESPONDERS AND THE ENDURING GRATITUDE OF THE WORCESTER COMMUNITY.





# CITY OF WORCESTER

## CITY COUNCIL

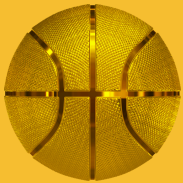
### WEEKLY SUMMARY

# Events in the Community



### **RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY FOR WORKBAR - 12/11**

THE RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY FOR WORKBAR'S NEW WORCESTER LOCATION CELEBRATED THE ADDITION OF A MODERN COWORKING SPACE IN THE HEART OF THE THEATRE DISTRICT. MAYOR JOSEPH M. PETTY HIGHLIGHTED THE ROLE OF WORKBAR IN FOSTERING COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION IN WORCESTER. DISTRICT 4 CITY COUNCILOR LUIS A. OJEDA ALSO SPOKE ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SUCH SPACES IN ENHANCING LOCAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS. ATTENDING THIS EVENT, BOTH MAYOR PETTY AND COUNCILOR OJEDA REINFORCED THE CITY'S DEDICATION TO SUPPORTING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INNOVATION.



### **DOHERTY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL COURT DEDICATION CEREMONY IN HONOR OF ENMANUEL "MANNY" FAMILIA - 12/13**

THE BASKETBALL COURT AT DOHERTY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL WAS OFFICIALLY NAMED THE ENMANUEL "MANNY" FAMILIA COURT, HONORING THE FORMER WORCESTER POLICE OFFICER AND DOHERTY ALUM WHO DIED HEROICALLY IN 2021 WHILE TRYING TO SAVE A TEENAGER FROM DROWNING. MAYOR JOSEPH PETTY SPOKE AT THE CEREMONY, EMPHASIZING THE COMMUNITY'S UNITY IN SECURING OFFICER FAMILIA'S LEGACY. COUNCILORS KHRYSTIAN E. KING AND LUIS A. OJEDA WERE ALSO IN ATTENDANCE, ALONGSIDE FAMILIA'S FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND A LARGE CROWD OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS. FAMILIA'S NO. 11 JERSEY WAS RETIRED DURING THE EVENT, WITH A FRAMED VERSION SET TO HANG IN THE NEW 18,000-SQUARE-FOOT GYMNASIUM.

FAMILIA'S BROTHER, ELVIN, COMPARED THE HONOR TO A BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME INDUCTION, CALLING IT AN EVEN GREATER TRIBUTE TO MANNY'S IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY. FAMILIA'S 16-YEAR-OLD SON, JOVAN, SHARED HOW BASKETBALL SHAPED HIS FATHER'S CHARACTER AND INSPIRED THOSE AROUND HIM. THE CEREMONY HIGHLIGHTED FAMILIA'S HEROISM, BOTH ON AND OFF THE COURT, AS WELL AS HIS ENDURING LEGACY IN WORCESTER.



*Enmanuel 'Manny' Familia*  
**ENMANUEL "MANNY" FAMILIA COURT**

*Enmanuel 'Manny' Familia*  
**ENMANUEL "MANNY" FAMILIA COURT**





### Worcester Announces Permanent Winter Parking Ban in Effect Dec. 1 Through April 30



The City of Worcester announced Friday November 22, it's **Permanent Winter Parking Ban** will go into effect **Dec. 1, 2024**, and will remain through **April 30, 2025 (April 1 for residential streets)**. The Permanent Winter Parking Ban applies to emergency arteries, WRTA bus routes, and streets that are critical to the flow of traffic. There is no parking on one or both sides of the affected street between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. nor any time a snow emergency is declared.

In addition to the Permanent Winter Parking Ban, a Declared Winter Parking Ban will go into effect on all other city streets whenever accumulating snow is forecast. When a declared ban is in effect, parking is allowed only on the odd-numbered side of other streets, unless posted otherwise, and municipal parking garages will be free to use until noted following the ban's lifting. Parking enforcement—including ticketing and towing—will be active during a Declared Ban, as adherence to parking bans is critical to allow municipal crews to keep roadways clear and safe.

