



CITY OF WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

WEEKLY SUMMARY

6/17/2025 - 6/23/2025



CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 6/17/2025

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



ITEM 10.4B

ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2026 - FISCAL YEAR 2030 HOUSING PRODUCTION PLAN.

THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL HEARD COMMUNICATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGARDING THE CITY'S HOUSING PRODUCTION PLAN THAT SPANS OVER THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2030. HOUSING PRODUCTION PLANS PROVIDE A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK TO ASSESS HOUSING NEEDS, ESTABLISH DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES, AND GUIDE LOCAL POLICIES TO EXPAND AFFORDABLE HOUSING. THE CREATION OF THE HOUSING PRODUCTION PLAN IS A KEY OBJECTIVE OF THE CITY'S STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE DECADE. THIS PLAN REFLECTS ROBUST DATA ANALYSIS AND PUBLIC INPUT TO TARGET POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ALIGNED WITH WORCESTER'S HOUSING NEEDS. THIS ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.



ITEM 10.10B

COMMUNICATION RELATIVE TO THE TREE PLANTING UPDATE OF 2025

THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL HEARD COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW) RELATIVE TO THE TREE PLANTING UPDATE OF 2025. DPW'S FORESTRY OPERATIONS CONTRACTED THE "DAVEY RESOURCE GROUP" IN 2022 TO CONDUCT A FULL SURVEY OF ALL EXISTING TREES, STUMPS, AND POSSIBLE OPEN PLANTING LOCATIONS IN THE CITY IN ACCORDANCE TO THE WORCESTER URBAN FOREST MASTER PLAN. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE, THE DPW FORESTRY OPERATIONS PLANTED 359 TREES. THE CITY WILL PROCEED THROUGH THE REMAINDER OF 2025 AND 2026 TO EXPEDITE PLANTINGS TO MEET THE CITY'S GOAL OF 2000 NEW PLANTED TREES. THIS ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.



CITY OF WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

WEEKLY SUMMARY 6/17/2025 - 6/23/2025

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

• TUESDAY, 6/24

- @ 5:00 P.M. - **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**
 - @ CITY HALL, ESTHER HOWLAND CHAMBER, 3RD FLOOR, 455 MAIN STREET
 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FULL AGENDA](#)
 - [CLICK HERE TO JOIN VIRTUALLY THE DAY OF!](#)
 - CITY COUNCIL ZOOM PHONE # +1 646 828 7666
 - ZOOM ACCESS CODE: 161 554 7889
- @ 6:30 P.M. - **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**
 - @ CITY HALL, ESTHER HOWLAND CHAMBER, 3RD FLOOR, 455 MAIN STREET
 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FULL AGENDA!](#)
 - [CLICK HERE TO JOIN VIRTUALLY THE DAY OF!](#)
 - CITY COUNCIL ZOOM PHONE #: 1 646 828 7666
 - ZOOM ACCESS CODE: 161 363 1913

Check out our previous newsletters!





Events in the Community

JUNETEENTH FLAG RAISING - 6/19

JUNETEENTH COMMEMORATES JUNE 19, 1865, WHEN THE LAST ENSLAVED PEOPLE IN GALVESTON, TEXAS, RECEIVED WORD OF THEIR FREEDOM—EVEN THOUGH PRESIDENT LINCOLN’S EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION HAD TAKEN EFFECT MORE THAN TWO YEARS EARLIER. IN WORCESTER, THE BLACK HERITAGE COMMITTEE MARKED THE OCCASION WITH A FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY OUTSIDE THE YWCA CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS.



PHOTO CREDIT: JAIMEFLORESPHOTOGRAPHY

ATTENDEES WERE REMINDED THAT WHILE JUNETEENTH WAS A MAJOR MILESTONE IN THE LIBERATION OF AFRICAN AMERICANS, IT DID NOT MARK THE END OF THEIR STRUGGLE. VICE CHAIR KHRYSTIAN KING SPOKE ABOUT THE ONGOING FIGHT FOR EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW AND THE LINK BETWEEN HISTORICAL AND PRESENT-DAY CIVIL RIGHTS BATTLES.

MANY ELECTEDS WERE PRESENT INCLUDING MAYOR PETTY, COUNCILOR HAXHIAJ, COUNCILOR NGUYEN, SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER MAILMAIN, CONGRESSMAN MCGOVERN, STATE SENATOR KENNEDY, AND STATE REPRESENTATIVE LEBOEUF.

VICE CHAIRMAN KING SUPPORTS NEW BUSINESSES - 6/16

VICE CHAIRMAN KHRYSTIAN KING RECENTLY TOURED A NEW TATTOO SHOP OPENING DOWNTOWN. HE’S ASSISTING THE BUSINESS OWNER WITH NAVIGATING THE PERMIT PROCESS AND WANTED TO INSPECT THE SPACE FIRSTHAND TO BETTER ADVOCATE WITH CITY DEPARTMENTS. SECURING PERMITS CAN BE ESPECIALLY CHALLENGING FOR FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS, AND REACHING OUT TO A COUNCIL MEMBER FOR GUIDANCE CAN PROVIDE VALUABLE SUPPORT IF YOU FEEL STUCK OR UNSURE HOW TO MOVE FORWARD.





