

## **REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**February 20, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by President Murphy-Romboletti at 7:03 PM

The Clerk called the roll. Present Members in person 12 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley, Devine, Givner, Greaney, Jourdain, Murphy-Romboletti, Ocasio, I. Rivera, J. Rivera, Sullivan, Vacon). Present Members on Zoom 1 (Magrath-Smith).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion was made and seconded to take a roll call vote that for the purposes of this meeting would be applicable to all motions to receive, to refer items to committee, remove items from the table, place items on the table, package items together, comply with items, or suspend the rules, unless there is an objection.

The name of Councilor Devine was pulled to head the roll call voting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Daphne Board, 197 Pine Street, stated that she was against agenda item 2, which would put a reduction of CPA on the ballot. She then stated that she watched the last Council meeting and heard a lot of misinformation and manipulation of numbers and this brought her right back to the outright lies printed on mailers from the No on 5/ anti-CPA committee. She added that back in October 2016, voters were lied to about the automatic exemption of \$100k in property value and were told "there are no automatic exemptions. You must apply every year!!" She emphasized that this was on the mailer. She also noted that the mailer stated that "Town[s] are told the towns get matching funds from the State CPA Coalition, but the State's share drops over the mandatory 5 year period." She added that this was also not true, but was still on the anti-CPA campaign website, along with "agenda 21" conspiracy theories and a slam against more "low income housing". She then suggested that two weeks ago, a councilor misrepresented how much we get for CPA and where it actually comes from. She added that the amount collected locally hasn't doubled in five years. She further suggested that the councilor took the 2018 local amount only and compared it to last year and said it had doubled because of property values rising, adding that she did not believe this was accurate. She then stated that the state match adds a lot to the amount the city collects. She then suggested that the city should be happy that the state gave the city almost \$220,000 the previous year for being part of this program, asking "isn't that why we're in this?" She then asked why the numbers needed to be manipulated or if the voters deserved to be lied to.

Councilor Bartley raised a point of order. He then suggested that the prior speaker was suggesting that the Law Department, as the department that reviews the language of ballot questions, lied.

Mary Hurley, 72 Lower Westfield Road, stated that there was an ongoing issue with disposal pickup as a violation of ordinance section 38. She thanked Councilor Vacon and Councilor Bartley for their help in trying to get a company to stop violating the ordinance, noting that pickup was occurring between 4-4:30

a.m. She noted that this should not take place between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. She then explained that the issue was twice referred to the Law Department and a response was to be received by that evening's meeting. She then explained that the first incident had been on July 31st at Valley Springs, about 350-400 feet from their residence. She questioned what the delay was.

Linda Pratt, 39 St. Kolbe Drive, quoted from a statement at the last City Council meeting, "when this started, it collected approximately \$450,000 a year. Through no change in the percentage, the amount collected has now doubled in that period of time, not because the percentage increase but because the values of homes have increased." She then stated that the state's website, CommunityPreservation.org, Holyoke's taxpayers had contributed \$497,814 to the CPA in 2018. She added that the figure was \$592,314 in 2023. She emphasized that this was an increase of less than \$100,000. She added that additional funding had come from the state. She recognized that property taxes had gone up due to rising values but the amount collected for the CPA surcharge had not doubled. She then suggested that if the question was to be put on the ballot, the public should be given accurate information.

Nathan Chung, 192 Walnut Street, stated that he intended to attend in person but chose to stay home due to gunshots in the area. He then expressed a hope that the city would come up with solutions to prevent gunshots rather than reacting after they occur. He then suggested that if the CPA question was put on the ballot as a cost-saving measure, including actual numbers explaining how much people would expect to save would be helpful. He noted that with the current median value of homes in Holyoke being \$236,800, the average homeowner would expect to pay around \$39 for CPA after taking out the first \$100,000 of value. He added that the reduction would bring that bill down to \$26 a year. He asked that this information be put on the ballot.

Councilor Bartley raised a point of order. He then expressed frustration with the rhetoric. He then emphasized that the Law Department was the department that would be writing the ballot question and putting together the summary. He suggested that they focus their efforts at that department instead of casting aspersions at the Council.

### **LAID ON THE TABLE**

(10:20)

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up item 8 out of order.

From Sean Mangano, Executive Director of Finance, "Permission for the Superintendent of Schools to submit Statements of Interest to the MA School Building Authority for invitation into the Accelerated Repair Program for potential roof replacements at the Holyoke High, Kelly, Sullivan, McMahon and Donahue Schools."

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to allow Whitney Anderson, Maintenance Administrator for Holyoke Public Schools, to address the Council.

W. Anderson stated that this was a non-appropriation resolution in regard to 5 school building improvement projects. He explained that the School Department acts as the City Council's agent in these matters. He then stated that this authorization would allow him to file statements of interest to seek initiation into the state program with an annual application process. He added that once the invitation is approved, the Council would then be able to study the opportunity depending on what is allowed to be considered and what the costs would be. He emphasized that there was not yet any approval of cost needed.

Councilor Jourdain asked Mr. Anderson to explain the 5 votes.

W. Anderson stated that there were 5 individual votes, noting that every job had freestanding authority to be acted on by the School Building Authority. He then explained that it was in their best interest to submit as many applications as possible to see if they would be invited into the program. He also explained that this would come with an 80% reimbursement. He then stated that the 5 votes followed his looking at the age of the roofs at Holyoke High School, Kelly School, Sullivan School, McMahan School, and Donahue were all eligible for reimbursement, with each one requiring a separate vote.

Councilor Greaney emphasized that these had been ongoing problems for many years. He then asked what percentage the city would get back from the state.

