



CITY OF WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

WEEKLY SUMMARY

7/14/2025 - 7/20/2025



CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 7/15/2025

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



ITEM 6A INFORMATIONAL COMMUNICATION RELATIVE TO THE ERNEST A. JOHNSON TUNNEL

THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL HEARD COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW) REGARDING THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE ERNEST A. JOHNSON TUNNEL. THE TUNNEL, OPENED IN 1956, IS A ONE-WAY TUNNEL RUNNING FROM MAIN STREET TO LINCOLN STREET IN AN ATTEMPT TO ALLEVIATE TRAFFIC AT LINCOLN SQUARE. THE TUNNEL HAS BEEN CLOSED SINCE 2023 AND THERE IS CURRENTLY A MULTI-HOUSING PROJECT BEING CONSTRUCTED DIRECTLY ABOVE THE TUNNEL. DPW BROUGHT FORWARD COMMUNICATION TO INFORM THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CURRENT CLOSURE OF THE TUNNEL AND HOW THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT WILL HAVE TO INSPECT THE STRUCTURE OF THE TUNNEL TO CONTINUE THEIR PROJECT WORK.



ITEM 11A INFORMATIONAL COMMUNICATION RELATIVE TO THE USE OF EMERGENCY WARMING & COOLING CENTERS FOR THE LAST 2 YEARS

THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS GAVE INFORMATIONAL COMMUNICATION REGARDING THE USE OF EMERGENCY WARMING AND COOLING CENTERS IN WORCESTER OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS. EMERGENCY WARMING AND COOLING CENTERS ARE ACTIVATED DURING EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS, USING CRITERIA DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE MUNICIPALITY AND ITS METEOROLOGISTS AND BASED UPON BEST PRACTICES FROM LIKE-SIZED CITIES. THE CITY OF WORCESTER HAS ACTIVATED WARMING AND COOLING CENTERS ON 18 OCCASIONS IN THE PAST TWO YEARS AT VARYING LOCATIONS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR RESIDENTS DURING THOSE CHALLENGING WEATHER DAYS.



Standing Committee Meetings

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

MET ON TUESDAY, 7/15/2025

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



- CHAIRPERSON - **COUNCILOR CANDY MERO-CARLSON - DISTRICT 2 CITY COUNCILOR**
- VICE CHAIRPERSON - **COUNCILOR JENNY PACILLO - DISTRICT 1 CITY COUNCILOR**
- COMMITTEE MEMBER - **COUNCILOR KATE TOOMEY - AT LARGE CITY COUNCILOR**

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- **TUESDAY, 7/22**

- **PUBLIC HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE**

- WHERE: ESTHER HOWLAND CHAMBER, CITY HALL, 3RD FLOOR, 455 MAIN STREET
- WHEN: 5:00 P.M.
- [CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FULL AGENDA!](#)
- [CLICK HERE TO CALL INTO THE MEETING ON THE DAY OF!](#)
 - ZOOM PHONE NUMBER: +1 646 828 7666
 - ZOOM ACCESS CODE: 160 382 3487



Events in the Community



WHEELABRATOR PLANT TOUR- 7/17

DISTRICT 1 CITY COUNCILOR JENNY PACILLO WAS INVITED TO TOUR THE WHEELABRATOR TRASH PLANT IN MILLBURY WITH JOHN WESTERLING, COMMISSIONER OF THE WORCESTER DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW). THE WHEELABRATOR PLANT OPENED IN 1987 AND PRODUCES ENERGY-FROM-WASTE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING 45 MW OF ELECTRICITY – ENOUGH CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY TO POWER 47,000 HOMES IN THE TOWN OF MILLBURY, WORCESTER, AND SURROUNDING CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITIES AS WELL AS ITS OWN OPERATIONS. THE FACILITY USES UP TO 1,500 TONS OF EVERYDAY WASTE FROM HOMES AND BUSINESSES EACH DAY AS A LOCAL FUEL TO CREATE A LOCAL-ENERGY ECOSYSTEM THAT GENERATES RELIABLE, RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR THE LOCAL UTILITY. BY USING WASTE MATERIALS AS A FUEL TO PRODUCE ELECTRICITY, WE OFFER AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY WASTE DISPOSAL OPTION AND REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON LANDFILLS.

