



CITY OF WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

WEEKLY SUMMARY

1/27/2025 - 1/31/2025



CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 1/28/2025

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FULL AGENDA & MINUTES!](#) [CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE MEETING!](#)



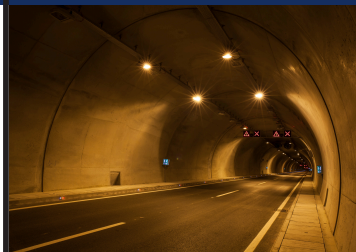
CITY COUNCIL ADVANCES ORDER DETAILING "IMPS"

ITEM 9B

REQUEST CITY MANAGER PROVIDE CITY COUNCIL WITH A REPORT DETAILING THE PROCESS FOR MOVING FORWARD WITH INSTITUTIONAL MASTER PLANS (IMPS).

THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPTED AN ORDER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REQUESTING THE CITY MANAGER PROVIDE THE CITY COUNCIL WITH A REPORT DETAILING THE PROCESS FOR MOVING FORWARD WITH INSTITUTIONAL MASTER PLANS (IMPS)

IMPS ARE DEVELOPMENT PLANS USED BY CERTAIN LARGE INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS HOSPITALS AND UNIVERSITIES THAT ALLOW THEM TO GROW AND DEVELOP THROUGH LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS WITH APPROVED GUIDELINES FROM COMMUNITY INPUT.



CITY COUNCIL ADVANCES ORDER REGARDING THE ERNEST A. JOHNSON TUNNEL

ITEM 10Q

REQUEST CITY MANAGER PROVIDE CITY COUNCIL WITH AN UPDATE CONCERNING ANY SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE OVER THE LAST 4 YEARS AT THE ERNEST A. JOHNSON TUNNEL

THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL ADVANCED AN ORDER REQUESTING THE CITY MANAGER PROVIDE THE CITY COUNCIL WITH AN UPDATE CONCERNING ANY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULED OVER THE LAST 4 YEARS AT THE ERNEST A. JOHNSON TUNNEL

OPENED IN 1956, THE ERNEST A. JOHNSON TUNNEL RUNS UNDER LINCOLN SQUARE INTO DOWNTOWN WORCESTER. THE TUNNEL WAS CLOSED IN MAY 2023 FOR CONSTRUCTION-RELATED ACTIVITIES AND RECENT REPORTS HAVE MADE CERTAIN ESTIMATES FOR REPAIRS MADE TO RE-OPEN THE TUNNEL AND ESTIMATES FOR PERMANENT CLOSURE.



CITY OF WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

WEEKLY SUMMARY

1/27/2025 - 1/31/2025

Standing Committee Meetings

MUNICIPAL & LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS

MET ON TUESDAY, 1/28/2025



- CHAIRPERSON - **COUNCILOR MORRIS BERGMAN- AT-LARGE CITY COUNCILOR**
- VICE CHAIRPERSON - **COUNCILOR LUIS OJEDA- DISTRICT 4 CITY COUNCILOR**
- COMMITTEE MEMBER - **COUNCILOR DONNA COLORIO - AT-LARGE CITY COUNCILOR**

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

• TUESDAY, 2/4/2025

◦ @ 6:30 P.M. - **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

- @ CITY HALL, ESTHER HOWLAND CHAMBER, 3RD FLOOR, 455 MAIN STREET
- [CLICK HERE TO VIEW FULL AGENDA!](#)
- [CLICK HERE TO JOIN VIRTUALLY THE DAY OF!](#)
- City Council ZOOM Phone Number: +1 646 828 7666
- City Council ZOOM Access Code: 161 363 1913

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





UPCOMING *COMMUNITY MEETINGS*

- **MONDAY - FEBRUARY 3 -**

- **DTM VISION ZERO SAFETY ACTION PLAN COMMUNITY FEEDBACK**

- TIME: 6:00 P.M.
- WHERE: WORCESTER SENIOR CENTER, 128 PROVIDENCE STREET

- **WEDNESDAY- FEBRUARY 5 -**

- **WORCESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY MEETING**

- TIME: 2:00 P.M.
- WHERE: 1050 MAIN STREET

- **WORCESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY MEETING**

- TIME: 3:30 P.M.
- WHERE: 1060 MAIN STREET

- **SEABURY HEIGHTS APARTMENTS NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**

- TIME: 4:00 P.M.
- WHERE: SEABURY HEIGHTS APARTMENTS, 240 BELMONT ST, BUILDING B

- **THURSDAY - FEBRUARY 6 -**

- **LINCOLN VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**

- TIME: 4:00 P.M.
- WHERE: VICTORIA BUILDING, 116 COUNTRY CLUB BLVD.