W. Anderson stated that they were accelerated repair programs offered by the state. He noted that they were no longer allowing boilers to be submitted. He then explained that the three eligible programs were windows and doors, exterior doors, and roofs, all at an 80% reimbursement.

Councilor Sullivan stated that he attended the basketball game at the high school the previous night, and observed the deplorable conditions the stairs were in. He asked if those would qualify under this program.

W. Anderson stated that repairs were on their radar for those stairs.

Councilor Sullivan asked if they would qualify.

W. Anderson stated that they would not as part of this program. He then stated that when the high school was renovated in 2011, a portion of the staircase was replaced as well as all of the guardrails. He further explained that smaller projects like that did not qualify.

Motion was made and seconded to approve all 5.

President Murphy-Romboletti read from the language of the vote for:

*"Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on February 20, 2024, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the City Council of Holyoke, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated February 28, 2024 for the Holyoke High School 210 Whiting Farms Rd. (also Kelly School, Sullivan School, McMahan School, Donahue School) which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future. Priority #5 - Replacement, renovation or*

*modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City of Holyoke to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority."*

---> Received and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 13--Nays 0--Absent 0.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up Late File A out of order.

Devine- Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, SEVENTEEN THOUSAND NINETY FIVE AND 00/100 Dollars (\$17,095) as follows:

FROM:

12402-53010 CONTRACTED SERVICES-BUILDING/CODES \$17,095

TOTAL: \$17,095

TO:

12401-51110 LOCAL INSPECTOR \$17,095

TOTAL: \$17,095

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Monday, February 20, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Devine stated that this transfer would allow the Building Department to hire a new inspector, adding that the funds were there for the position.

Councilor Vacon noted that rules had to be suspended to take final action on the same night for a late file.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take final action.

Councilor Jourdain expressed support as it was budget neutral and coming from within the department's budget. He added that it was consistent with the salary paid to the former employee in this position. He emphasized that they were looking to extend an offer to someone but had to wait for this to be approved.

Councilor Vacon expressed support for this, noting that it was better to have someone in the department on a regular basis rather than relying on outside contractors.

Councilor Greaney asked if the \$17,000 was full salary or partial.

Councilor Jourdain stated that it was just for this fiscal year.

Councilor I. Rivera asked if that meant starting from now or the whole fiscal year.

Councilor Jourdain stated that it started from now.

---> Passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 13--Nays 0--  
Absent 0.

President Murphy-Romboletti asked if item 1 should remain laid on the table.

Councilor Givner stated that it should. She then stated that she had contacted HG&E and understood that a pole petition would need to be done.

Givner- With community support, order that a street light be installed between 31 and 33 O'Connor Ave on the odd side of the street. There have been multiple vehicle break ins here. A light would provide pedestrian safety and deter vehicle break ins on this very dark section of the street.

-Ordinance / Copy to DPW

---> Laid on the table.

Motion was made and seconded to remove item 2 from the table.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the ballot question approved by the City Council be placed on the ballot on November 4, 2024 as referenced in the 9/26/23 decision by Judge Mulqueen.

Ballot Question

Shall the City of Holyoke amend the current Community Preservation Act real estate surcharge, as established in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of Chapter 44B of the Massachusetts General Laws, and which amendment of such surcharge is permissible pursuant to Section 16 of Chapter 44B of the Massachusetts General Laws, and approved by its legislative body, from 1.5% to 1.0%, a summary of which appears below?

(with revised dates)

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Community Preservation Act Ballot Question and Draft Summary Ballot Question

Shall the City of Holyoke amend the current Community Preservation Act real estate surcharge, as established in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of Chapter 44B of the Massachusetts General Laws, and which amendment of such surcharge is permissible pursuant to Section 16 of Chapter 44B of the Massachusetts General Laws, and approved by its legislative body, from 1.5% to 1.0%, a summary of which appears below?

Summary of Question

On October 3, 2023, the City Council voted, without taking a position, to place a question on the ballot which will allow voters to reduce the current Community Preservation Act real estate surcharge from 1.5% to 1.0%. The question will be approved, and the real estate surcharge shall be so reduced, if a majority of the voters voting on the ballot question vote "yes". The question will not be approved, and the real estate surcharge shall remain the same, if a majority of the voters voting on the ballot question vote "no"

On November 8, 2016, the voters of the City of Holyoke voted to accept Sections 3 to 7 of Chapter 44B, known as the Community Preservation Act (hereinafter referred to as the "Act\*"). By accepting the Act, a

funding source was established to enable the City of Holyoke to: (1) acquire, create and preserve open space, which includes land for parks, playgrounds and athletic fields; (2) acquire, preserve and rehabilitate historic resources such as historic community buildings and artifacts; and (3) acquire, create, and preserve and support community housing to help local families meet their housing needs. By accepting the Act, a surcharge of 1.5% was assessed on real estate on an annual basis beginning in Fiscal Year 2018. Exempted from the surcharge are: (1) property owned and occupied as a domicile by any person who would qualify for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in the City of Holyoke, as defined in Section 2 of the Act; (2) \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential real property; and (3) \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of class three, commercial property, and class four, industrial property as defined in section 2A of said chapter 59. A taxpayer receiving a regular property tax abatement or exemption will also receive a pro rata reduction in the surcharge. Any taxpayer seeking a low income or senior exemption shall apply for said exemption annually to the City of Holyoke.

Recommended that the order be adopted.

#### UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Vacon stated that if this was adopted to put on the ballot, the dates in the summary would need to change to reflect the current date.

Councilor Givner expressed her understanding that the Law Department had information to share.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to allow Atty Degnan to address the Council.