ECOTARIUM 200TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION - 7/19



THE ECOTARIUM NATURAL SCIENCE MUSEUM CELEBRATED THEIR 200TH BIRTHDAY ON SATURDAY JULY 19TH. DISTRICT 2 CITY COUNCILOR CANDY MERO-CARLSON, DISTRICT 4 CITY COUNCILOR LUIS OJEDA, STATE SENATOR MICHAEL MOORE, AND CONGRESSMAN JIM MCGOVERN WERE IN ATTENDANCE TO CELEBRATE THE OCCASSION. COUNCILOR MERO-CARLSON FOLLOWED HER REMARKS WITH KEYS TO THE CITY FOR 3 ECOTARIUM EMPLOYEES. DEBRA SHEAR, KATIE CHAPPELL, AND NOREEN JOHNSON-SMITH. THE DAY WAS FILLED WITH ALL SORTS OF EXHIBITS AND EVENTS TO CELEBRATE 200 YEARS OF TEACHING FAMILIES AND FRIENDS ABOUT OUR NATURAL WORLD. THE CITY COUNCIL WISHES THEM THE HAPPIEST 200TH BIRTHDAY AND LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL 200 YEARS!



Events in the Community



YMCA FULLER FAMILY PARK RIBBON CUTTING - 7/17

DISTRICT 4 CITY COUNCILOR LUIS OJEDA JOINED MAYOR JOE PETTY AND CITY MANAGER ERIC BATISTA FOR THE GRAND OPENING OF THE YMCA'S FULLER FAMILY PARK. SEVERAL SPEAKERS REFLECTED ON THE THREE-YEAR PROCESS IT TOOK TO BRING THIS PROJECT TO LIFE. THE UPGRADED PARK NOW FEATURES A NEW PLAYGROUND, WALKING TRACK, SPLASH PAD, AND MULTI-SPORT COURT. THE YMCA WILL USE THE SPACE FOR ITS PROGRAMMING, WHICH PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN THE MAIN SOUTH COMMUNITY. RESIDENTS CAME OUT IN FULL FORCE TO CELEBRATE THE PARK'S OPENING, ENERGIZED BY THE NEW INVESTMENT IN THIS IMPORTANT NEIGHBORHOOD SPACE.

EAST REGION SR SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT - 7/19

COUNCILOR AT-LARGE KATE TOOMEY DELIVERED THE WELCOME ADDRESS AT THE 2025 EAST REGION SENIOR SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT ON SATURDAY MORNING. IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY TO KICK OFF THE TOURNAMENT, WHICH BEGAN WITH A SPIRITED BANNER CONTEST, WON BY THE TEAM FROM CONNECTICUT.

COUNCILOR TOOMEY SHARED WORDS OF SUPPORT FOR THE YOUNG WOMEN REPRESENTING WORCESTER AND OFFERED ENCOURAGEMENT TO ALL THE TEAMS PARTICIPATING. SHE ALSO REMINDED EVERYONE TO TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK THEIR FAMILIES AND COACHES FOR HELPING THEM REACH THIS EXCITING MILESTONE.





Events in the Community

TOUR OF NEW BUSINESS AT 333 PLEASANT STREET - 7/17

Seabra Foods

DISTRICT 4 CITY COUNCILOR LUIS OJEDA RECENTLY TOURED A NEW GROCERY STORE SET TO OPEN SOON IN THE PLEASANT STREET NEIGHBORHOOD. THE STORE SPECIALIZES IN ETHNIC FOODS IMPORTED FROM PORTUGAL, SPAIN, BRAZIL, AND OTHER SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

IN ADDITION TO A DIVERSE SELECTION OF INTERNATIONAL GROCERIES, THE LOCATION WILL ALSO FEATURE A PORTUGUESE BAKERY AND A BRAZILIAN RESTAURANT. A BAR AREA WILL OFFER IMPORTED BEER AND WINE.

STAY TUNED FOR THEIR GRAND OPENING IN THE COMING WEEKS!