- **PACT NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**

- TIME: 5:30 P.M.
- WHERE: NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK CENTER, 301 PLEASANT STREET

- **DTM VISION ZERO SAFETY ACTION PLAN COMMUNITY FEEDBACK**

- TIME: 6:00 P.M.
- WHERE: [VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM \(CLICK HERE\)](#)



Events in the Community



2025 ANNUAL STATE OF THE LAKES - 1/30

VICE CHAIRMAN KHRYSTIAN KING, CHAIR OF THE URBAN TECHNOLOGIES, INNOVATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, ATTENDED THE ANNUAL STATE OF THE LAKES MEETING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LAKES AND PONDS PROGRAM.

THE EVENT FOCUSED ON IMPROVING THE CITY'S WATERWAYS WITH THE SUPPORT OF VOLUNTEERS, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, AND WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY.

MAYOR JOE PETTY AND CITY MANAGER ERIC BATISTA KICKED OFF THE EVENT WITH REMARKS EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING THE CITY'S BLUE SPACES AND OUTLINING PLANS TO SUPPORT THE ONGOING EFFORTS.



"I'VE KNOWN RIVERS: AFRICAN AMERICAN AND LABOR" - 2/1

MAYOR JOE PETTY, VICE CHAIRMAN KHRYSTIAN KING, SENATOR ROBYN KENNEDY, REPRESENTATIVE DAVID LEBOEUF, AND CITY MANAGER ERIC BATISTA SPOKE AT THE KICK-OFF EVENT FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN WORCESTER. THIS FREE ART EXHIBITION, WHICH RUNS FROM FEBRUARY 1 TO FEBRUARY 28 AT THE WORCESTER CENTER FOR CRAFTS, HIGHLIGHTS THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LABOR IN THE UNITED STATES.

SIXTEEN ARTISTS FROM WORCESTER AND ACROSS NEW ENGLAND ARE FEATURED, WITH NEARLY 50 WORKS OF ART IN A VARIETY OF MEDIUMS. THE EXHIBITION TITLE IS INSPIRED BY A POWERFUL LANGSTON HUGHES POEM, WHOSE BIRTHDAY COINCIDED WITH THE OPENING CEREMONY. THE OCCASION WAS HONORED DURING A LIBATION CEREMONY, A TRADITIONAL YORUBA PRACTICE TO PAY RESPECTS TO OUR ANCESTORS.



Events in the Community



ECOTARIUM 2025 LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION - 2/1

MAYOR JOE PETTY, DISTRICT 2 CITY COUNCILOR CANDY MERO-CARLSON AND STATE SENATOR MICHAEL MOORE ATTENDED THE ECOTARIUM'S 2025 LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION. MAYOR PETTY AND COUNCILOR MERO-CARLSON SPOKE TO THE GATHERED CROWD BEFORE INTRODUCING A LIVE LION DANCE PERFORMANCE BY THE SUN LION DANCE TEAM FROM THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN COALITION OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS.

THE LUNAR NEW YEAR IS A CELEBRATION OF THE ARRIVAL OF SPRING AND THE BEGINNING OF A NEW YEAR ON THE LUNISOLAR CALENDAR. COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE SPRING FESTIVAL IN CHINA, THE LUNAR NEW YEAR IS A 15-DAY CELEBRATION MARKED BY MANY TRADITIONS. 2025 IS THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE, SYMBOLIZING CHARM, INTELLIGENCE, AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE.



ECOTARIUM GROUND HOG DAY CELEBRATION - 2/2

MAYOR JOE PETTY, DISTRICT 2 CITY COUNCILOR CANDY MERO-CARLSON AND STATE SENATOR MICHAEL MOORE AT THE ECOTARIUM TO CELEBRATE GROUND HOG DAY. THIS AGE-OLD TRADITION THAT IS CELEBRATED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ON FEBRUARY 2ND EACH YEAR HAS A WORCESTER TWIST AT THE ECOTARIUM. CORNELIA, THE RESIDENT GROUNDHOG AT THE ECOTARIUM, PREDICTED 6 MORE WEEKS OF WINTER AS THEY SAW THEIR SHADOW ON SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2ND. THIS FUN TRADITION STARTED AT THE ECOTARIUM IN 2021 AND HAS BROUGHT JOY TO FAMILIES EVER SINCE.

GROUNDHOG DAY HAS BEEN CELEBRATED FOR OVER 100 YEARS IN THE UNITED STATES, ORIGINATING FROM PUNXSUTAWNEY PENNSYLVANIA IN 1887. THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE GATHER IN PUNXSUTAWNEY TO WATCH THEIR GROUNDHOG, "PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL" MAKE THEIR WINTER PREDICTION. IF PHIL SEES HIS SHADOW, THEN SIX MORE WEEKS OF WINTER WILL ENSUE. IF PHIL DOES NOT SEE HIS SHADOW, THEN AN EARLY SPRING WILL ARRIVE. OVER THE SPAN OF THIS TRADITION, THERE HAS ONLY BEEN 20 TIMES WHEN PHIL DID NOT SEE HIS SHADOW, MOST RECENTLY IN 2024. JUST LIKE CORNELIA, PHIL SAW HIS SHADOW, MARKING SIX MORE WEEKS OF WINTER.



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



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.