Atty Degnan stated that during the Finance Committee discussion, she expressed concern as to whether this had been correctly the first time and any related liability that could cause, later determining there was not liability. She then explained that she then received questions which led the department to seek out the language of the actual vote the first time around. She then noted that her first opinion was that the Council first had to vote on the reduction and then vote to place it on the ballot. She then stated that she was told it wasn't done that way. She then stated that a lot of meetings took place on this, with a lot of work done, and watched discussion in one DGR meeting where the committee approved the 1.5% surcharge. She then explained that the DGR report containing the 1.5% surcharge as well as the ballot question were then adopted at the next City Council meeting. She then explained that while questions came up around the language that stated, "without taking a position," the language was in the summary and not in the questions itself. She then emphasized that the statute regulated what the question had to be, the Council could put anything it wanted to in the summary. She then expressed her opinion that it was done right the first time. She then explained that this would have to be done the same way as the first time, voting on the surcharge reduction and then voting on the ballot question.

Councilor I. Rivera stated that while it seemed the opposite of what he previously thought, it now made sense after being broken down. He added that he had been under the impression the Council never voted on taking a position. He then suggested that the same steps were not being taken this time.

Atty Degnan stated that it was in terms of the vote.

Councilor I. Rivera stated that it would be if the Council took a vote on the surcharge.

Councilor Devine asked to clarify that two votes would be taken, one to reduce the CPA and then another for the ballot question.

Atty Degnan stated that it would. She then explained that when it was done before, they voted on the rate and the ballot question at the same time, but it had to be clear the vote was for both.

Councilor Devine stated that the Finance Committee voted to send it out of committee but without a recommendation. She then stated that she was originally against the CPA when it was first done but had since seen the great things it had done and would be voting against the reduction.

Councilor Jourdain clarified that just one vote was taken in June of 2016. He then recalled that Council reviewed what the DOR (Department of Revenue) approved. He then expressed that the public needed to be allowed to vote, echoing his position when this issue came up in 2016. He added that some felt their taxes had been going up too much, noting that the levy had increased from \$28 million in 1999 to \$63 million currently. He also stated that the CPA had done lots of great work and many noble things had come out of it. He then suggested that it was not on the Council to decide that the public shouldn't get to vote. He then stated that the amount collected had nearly doubled since it started. He then clarified that he had not argued that it was exclusively through property taxes that it went up. He then suggested that if this was reduced, it would then be comparable to the original amount taken. He then suggested that while the Council would be taking a vote to support the reduction to 1%, the summary could still contain the language that the Council was not taking a position.

Atty Degnan stated that it could be done that way, emphasizing that the statute did not regulate what was done in the summary.

Councilor Jourdain stated that the language should be kept the same way, adding that the vote on the reduction was just a procedural step.

Councilor Vacon asked if the language in the order, other than the dates, was correct.

Atty Degnan stated that the language could be kept in the summary. She then stated that the ballot question in the order, which read, "*Shall the City of Holyoke amend the current Community Preservation Act real estate surcharge, as established in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of Chapter 44B of the Massachusetts General Laws, and which amendment of such surcharge is permissible pursuant to Section 16 of Chapter 44B of the Massachusetts General Laws, and approved by its legislative body, from 1.5% to 1.0%, a summary of which appears below,*" is what was done last time. She reiterated that this is okay.

Councilor Vacon stated that she just wanted to verify that the language being discussed was the same as last time.

Atty Degnan reiterated that she also wanted to be sure there was no liability and was confident there was none.

Councilor Vacon asked to confirm that the language did not need to be changed.

Atty Degnan stated that the Council just had to make sure it voted for the reduction.

Councilor Vacon stated that was done the first time by voting on the rate and the question.

Atty Degnan stated that it was done together, which was fine as long as it was clear that the rate was being voted on. She noted that in 2016, this topic was discussed. She also reiterated that the DGR report included the ballot question and the rate.

Councilor Vacon stated that 1% rate was a compromise worked out in the Finance Committee last year and presented to Council. She then stated that it was the same thing presented this year after the mayor vetoed it due to disagreement with the timing of the vote. She added that he already indicated that he would allow it to move forward once the Council votes on it. She then suggested that however people take the vote, the Council would not be taking a position. She also stated that a citywide petition was submitted from citizens asking for this question to be put on the ballot.

Councilor Greaney stated that he was able to get information from the Auditor on all of the historic preservation, open space, recreation, and affordable housing projects that the CPA funded from 2018 to 2023. He then suggested that the public see the information so that they can make informed decisions. He added that the information was broken down by ward. He also stated that the Auditor provided records which showed the total revenue of the CPA to date was \$4,417,923, the total expenses were \$2,798,040, the total authorized grants were \$3,369,979, the reserved for expenditures was \$571,939, leaving \$1,047,944 in available cash. He then expressed his support for putting it on the ballot.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos noted that the item on the agenda had two parts. He then asked to clarify that it was okay to take one vote on both items.

Atty Degnan stated that in 2016, the 1.5% was voted on and the rate was voted on by the City Council, followed by a vote on the ballot question. She then stated that they had two documents but took them up together. She then reiterated that the Council had to take a vote on the reduction of the rate and then approve the ballot question.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that it sounded like two votes had to be taken on one agenda item.

Atty Degnan stated that is what happened the last time, adding that they had two reports that were both taken up, and they accepted the two reports.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos asked if the body was legally required to take one vote for the ballot question and one vote for the rate change. He emphasized that this was one order.

Atty Degnan stated that the body had to. She then stated that while the reduction was in the ballot question, the Council had to take a vote on the reduction before a vote on the ballot question, which was what was done before.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos asked if they did it correctly.