Worcester 311 is the official source for up-to-date information on winter parking bans, parking regulations on your street, and snow complaints.

#### For the latest updates on winter parking bans:

- Sign up for [ALERTWorcester](#) and receive notifications to your phone or email
- Follow Worcester 311 on [Twitter \(X\)](#) and [Facebook](#)
- Watch Government Access Channel 192

Illegally parked vehicles are the biggest obstacle to effective snow removal efforts. Vehicles that violate the winter parking ban or otherwise hinder snow removal will be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense. Please support the municipality's efforts by parking your vehicle in conformance with the winter parking ban. Back to Announcements List

#### Winter Parking Rules

Winter parking bans on public streets fall under two categories, **PERMANENT** and **DECLARED**.

- **A PERMANENT BAN** remains in effect from December 1st through April 30th on Emergency Arteries, WRTA Bus Routes, and streets that are critical to the flow of traffic. There is no parking on one or both sides of the street between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. and anytime a snow emergency is declared.
- **A DECLARED BAN** is put into effect on all remaining city streets whenever accumulating snow is forecast. When a Declared Ban is in effect, restrictions apply that typically allow parking on one side of the street.

**CLICK HERE FOR FULL WINTER PARKING BAN INFORMATION  
AND TO LOOK UP YOUR STREET SPECIFICALLY!**





# CITY OF WORCESTER

## CITY COUNCIL WEEKLY SUMMARY

# YOUR City Councilors

WORCESTER'S CITY COUNCIL CONSISTS OF ELEVEN COUNCIL MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE MAYOR & COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE, JOSEPH M. PETTY. THESE ELEVEN ELECTED OFFICIALS SERVE AS THE LEGISLATIVE BODY OF THE CITY. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS AND NEEDS OF THEIR CITY AND COMMUNITY.

THERE ARE SIX COUNCILORS-AT-LARGE AND FIVE COUNCILORS THAT EACH REPRESENT A SPECIFIC DISTRICT IN WORCESTER (DISTRICTS 1-5).

IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF WHO YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILOR IS, [CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT!](#)

### AT-LARGE CITY COUNCILORS



**MAYOR**  
JOSEPH M. PETTY



**VICE CHAIRMAN**  
KHRYSTIAN E. KING



MORRIS A.  
BERGMAN



THU  
NGUYEN



KATHLEEN M.  
TOOMEY



DONNA M.  
COLORIO

### DISTRICT CITY COUNCILORS



**DISTRICT 1**  
JENNY PACILLO



**DISTRICT 2**  
CANDY MERO-CARLSON



**DISTRICT 3**  
GEORGE J. RUSSELL



**DISTRICT 4**  
LUIS A. OJEDA, SR.



**DISTRICT 5**  
ETEL HAXHIAJ





**CITY COUNCIL**  
WEEKLY SUMMARY

# Upcoming *Holiday* Events

- **MONDAY, DECEMBER 16 @ 12:00 P.M. @ WHA LEWIS STREET APARTMENTS, 38 LEWIS STREET - WORCESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY (WHA) LEWIS STREET APARTMENTS RESIDENT HOLIDAY MEAL**
- **MONDAY, DECEMBER 16 @ 3:00 P.M. @ WHA GREENWOOD GARDENS APARTMENTS, 327 GREENWOOD STREET - WORCESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY (WHA) GREENWOOD GARDENS APARTMENTS RESIDENT HOLIDAY MEAL**
- **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17 @ 12:00 P.M. @ WHA CURRAN TERRACE APARTMENTS, 201N PROVIDENCE STREET - WORCESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY (WHA) CURRAN TERRACE APARTMENTS RESIDENT HOLIDAY MEAL**
- **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17 @ 3:00 P.M. @ WHA 1050 MAIN STREET APARTMENTS, 1050 MAIN STREET - WORCESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY (WHA) 1050 MAIN STREET APARTMENTS RESIDENT HOLIDAY MEAL**
- **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18 @ 3:00 P.M. @ WHA 275 PLEASANT STREET APARTMENTS, 275 PLEASANT STREET - WORCESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY (WHA) 275 PLEASANT STREET APARTMENTS RESIDENT HOLIDAY MEAL**
- **MONDAY, DECEMBER 16 @ 3:00 P.M. @ WHA GREENWOOD GARDENS APARTMENTS, 327 GREENWOOD STREET - WORCESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY (WHA) LAFAYETTE PLACE APARTMENTS RESIDENT HOLIDAY MEAL**

Please check back for more events to follow!!





