

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL****March 19, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Bartley at 7:01 PM

Councilor Sullivan made a motion to suspend the necessary rules to allow Acting Chair Bartley to chair the meeting. Councilor Anderson-Burgos seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Acting Chair Bartley noted that President Murphy-Romboletti was on Zoom and asked him to pinch hit.

The Clerk called the roll. Present Members in person 9 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley, Devine, Givner, Greaney, Magrath-Smith, Ocasio, I. Rivera, Sullivan). Present Members on Zoom 4 (Jourdain, Murphy-Romboletti, J. Rivera, Vacon).

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, 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.

Councilor Greaney asked for a moment of silence for Raymond Mitchell, who passed away unexpectedly. He then offered condolences to his mother, Sandy, a retired school teacher, as well as his dad, who was a football coach and educator in the city.

Acting Chair Bartley stated that a special guest was in attendance. He then invited Cheryl, Shannon, and Brendan Quinn to the podium. He then explained that an order was filed to honor Merle Hillman who was killed in Pearl Harbor. He noted that Mr. Hillman enlisted in 1937 and perished while serving on the U.S.S. California. He added that Mr. Hillman remained an unknown soldier until 2011 when the DNA process started, leading to the family receiving a letter last fall. He noted that a moment of silence was held for Mr. Hillman at an earlier meeting. He added that he attended the internment services, along with the mayor and several other councilors.

B. Quinn thanked the Council on behalf of his family, stating that this honor meant a lot to them. He emphasized that his uncle had been his idol growing up, making him want to join the military.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

(5:35)

City Clerk Murphy McGee noted that a roll call hadn't been taken for the motion because some members were online. She noted that the motion referred to taking a roll call vote.

Moton adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 13--Nays 0--Absent 0.

Nathan Chung, 192 Walnut Street, stated his intent to address an incident at the February 22nd Council meeting, about 9:40 into the meeting. He then stated that he raised a concern during the public comment period about the proposed CPA reduction language on the ballot being unclear. He then noted that a councilor raised a point of order to debate what was said, stating "these conspiracy theories are lunacy" and "it is the Law Department's responsibility to write the language." He then suggested that using a point of order was improper as that was for procedural violations, not for debates. He also questioned the claim that it was the Law Department's responsibility as the City Solicitor later explained that the City Council controlled the language. He then emphasized that the City Council was the maker of the order and should be concerned with communicating clearly with the public. He also suggested that being a public official was not a license to yell at, insult, or suppress people they disagree with and this behavior should not be normalized. He noted that City Council Rule 6E applied to councilors, adding that there was no rule stating that the public could not name any city councilor who behaved negatively. He then stated that he was referring to Councilor Bartley, and then suggested that Councilor Bartley meet with him in a public place if he had a personal issue with him.

Spencer Fox Peterson, 51 Portland Street, stated that ShotSpotter had been renamed Sound Thinking. He added that their contract with Chicago had been terminated. He noted that Chicago had been one of the early adopters of ShotSpotter and they were finding it was not worth the investment and did not work. He then expressed an expectation that this would be a topic of discussion at some point with people who were concerned with what the city was spending money on. He added that this was money that could be spent on social services and roadways.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

(10:15)

Councilor Devine made a motion to remove an order from the Finance Committee that had been on the last Council agenda. She then explained that it should have been adopted that night but had been unaware that it needed to be done right away. Anderosn-Burgos seconded the motion.

Devine- Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, FIFTEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$15,000) as follows:

FROM:

14101-51105 SR CIVIL ENGINEER \$15,000

TOTAL: \$15,000

TO:

14261-51300 AUTO EQUIPMENT MAINT-OVERTIME \$15,000

TOTAL: \$15,000

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Devine stated that the transfer was for 6 new cruisers that needed to be equipped.

Motion to remove from committee adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 1 (Sullivan)--Absent 0.

Acting Chair Bartley noted that Chief Pratt was online to address this.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to allow Chief Pratt to address the Council.

Chief Pratt stated that a letter was sent to summarize the duties of the mechanic and what this was needed for. He then explained that the mechanic was told when he was hired that there was a fleet of 60 cars and that he would need to work around 20 hours a week of overtime. He then stated that this would cut back to 14 hours a week. He then stated that the line item, located in the DPW budget, was for the Police Department's mechanic working on their vehicles. He noted that the overtime rate was around \$39 an hour. He added that if he didn't work the overtime, the vehicles would have to go out to other local places at much higher rates. He then deferred to DPW Director, Carl Rossi, for any additional explanation.

Councilor Devine stated that she spoke with Mr. Rossi and understood he could not be in attendance but believed that Chief Pratt's attendance would be more beneficial.

Councilor I. Rivera asked for clarification, noting that this was described as for equipment but also for repairs. He then asked what the mechanic was being paid to do. He then asked if this was a civilian position. He then questioned why the line item was in the DPW when it was for the Police Department.

Chief Pratt stated that the DPW was in charge of maintenance of all city vehicles. He then explained that his department had a dedicated mechanic. He also noted that there were three other vehicle mechanics that worked for the DPW. He then clarified that outfitting of the vehicles was just one aspect of what created the need for overtime. He also explained that when officers were in the academy, they needed one cruiser for every two cadets, requiring them to pass inspection to be ready for the academy. He added that there were many other things needed for repairs. He then stated that there were 15 cars in the pipe in need of repair work. He also stated that new cars needed equipment installed, lights had to be programmed, as well as other additions.

Councilor I. Rivera stated that he would plan to vote against this as it wasn't clear what the \$15,000 was for.

Councilor Jourdain asked why this was being discussed now and why was it an emergency instead of going through committee. He then expressed his expectation that there would be an explanation of why this was an emergency.