Atty Degnan stated that they did. She added that the law required the legislative body to accept the statute by setting the surcharge. She then stated that the Council accepted the CPA by setting the rate in 2016, and then they approved the ballot question. She then suggested that the confusion in this case was that the statute was already accepted, but that a vote had to be taken to reduce the rate.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos emphasized that he promised that he would support putting it on the ballot this term, and he planned to keep his promise. He then expressed frustration with flyers that were sent out by the group, Let's Keep Holyoke Affordable, that had false information. He further explained that among the statements on the flyer, it stated "the CPA is a tax on homeowners, the CPA is bad for business, the CPA requires funding for more low-income housing," noting that this was similar to a statement made by a councilor about section 8 housing at a recent Taxpayers Association event. He added that the flyer also stated that "there are no automatic exemptions. You must apply every year." He then suggested that this was a lie. He then suggested that if a councilor wanted to keep their integrity, they shouldn't 'side with a group like this that was feeding lies to the community. He then asked that rather than spending energy on damaging something that was benefiting the community, councilors should spend their time trying to build the community.

Councilor Magrath-Smith noted that the first line of the summary stated that the Council was not taking a position. She then asked if taking a vote on the reduction was taking a position.

Atty Degnan stated that was how it was done last time. She then explained that the DOR did not say the Council could not do that. She further explained that as the summary was not set by statute, the Council could put those things in there.

Councilor Devine asked what would happen if the Council voted against the 1%.

Atty Degnan stated that nothing would happen and it would not get on the ballot, emphasizing the Council had to vote to approve the surcharge to put it on the ballot.

Councilor Greaney stated that this was a business decision for the residents and the information was available for the residents to get.

Councilor Jourdain suggested that both parts be done in one vote, emphasizing that the adoption of the rate was procedural to allow the question to get to the ballot because it would only be approved subject to the votes of the residents. He added that the language in the summary would make clear the Council would be neutral and not taking a position. He then sought to clarify that at the Taxpayers Association meeting, no councilors said anything disparaging but were complimentary about the Housing Authority and their mission. He noted that his only question was to be sure that Holyoke was getting its fair share of Section 8 housing.

Councilor I. Rivera stated that while he was hearing that the question was hashed out in the DGR Committee in 2016, and then went to the full Council for a vote to put it on the ballot. He then stated that he had not heard the Council voted for the rate.

Atty Degnan stated that they did.

Councilor I. Rivera asked if they did that at full Council or in DGR.

Atty Degnan stated that DGR set the rate and then the full Council adopted that rate.

Councilor I. Rivera asked how DGR could set the rate on its own.

Atty Degnan stated that full Council voted to adopt it, noting that the full Council could have voted not to accept it. She then reiterated that the Council voted to adopt the rate and the ballot question.

Councilor I. Rivera suggested that it sounded like the vote for the rate was done in the committee and not at full Council.

Atty Degnan stated that the rate was in the committee report when the Council voted to accept it.

Councilor I. Rivera asked if they voted to put it on the ballot at the same time with the same rate.

Atty Degnan stated that it was written to accept the rate and to accept the ballot question, adding that they didn't separate it out but did the same thing. She then explained that in this case, the Council was not accepting the statute but trying to reduce the rate.

Councilor I. Rivera stated that it sounded like that wasn't done the first time, but that two things were done in one vote while now the Council was being asked to do two separate things.

Atty Degnan stated that it was clear what they did the first time. She then explained that the committee report set the rate and put the question on the ballot, and it was done all at the same time.

Councilor I. Rivera suggested that were engaging in smoke and mirrors but throwing out numbers and data but leaving out some facts in order to push out a narrative. He then suggested that while councilors were agreed on putting the question on the ballot, it wasn't as clear that the process was being done the right way.

Councilor Sullivan asked to confirm that what was done the first time was done correctly.

Atty Degnan stated that it was.

Councilor Sullivan recalled that when this was done the first time, the committee had a choice from 0.5% to 3% and chose to pick something in the middle. He added that there were several meetings and public hearing, discussion of getting more from the state at a higher percentage or not getting anything below a certain percentage and found that 1.5% was getting a fair amount from the state. He then noted that he was against it, it passed, and now he was an advocate for it.

Councilor Magrath-Smith asked if the Council would be in favor of amending the summary to allow for more clarity in terms of the outcome, specifically what the average single family homeowner was paying and what they would save with the reduction.

Atty Degnan stated that while it could be done, it should indicate what the rate would be, what the exemptions would be and who they would apply to. She then asked if the suggestion was to show what the impact would be on taxpayers.

Councilor Magrath-Smith stated that the goal of putting the question on the ballot was to give taxpayers a chance to lower their taxes so it made sense that they understood what they were voting for. She suggested that many voters may not be clear what 1.5% meant for them.

Atty Degnan stated that the information should be accurate but she was unclear where that would be located.

Councilor Magrath-Smith stated that she was able to get the information from the Tax Collector's office.

Atty Degnan asked if the suggestion was to put the information on the ballot summary.

Councilor Magrath-Smith stated that it was.

Atty Degnan stated that she would like to look at it first before determining if it could go on there, noting that the statute did not address this question.

Councilor Vacon expressed concern that this was becoming too far afield, emphasizing that if this information for homeowners was put into the summary, there would also need to be information for business owners who were more impacted economically. She added that to be fair, the status of the CPA account and how it would be impacted would also need to be included. She then expressed faith that voters could figure out how this would affect them. She also suggested that the summary was to provide information and not to make an argument one way or the other. She then called for the vote to be taken.

Councilor I. Rivera asked if this would be one vote or two.

Atty Degnan suggested that there first be a vote to take a vote on the reduction from 1.5% to 1.0%.

Councilor Jourdain made a motion to adopt the reduction and adopt the language of the ballot question. Councilor Vacon seconded the motion.