# UPCOMING *COMMUNITY MEETINGS*

- **WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 18 -**

- **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT (CPA) FUNDING - PUBLIC FEEDBACK FORUM (SPANISH LANGUAGE)**
  - TIME: 5:30 P.M.
  - WHERE: WORCESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY (WPL), 3 SALEM SQUARE
- **INDIAN LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**
  - TIME: 6:00 P.M.
  - WHERE: GREENDALE BRANCH Y.M.C.A, 75 SHORE DRIVE

- **THURSDAY - DECEMBER 19 -**

- **STRATTON HILL PARK APARTMENTS CRIME WATCH MEETING**
  - TIME: 5:00 P.M.
  - WHERE: STRATTON HILL APARTMENTS, 161 MOUNTAIN STREET W. - ADAMS HOUSE COMMUNITY ROOM
- **MILL STREET ARE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**
  - TIME: 6:00 P.M.
  - WHERE: STEARNS TAVERN, 72 COES STREET





**NEW**

**WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL**  
**MEETING SCHEDULE – 2025**

**January**

January 7 – **Joint Agenda**

January 14 – **City Council Agenda**

January 21 – **City Manager Agenda**

January 28 – **City Council Agenda – Finance**

**February**

February 4 – **City Manager Agenda**

February 11 – **City Council Agenda**

February 18 – **No Meeting – School Break**

February 25 – **Joint Agenda – Finance**

**March**

March 4 – **City Manager Agenda / Econ. Dev.**

March 11 – **City Council Agenda**

March 18 – **City Manager Agenda**

March 25 – **City Council Agenda – Finance**

**April**

April 1 – **City Manager Agenda**

April 8 – **City Council Agenda**

April 15 – **City Manager Agenda**

April 22 – **No Meeting – School Break**

April 29 – **Joint Agenda – Finance**

**May**

May 6 – **City Council Agenda**

May 13 – **City Manager Agenda**

May 20 – **No Meeting – Budget Hearings**

May 27 – **No Meeting – Budget Hearings**

**June**

June 3 – **No Meeting – Shavuot**

June 10 – **Joint Agenda**

June 17 – **City Council Agenda**

June 24 – **City Manager Evaluation**

**July**

July 1 – **No Meeting**

July 8 – **No Meeting**

July 15 – **Joint Agenda**

July 22 – **No Meeting**

July 29 – **No Meeting**

**August**

August 5 – **No Meeting**

August 12 – **No Meeting**

August 19 – **Joint Agenda**

August 26 – **No Meeting**

**September**

September 2 – **No Meeting – Mun. Prelim.**

September 9 – **Joint Agenda / Econ. Dev.**

September 16 – **City Manager Agenda**

September 23 – **No Meeting – Rosh Hashanah**

September 30 – **Joint Agenda – Finance**

**October**

October 7 – **No Meeting – Sukkot**

October 14 – **No Meeting –**

**Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah**

October 21 – **Joint Agenda – Finance**

October 28 – **No Meeting – Early Voting**

**November**

November 4 – **No Meeting – Mun. Election**

November 11 – **Joint Agenda**

November 18 – **City Council Agenda – Fin.**

November 25 – **City Manager Agenda**

**December**

December 2 – **No Meeting – Holiday**

December 9 – **Joint Agenda**

December 16 – **City Council Agenda – Fin.**

December 23 – **City Manager Agenda**

December 30 – **No Meeting – School Break**

Each Meeting convenes at 6:30 p.m. in the Esther Howland (South) Chamber on the Third Floor of City Hall, 455 Main Street. The only exceptions are in the months of July and August, when meetings convene at 6:00 p.m.