RIBBON CUTTING - 7/15

PLANET FITNESS EXPANDED THEIR WORCESTER PORTFOLIO WITH ANOTHER LOCATION. THIS NEW LOCATION IS IN DOWNTOWN WORCESTER IN THE MERCANTILE CENTER AT 100 FRONT STREET. THE CELEBRATIONS INCLUDED MAYOR JOE PETTY, VICE CHAIRMAN KHRYSTIAN KING, CITY MANAGER ERIC BATISTA, AND THE WORCESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. IN ADDITION TO THE FESTIVITIES, PLANET FITNESS ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WERE MAKING A DONATION TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF WORCESTER. PLANET FITNESS IS PROUD TO BOLSTER THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY OF WORCESTER.





UPCOMING COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- **WEDNESDAY - JULY 23-**

- **WHITTIER TERRACE APARTMENTS NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**

- TIME: 4:00 P.M.
- WHERE: WHITTIER TERRACE APARTMENTS, 86 AUSTIN STREET

- **QUINSIGAMOND VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**

- TIME: 6:00 P.M.
- WHERE: THE JOURNEY COMMUNITY CHURCH, 46 GREENWOOD STREET

- **THURSDAY - JULY 24-**

- **COLUMBUS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**

- TIME: 6:00 P.M.
- WHERE: STEARNS TAVERN, 72 COES STREET

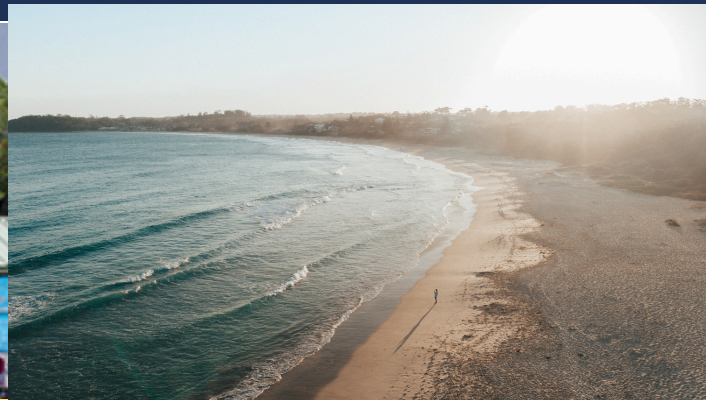
- **MONDAY - JULY 28 -**

- **GREEN HILL NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**

- TIME: 6:30 P.M.
- WHERE: ST. BERNARD'S CHURCH, 228 LINCOLN STREET

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





City Beaches, Pools, and Spray Parks

The City of Worcester has made significant investment into its parks, playgrounds, pools and beaches in recent years. A park of note is Coes Pond Park for its updated accessibility features. This park offers the region's first state-of-the-art, universally accessible, multigenerational park and playground. This park and playground is a place for all ages and abilities to exercise, play, enjoy nature and relax. Many of the other parks offer updated playgrounds, fields, water features, and endless opportunities to explore nature. The Parks Division is seeking seasonal lifeguards to join our team in keeping our community pools and beaches safe. If you are interested in joining the Parks Division, please view our [Seasonal Employment Opportunities](#).

The City of Worcester has one pool, three spray parks and four beaches. The City is also home to three state beaches and pools. All sites are normally open to the public from 12 to 7 p.m. every day beginning July 1.

- [Bell Pond Beach](#)
- 238 Belmont St., Worcester, MA
- [Coes Pond/John J. Binienda Memorial Beach](#)
- 180 Mill St., Worcester, MA
- [Cristoforo Colombo/East Spray Park](#)
- 180 Shrewsbury St., Worcester, MA
- [Crompton Park Pool](#)
- 50 Canton St., Worcester, MA
- [Greenwood Spray Park](#)
- 14 Forsberg St., Worcester, MA
- [Indian Lake Beach](#)
- 20 Clason Rd., Worcester, MA
- [Shore Park Beach](#)
- 115 Shore Dr. , Worcester, MA
- [University \(Crystal\) Spray Park](#)
- 115 965 Main St. , Worcester, MA



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.