Councilor Devine suggested that there should be one vote on the percentage and then a vote on the ballot question, noting that the whole thing fails if the percentage questioned failed.

Councilor Vacon stated that the motion in order would include the question.

Atty Degnan stated that the motion was in order, emphasizing that there had to be a vote on accepting the rate and then accepting the ballot question. He then explained that while she was saying there were two issues that needed to be voted on, both could be done in one vote.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that there was a motion prior to that.

Councilor Devine clarified that there was a motion to vote on the rate, and then vote on the ballot question depending on what happens with the first vote.

Councilor Greaney noted that if the Council voted on the rate, it was taking a position. He added that the object was to not take a position.

Councilor Jourdain noted that Councilor Devine's motion to take the votes separately was not seconded, and that the motion to combine the votes was seconded and recognized by the Chair.

President Murphy-Romboletti asked if the intent was to take one vote or two.

Councilor Jourdain stated that it would be one vote, as long as both elements are clear in the motion.

Councilor Vacon asked Atty Degnan to ensure that the motion was in order.

Atty Degnan stated that as long as both elements are voted on, they can be voted on at the same time or separated.

Councilor Jourdain noted that the only change was changing October 3, 2023 to the current date.

President Murphy-Romboletti added that the date of the election would be changed from November 4, 2024 to November 5, 2024.

Councilor Ocasio asked to clarify that if she had to pick one of the options when she voted.

Councilor Jourdain stated that it would be all in one vote.

Councilor I. Rivera raised a point of order, questioning that some councilors could suggest one way to do it and everyone had to go along. He suggested that it could also be done in two votes.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that a motion was made and seconded, and that was how she was proceeding.

---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Denied on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 6 (Bartley, Greaney, Jourdain, Ocasio, Sullivan, Vacon)--Nays 7--Absent 0.

Motion was made and seconded to reconsider the previous action.

Councilor Greaney raised a point of order, asking if democracy was allowing people to vote.

President Murphy-Romboletti asked if that was a point of order.

---> Laid on the table.

## COMMUNICATIONS

(1:26:25)

From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter reappointing Ms. Gladys Lebron-Martinez of 224 Elm St. Holyoke to serve as a Commissioner on the Holyoke Housing Authority. Mr. Lebron-Martinez will service a five-year term, expiring on April 1, 2029.

---> Received and appointment confirmed.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 4 and 7 as a package.

From City Clerk Brenna Murphy McGee and Admin. Assistant Jeffery Anderson-Burgos, minutes from the February 6, 2024 meeting

---> Received and Adopted.

From HEDIC, meeting minutes from December 12, 2023 meeting

---> Received.

From Jane Mantolesky, Assistant City Solicitor, Approval of Zoning Ordinance Amendment

---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

Communication from Jane Mantolesky, Assistant City Solicitor, letter regarding \$300,000 transfer

---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up item 16 out of order.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$300,000) as follows:

FROM:

8810-10400 CITY STABILIZATION \$300,000

TOTAL: \$300,000

TO:

19412-57630 CLAIMS & DAMAGES \$300,000

TOTAL: \$300,000

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be denied.

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine  
Kocayne Givner  
Michael Sullivan  
Kevin A. Jourdain  
Linda L. Vacon

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Devine stated following the meeting, she felt that the way this was handled was wrong. She questioned taking something up not on the agenda in a subcommittee was wrong. She suggested that this be sent back to committee to have a discussion with the Law Department.

Councilor Jourdain stated that the only thing wrong with what occurred was that rule 4D was not being followed which established that tabled items should already be posted on the agendas. He then suggested that the system breaks down when rules aren't followed. He then stated that it was a practice committees needed to get back into. He then suggested that there should be consideration between items that were put into committee versus items that had actually been tabled. He emphasized that this item was actually tabled at a previous meeting and should have been on the agenda. He then explained that this item was brought up and sent out. He then suggested that a motion to remove it from committee could be made to pull it from committee to properly take it up.

Councilor Jourdain made a motion to remove the item from the Finance Committee. Councilor Bartley seconded the motion.

Councilor Devine made a motion to request a roll call vote.

Councilor Jourdain noted that requesting a roll call vote required 3 members to ask for it.

Councilor I. Rivera seconded the motion. Councilor Givner thirded the motion.

Motion passed on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 11--Nays 2 (Devine, Givner)--Absent 0.

Councilor Jourdain made a motion that the order be denied. Councilor Bartley seconded the motion.

Councilor Bartley questioned why it would need to go back to committee. He explained that there were two executive sessions to discuss this matter and while he couldn't talk about the specifics issues, claims and damages was for settling a lawsuit. He then expressed concern that this was coming out of stabilization for a departmental matter. He emphasized that the department wasn't taking a hit. He then explained the Council was now allowed to amend financial orders. He then clarified that while he did not oppose the payment, he opposed the process, adding that it was a departmental problem they caused.

Councilor Jourdain explained that the motion to deny was due to previous rulings that financial orders couldn't be given a leave to withdraw. He then expressed his understanding that another proposal would be coming to reconfigure the money, which would make this proposal unnecessary.

Councilor Devine asked for clarification of what a yes or no vote meant.

Councilor Jourdain stated that a yes vote would be to deny the transfer based on the Council's recommendation while a no vote would be to adopt the transfer.

---> Passed two readings and Denied on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 11--Nays 2 (Devine, Givner)--Absent 0.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

(1:41:15)

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that as St. Patrick's Parade season was starting, Admin Asst Anderson-Burgos had been sending out reminder emails for various events. She then stated that there was a headcount needed for the Ambassador's Breakfast taking place the morning of March 17th before the parade.