Events in the Community

HONORARY STREET SIGN UNVEILING EDDIE MEKKA WAY - 6/21



THE LIFE OF EDDIE MEKKA WAS HONORED ON SATURDAY, JUNE 21ST AS FAMILY AND FRIENDS GATHERED TO UNVEIL AN HONORARY STREET IN EDDIE MEKKA'S NAME. MAYOR JOE PETTY, VICE CHAIRMAN KHRYSTIAN KING, AND DISTRICT 2 COUNCILOR CANDY MERO-CARLSON ALL ADDRESSED THE CROWD. EDDIE MEKKA WAS BORN IN WORCESTER AND ATTENDED BURNCOAT HIGH SCHOOL WHERE HE GRADUATED AND WENT ON TO ACT IN BROADWAY SHOWS IN NEW YORK CITY. EDDIE IS MOST KNOWN AS "THE BIG RAGOO" IN THE "LAVERNE & SHIRLEY" HIT TV SHOW. EDDIE MEKKA GOT HIS FIRST ROLE IN "FIDDLER ON THE ROOF" WHICH WAS PLAYED AT CLARK UNIVERSITY IN WORCESTER.

FRIENDLY HOUSE FAMILY SHELTER COMMUNITY MEETING - 6/18



ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, DISTRICT 4 CITY COUNCILOR LUIS OJEDA AND FRIENDLY HOUSE CO-HOSTED A COMMUNITY DISCUSSION ABOUT A NEW FAMILY SHELTER OPENING AT 15 BIRCH STREET. THE SHELTER—FOCUSED EXCLUSIVELY ON FAMILIES—ADDRESSES A CRITICAL NEED IN WORCESTER AMID THE ONGOING HOUSING CRISIS. DISTRICT 5 CITY COUNCILOR ETEL HAXHIAJ ALSO ATTENDED AND SHARED HER EXPERIENCES BOTH AS A COUNCILOR OVERSEEING SHELTERS IN HER DISTRICT AND IN HER PROFESSIONAL WORK WITHIN THE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FIELD. REPRESENTATIVE LEBOUF WAS ALSO IN ATTENDANCE.



DURING THE MEETING, LOCAL RESIDENTS RAISED THEIR CONCERNS, AND FRIENDLY HOUSE STAFF RESPONDED WITH DETAILED ANSWERS AND FEEDBACK. MOVING FORWARD, THEY EMPHASIZED THEIR COMMITMENT TO OPEN COMMUNICATION WITH NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS, NOTING THAT THE SHELTER WILL BE STAFFED 24/7 AND WILL ADHERE TO ALL STATE GUIDELINES.



UPCOMING COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- **MONDAY - JUNE 23 -**

- **BURNCOAT SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE**
 - TIME: 6:00 P.M.
 - WHERE: BURNCOAT SENIOR HIGH, 179 BURNCOAT ST

- **WEDNESDAY - JUNE 25 -**

- **WHITTIER TERRACE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**
 - TIME: 4:00 P.M.
 - WHERE: WHITTIER TERRACE, 86 AUSTIN STREET
- **QUINSIGAMOND VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**
 - TIME: 6:00 P.M.
 - WHERE: JOURNEY COMMUNITY CHURCH, 46 GREENWOOD STREET

- **THURSDAY - JUNE 26-**

- **COLUMBUS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**
 - TIME: 6:00 P.M.
 - WHERE: STEARNS TAVERN, 72 COES STREET

- **MONDAY, JUNE 30 -**

- **GREEN HILL NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**
 - TIME: 6:30 P.M.
 - WHERE: ST. BERNARD'S CHURCH, 228 LINCOLN STREET

- **WEDNESDAY, JULY 2 -**

- **SEABURY HEIGHTS APARTMENTS NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**
 - TIME: 4:00 P.M.
 - WHERE: SEABURY HEIGHTS APARTMENTS, 240 BELMONT STREET



City Hall Parking Updates

The City of Worcester announced Thursday new parking updates at City Hall, including relocating spaces available for public visitor parking from the garage to Main Street, effective Monday, June 23. In support of operational changes to enhance security, the garage at City Hall will be available for use by authorized vehicles only.

To provide short-term visitors a convenient option, nine new 30-minute on-street parking spots will be established in front of City Hall on Main Street along with two handicapped parking spaces on Franklin Street on the south side of City Hall.

Also starting Monday, June 23, visitors to City Hall will enter through the front entrance on Main Street where they will pass through a security checkpoint and then check in at a visitor kiosk where they will receive a visitor badge. Access through the Worcester Common entrance will be restricted to the public restrooms.

“These parking updates are critical to our newly implemented security measures,” said City Manager Eric D. Batista. “This will allow for a single point of entry for visitors to be screened so we have a clear account of who is in the building and what they are doing if an emergency were to ever take place. The new 30-minute parking spots will allow for convenient visitation in addition to the many nearby garages and lots. I want to thank the departments of Emergency Management & Communications, Transportation & Mobility, and the Worcester Fire Department for their interdepartmental work to bring these changes to fruition.”

Once the garage restrictions are in place, non-employee visitors who drive to City Hall will need to choose from one of several nearby parking options. In addition to the new 30-minute and handicapped spaces, on-street parking is also provided on Main Street, Front Street, Federal Street, and other locations near City Hall. Most of these spaces have a 2-hour limit and are metered (\$1.50 per hour).

Longer-term parkers may find one of the many public parking garages or parking lots downtown more convenient. These include municipally operated Pearl Elm garage (900 ft.), Federal Plaza (900 ft.), Worcester Common Garage (1500 ft.), and the McGrath Library lot (1500 ft.). In addition, City Hall is served by the WRTA routes 2, 3, 6, 7, 19, 27, 31, and 33. Many services available at City Hall may also be conducted at the Worcester 311 Customer Service Center at 799 Main St.



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.