She also stated that the March 5th Council meeting was rescheduled to March 6th due to the Presidential Primary.

She also stated that several councilors attended the Coronation Ball and Awards Night over the weekend. She then offered congratulations to the Colleen Court, specifically to Elizabeth Gourde who was crowned Grant Colleen. She then noted that the Parade Committee award winners and colleens would be coming in for the March 6th meeting.

She then stated that the Taxpayers Association and the Chamber of Commerce would be hosting a reception for elected officials on Thursday, April 11th at Gary Rome, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

She then offered a reminder that this was the first meeting with the new rule that meetings end at 10 p.m.

Councilor Bartley noted that this would be the 10th year inviting the Parade Committee in but the first year the Caledonian Pipe Band would not be joining. He noted that they would have been good for the 5th but were booked on the 6th. He then stated that he was able to get a band from Manchester, Connecticut who will coincidentally be marching in the parade for the first time in many years.

Councilor J. Rivera, on behalf of herself and Councilor Sullivan, asked for a moment of silence for two families who recently lost loved ones due to being hit by vehicles in the city.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of the two residents recently passed.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(1:46:35)

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 9 and 10 as a package.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order With community support, order that all ordinances and charter rules reflecting city council and city council subcommittee meeting notices be

updated to reflect acceptance of email as sufficient method of notice, and city website posting as sufficient method of public notice.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order has been complied with.

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera  
Linda L. Vacon  
Meg Magrath-Smith  
David K. Bartley  
Jenny Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor I. Rivera stated that the intent was to address how notice was being handled, and that the committee considered it complied with since Charter and Rules was currently doing the real work on this order.

---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the Director of the Office of Planning & Economic Development be authorized to provide a flexible work schedule for PSA members. Flexible work schedule will allow for evening meetings to be incorporated into the formal work day. A flexible schedule will still be required to fulfill the 35 hours a week requirement. All additional contractual and ordinances related to these positions will be adhered to.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order has been complied with.

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera  
Linda L. Vacon  
Meg Magrath-Smith  
David K. Bartley  
Jenny Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor I. Rivera stated that Personnel Director, Kelly Curran, explained that these matters were handled during union negotiations which made it difficult to make one blanket rule.

---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up item 11 and 12 as a package.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order Per constituent request, order that the handicap placard be removed from 277 Walnut St as resident Jane Pafford has moved.



have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera  
Linda L. Vacon  
Meg Magrath-Smith  
David K. Bartley  
Jenny Rivera

---> Report of Committee received and the Ordinance passed its first reading.

The Ordinance passed its second reading.

The Ordinance was passed to be enrolled.

The Committee has considered the same and find that it is truly and properly enrolled.

Report of Enrollment received.

The Ordinance was passed to be Ordained and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--

Yeas 13--Nays 0--Absent 0.

Approved by the Mayor.

12. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the handicap sign located in front of 184 Sargeant St be removed.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera  
Linda L. Vacon  
Meg Magrath-Smith  
David K. Bartley  
Jenny Rivera

---> Report of Committee received and the Ordinance passed its first reading.

The Ordinance passed its second reading.

The Ordinance was passed to be enrolled.

The Committee has considered the same and find that it is truly and properly enrolled.

Report of Enrollment received.

The Ordinance was passed to be Ordained and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--

Yeas 13--Nays 0--Absent 0.

Approved by the Mayor.

(1:53:10)

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the "2024 MASSDEP RECYCLING DIVIDENDS/SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS RECOVERY PROGRAM , \$9,100, NO MATCH " grant and

authorizes the establishment of a Fund or other method appropriate for the accounting of the receipts and expenditures of all resources associated with the administration of said grant.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine  
Kocayne Givner  
Michael Sullivan  
Kevin A. Jourdain  
Linda L. Vacon

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Devine stated that there was a point system tied to this grant, with each point being worth \$1,300, leading to the grant's total being \$9,100.

---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--  
Yeas 13--Nays 0--Absent 0.

Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, NINETY THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY ONE AND 00/100 Dollars (\$90,861) as follows:

FROM:

12201-51105 FIREFIGHTER \$90,861

TOTAL: \$90,861

TO:

12201-51102 DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF \$65,588

12201-51300 OVERTIME 8,307

12201-51500 VACATION/PERSONAL DAY BUYBACK 4,506

12201-51510 SICK LEAVE/INCENTIVE BUYBACK 12,460

TOTAL: \$90,861

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine  
Kocayne Givner  
Michael Sullivan  
Kevin A. Jourdain  
Linda L. Vacon

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Devine stated that this was tied to the Deputy Chiefs' bargaining agreement of three years, which would enable them to be more active in rescues. She added that in regard to personal liability of

employees, it used to say that the Chief would assign an employee to light duty after 30 days of being injured on duty, but it had been lowered to 14 days. She also stated that Juneteenth had been added to their holidays. She also stated that they reduced the number of days they could work out of grade.  
---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--  
Yeas 13--Nays 0--Absent 0.  
Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the "FY2024 SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE (CSI), \$576,814.28, 25% MATCH PAID BY SUBRECIPIENTS" grant and authorizes the establishment of a Fund or other method appropriate for the accounting of the receipts and expenditures of all resources associated with the administration of said grant.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine  
Kocayne Givner  
Michael Sullivan  
Kevin A. Jourdain  
Linda L. Vacon

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Devine stated that this was a multifaceted grant that had been around for some time. She then explained that there were several local clubs, organizations, and police departments involved. She further explained that there would be several local youth programs for recreation, educational support, career development, and counseling.

Councilor Greaney asked for an explanation of the method of accounting of receipts and expenditures.

Councilor Devine stated that this was on every transfer and the Auditor usually takes care of that.

Councilor I. Rivera stated that the program had been around for at least 10 years and that great things had come out of it, but had questions about data on the impact, goals, and what was being measured. He noted that Eileen Cavanaugh from the Boys and Girls Club stated that the state was partnering with UMass and would be able to provide some of the data.

Councilor Devine

---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--  
Yeas 13--Nays 0--Absent 0.  
Approved by the Mayor.

**ORDERS AND TRANSFERS**

(2:04:30)

Jourdain, Vacon, Bartley- Ordered, amend Rule 6E by adding the following: that no member of the City Council shall make references to or about another member but in respectful terms whether inside or outside the City Council Chambers including on social media.

---> Received and referred to the Charter and Rules Committee.

Jourdain- That the city's Ethics Ordinance 2-69 be amended as follows:

a. That the city government shall create and maintain an Ethics and Compliance hotline for the City of Holyoke overseen by a professional, reliable, and independent hotline services provider for the purpose of eliminating waste, fraud and abuse in our city government. The program shall foster a strong "see something, say something" culture in Holyoke government.

b. The city shall take extensive efforts to spread the awareness of the hotline for use by everyone including but not limited to employees, managers, vendors, elected officials, regulators, and the general public;

c. It shall also provide various options for communicating information;

d. We shall ensure confidentiality, anonymity and protection from retaliation;

e. The ordinance and the hotline vendor itself shall establish clear-cut message handling and investigative procedures.

f. It is recommended that the Personnel Director and City Auditor shall be the city officials in charge of working with the hotline vendor to manage the hotline for all messages, incidents or complaints related to all city operations and departments except the school department. School department messages, incidents or complaints shall be managed by Superintendent of Schools or their designee.

g. The hotline vendor shall produce an annual report every January of the messages, incidents, or complaints of the prior calendar year to provide a statistical analysis by department in a way that reasonably balances confidentiality and the public's right to know. This annual report shall be published and provided to the City Council, Mayor and published on city website for public review.

h. The City Council may from time to time hold meetings with the hotline vendor and/or key city officials to review data and overall improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the program.

---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

Councilor Bartley asked to be added to item 17.

Jourdain, Vacon, Bartley- Ordered, add a new Rule 6G that no member shall make any external statements, social media posts, or texts regarding City Council business during any meeting of the City Council or its committees in the spirit of the open meeting law.

Councilor Bartley asked to be added to the order.

---> Received and referred to the Charter and Rules Committee.

Jourdain- Ordered, that the Treasurer pursuant to Ordinance 2-106 please provide the City Council with a report of all of the bonds currently in existence in the city for city officers (including his own). Please provide the name of individual, title, amount, name of surety company, and annual premium cost to the city.

Councilor Jourdain stated that there was an ordinance already requiring this, but it wasn't being provided.

Councilor Devine asked to clarify if the intent was that the Treasurer provide this report to each councilors.

Councilor Jourdain stated that there should be a list of every employee that had a bond.

Councilor Devine asked why it would be copied to Finance.

Councilor Jourdain stated that it would be to have a discussion or review.

---> Received and Adopted. Copy to Finance, Treasurer.

Jourdain- Ordered, that the Mayor, Administrative Assistant to the City Council, Tax Collector and Treasurer please review Ordinance 82-3A and please make sure it is being complied with relative to all future appointments that come before the City Council. That a copy of this order be sent to all named in this order.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos asked how the administrative assistant could enforce an ordinance.

Councilor Jourdain stated that the administrative assistant facilitates information that comes into the Council, including letters for appointees. He then explained that the ordinance required that the Council receive a report that taxes had been paid by appointees for city boards and commissions. He then explained that while it was on the Mayor and the Tax Collector to provide the reports, the administrative assistant can offer a reminder about them when appointment letters come through.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that it appeared the administrative assistant was being asked to enforce an ordinance.

Councilor Jourdain clarified that it was about reminding them to provide the reports when the paperwork comes through.

Councilor I. Rivera stated that he was not aware people serving on committees had to have a whole credit check.

Councilor Jourdain clarified that it wasn't credit check but just ensuring taxes were paid.

---> Received and Adopted. Copy to Mayor, Admin, Tax Collector, Treasurer.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 22, 24, 26, and 27 as a package.

Ocasio- Ordered that DPW or whoever is responsible, to do a street sweep and side walks clean up. All over South Holyoke.

---> Received and Adopted. Copy to DPW.

Ocasio- Ordered that DPW pave the hole in the alleys, do to safety for residents. And specifically Handicap that their way out in in the back.

Councilor Vacon asked if there was an address for this.

Councilor Ocasio stated that a majority of them only have a ramp to go out through the back.

Councilor Vacon suggested that the order be amended so that they know where to go.

Councilor Ocasio stated that she would give them the information.

---> Received and Adopted. Copy to DPW.

Ocasio- Ordered that the DPW go back and clean up where they cut the branches in corner of East and Sargent St

---> Received and Adopted. Copy to DPW.

Ocasio- Ordered that DPW follow up on Sign on sidewalk that people hard to get by with wheelchair, electric scooters and parents with strollers.

President Murphy-Romboletti asked if this was at the intersection of Cabot and South Summer.

Councilor Ocasio stated that it was right at that corner.

---> Received and Adopted. Copy to DPW.

Councilor Devine asked for a moment of silence for Eileen Minkley, noting that her husband, Ed, was a postal carrier in the city for a long time. He added that she worked for the RMV.

A moment of silence was observed for Eileen Minkley.

Ocasio- Who responsibility to get names to remove Handicap sign when individuals no longer live there.

---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

Ocasio- Ordered that Someone who is in charge of Shool Buses ,to come in an explain to parents, why kids not getting busses and if they ever going to get them.

---> Received and referred to the Joint City Council and School Committee.

Sullivan- That the Vacant Building fee be adjusted to take into account the size (SF) of the building. Currently, a flat fee is assessed which is not reflective of the burden to the city and it's taxpayers.

---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

Vacon, Bartley- that the law department provide the total amount spent to date and status defending the Planning Board in response to the lawsuit filed by Log Cabin.

Councilor Bartley asked to be added to the order. He then explained that this pertained to a lawsuit caused by a vote of the Planning Board. He then noted that it was a 3-2 vote in favor but 4 votes were required. He added that a lawsuit was filed by a group supporting the development. He also stated that it had now cost the city tens of thousands of dollars in outside legal fees as the Law Department was not defending it. He then emphasized that the report needed to provide the total amount spent to date.  
---> Received and Adopted. Copy to Law Department.

Vacon-That DPW purchase six to ten of the rubber/portable speed bumps and put them in trouble spots temporarily around the city and move them randomly. DPW Director and/or City Engineer will decide safe placement.

Councilor Vacon stated that she believed an ordinance may be needed to support this and then an appropriation would needed to buy them.  
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

Vacon- The City Solicitor provide an update to the City Council on the status of the 11 Yale St. lawsuit and if pilot payments are being made by the program located there.

Councilor Vacon stated that while she understood the city was not a party to the lawsuit but was asked to hold up consideration of an ordinance change because of the lawsuit.

Councilor Jourdain noted that there was supposed to be a PILOT agreement and the Tax Collector should be providing a report if payments were being received.  
---> Received and Adopted. Copy to the Law Department, Tax Collector.

Bartley- Ordered, that the City Council approve an Amendment to a Home Rule Petition for the purpose of expanding the Center City Liquor License Area.  
---> Received and referred to the Development and Governmental Relations Committee.

Devine- That the Law Department give an opinion as to the following:  
1) Can a tabled order be taken up through a subcommittee of the City Council or 2) Must it be legally taken up at a regular City Council meeting? If possible can an opinion be given prior to the next City Council meeting?

Councilor Devine stated that it could be withdrawn since the Law Department already provided an opinion.  
---> Given a leave to withdraw.

Devine- ORDERED that the Law Department and Secretary of State render an opinion if the following ballot question can be placed on the November 2024 ballot.  
Shall the City of Holyoke make no changes to the current Community Preservation Act (CPA) as established in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws?  
---> Received and referred to the Law Department.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 35 through 38 as a package.

Devine- Ordered, that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the "MA DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES FY24 FIREFIGHTER EQUIPMENT GRANT, \$17,245.53, NO MATCH" grant and authorizes the establishment of a Fund or other method appropriate for the accounting of the receipts and expenditures of all resources associated with the administration of said grant.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Monday, February 20, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor  
---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

Devine- Ordered, that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the "MA DEPT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES- ARPA SPENDING BILL EARMARK, \$90,000, " and authorizes the establishment of a Fund or other method appropriate for the accounting of the receipts and expenditures of all resources associated with the administration of said grant.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Monday, February 20, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor  
---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

Devine- Ordered, that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the "MASS STATE POLICE-PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS, \$40,000, NO MATCH" grant and authorizes the establishment of a Fund or other method appropriate for the accounting of the receipts and expenditures of all resources associated with the administration of said grant.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Monday, February 20, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor  
---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.



Devine- Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, NINETY FIVE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND 00/100 Dollars (\$95,800) as follows:

FROM:

12101-51107 PATROLMEN \$95,800 |

TOTAL: \$95,800

TO:

12102-52410 R&M MOTOR VEHICLES \$8,000

12102-52500 R&M BUILDINGS 2,000

12102-53010 DATA MAINTENANCE 13,000

12102-53030 PRINTING 2,000

12102-54220 SUPPLIES-OTHER 500

12102-54800 M/V FUEL 37,000

12102-54830 M/V SUPPLIES 32,000

12102-57301 LEGAL DEFENSE 1,300

TOTAL: \$95,800

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Monday, February 20, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

Devine- Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, THIRTY NINE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIX AND 65/100 Dollars (\$39,706.65) as follows:

FROM:

12101-51105 SERGEANTS \$10,493.16

12101-51107 PATROLMEN 29,213.49

TOTAL: \$39,706.65

TO:

12101-51180 INJURED ON DUTY (PAYROLL 2/3/24) \$39,706.65

TOTAL: \$39,706.65

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Monday, February 20, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

UNDER DISCUSSION:

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that this covered 15 officers.

---> Passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 13--Nays 0-- Absent 0.

**LATE FILED ORDERS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

(2:27:55)

Bartley, Jourdain, Anderson-Burgos - Ordered, That DPW replace the missing street sign at Ivy Ave.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos asked to be added to the order.

Motion was made and seconded to take final action.

Motion was made and seconded to amend St to Ave and take final action.

---> Received and Adopted. Copy to DPW.

From Alicia Zoeller, Administrator Office of Community Development, FY2024 CDBG Spreadsheet and Proposal Book

---> Received and referred to the Development and Governmental Relations Committee.

Devine - Ordered that the City Council consider approving the purchase by the City of 225 High Street, Holyoke by a consensual order of taking. This order is a companion order to a previous order requesting a transfer in FY 2024 of \$850,000.00 from several accounts to Capital outlay-school buildings.

---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

Vacon - That our ordinance that requires sinks in certain establishments (such as tattoo parlors, etc) be connected to city water be modified to allow for portable sinks as an option.

---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

Adjourned at 9:34 PM

*Brenna Murphy McLee*