Chief Pratt stated that they currently had a backlog and had no spare vehicles, leading to an urgency. He then stated that he would prefer not to speak to the shortage in the budget of another department.

Councilor Jourdain stated that while he understood the timing, there appeared to be a miscommunication between the two departments. He then recalled that there was an argument in favor of having a central garage with a pool of mechanics to avoid this kind of issue where there was going to be 20 hours of built in overtime for an employee. He then stated that they should be cross training and working on other departments' vehicles. He then suggested they should be hiring a half employee working on a flex schedule for the central garage to avoid overtime.

Chief Pratt stated that the DPW didn't have their full 3 mechanics for a while, leading to his department's mechanic doing work for them. He then stated that he would be open to additional help from their mechanics if it meant his cars got fixed.

Councilor Jourdain expressed a need to revisit staffing. He questioned if all the positions were being filled, adding that having built in overtime was an immediate red flag.

Councilor Greaney expressed his understanding that this was a \$15,000 transfer to put 6 new cruisers on the road.

Chief Pratt clarified that it was for all the maintenance, noting that the cruisers were just part of that.

Councilor Greaney asked how much it would be to get the 6 cruisers on the road.

Chief Pratt stated that he was unsure what the exact hours were to make that happen. He added that some of this work was done during the regular shift. He emphasized that what was being asked for was what it took to get the work done. He also emphasized that if one of the current cruisers breaks down, the mechanic had to stop work on the new ones to work on those.

Councilor Greaney stated that his interest was in getting the new ones on the road.

Chief Pratt stated that was his interest as well.

Councilor Sullivan asked for clarification that the overtime rate was \$40 an hour.

Chief Pratt stated that it was \$39 an hour.

Councilor Sullivan using \$40 as easier math, he noted that \$15,000 divided by 40 was 377 hours of overtime. He added that this meant it would take 47 days of working 16 hours a day. He questioned the emergency of getting this done within the next two weeks.

Chief Pratt stated that the overtime was not for just the one mechanic, noting that there were four mechanics, including the one for the Fire Department. He emphasized that this was the mechanic line item budget. He noted that he was asked to show up for just what his department's mechanic did.

Councilor Devine noted that the Fire Department mechanic was specialized for the engines they have to take care of. She then asked if the Police Department also required a specialized mechanic to set up the new patrol cars. She then asked if a vehicle is just left somewhere if a car breaks down in the middle of the night.

Chief Pratt stated that they did, or get it towed if it was serious, and the mechanic could look at it in the morning.

Councilor Devine asked if the 6 new cruisers needed to be equipped with lights, radio, and other equipment.

Chief Pratt stated that was correct.

Acting Chair Bartley noted that as this was an intradepartmental transfer, it required a majority vote.  
---> Passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 9--Nays 4 (Givner, Magrath-Smith, I. Rivera, Sullivan)--Absent 0.

Acting Chair Bartley noted that the administrative assistant had received the letter from the Chief earlier that day and would email it out to everyone.

From City Clerk Brenna Murphy McGee and Admin. Assistant, minutes from the February 20, 2024, meeting, plus communication from Admin Assistant Jeffery Anderson-Burgos.

Councilor Vacon stated that she appreciated the communication relative to the minutes and her request to correct the public comment where it was said in error that a mailing lied about the exemption language of the CPA law. She noted that the communication explained that the minutes could not be amended for that purpose but recognized that the correction was on record at the March 6th meeting.  
---> Received and Adopted.

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

Councilor Devine made a motion to amend the minutes, noting that a statement she made should have said she would have a Finance meeting on March 29th when it should have said March 26th.  
---> Received and Adopted, as amended.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 3, ,4, and 5 as a package.

From City Auditor Tanya Wdowiak, Holyoke, MA Financial Statements 22 - Final  
---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

From City Auditor Tanya Wdowiak, Holyoke, MA Management Letter 22 - Final  
---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

From City Auditor Tanya Wdowiak, Holyoke, MA Independent Auditor's Reports  
---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 6 and 17 as a package.

From Alicia Zoeller, FY2024 CDBG Allocation recommendations and Resolution  
---> Received and Adopted. Copy to the Mayor.

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order From Alicia Zoeller, Administrator Office of Community Development, FY2024 CDBG Spreadsheet and Proposal Book

have considered the same and Recommended that the allocation recommendations and the resolution accepting the home funds be adopted.

Committee Members:

Kocayne Givner  
Michael Sullivan  
Carmen Ocasio  
Juan Anderson-Burgos  
Patricia Devine

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Givner stated that the discussion about the allocations led to lively discussion, with comparison between the requests as well as the recommendations from Community Development as well as the Citizens Advisory Committee, as well as the mayor, and came up with recommendations that balanced out.

Acting Chair Bartley stated that the recommendation would be sent to the mayor, but a roll call would be required to adopt the home investment partnership resolution.

Councilor Greaney asked if the allocations to each city sharing the funds was broken down.

Acting Chair Bartley stated that Holyoke was receiving \$538,061, Chicopee was receiving \$327,116, and Westfield was receiving \$153,877.

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

From Holyoke Economic Development and Industrial Corp, February 1, 2024 meeting minutes  
---> Received.

From Board of Public Work, communication regarding City Engineer position

Councilor Devine commended the DPW for their hard work cleaning up following the parade weekend.  
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

From Eversource, notification of applying herbicides  
---> Received.

From Commonwealth of MA Department of Environmental Protection, Notice for Holyoke Water Works to acquire certain lands or rights  
---> Received.

From Stephen Superba, Open Meeting Law Complaint Form

Acting Chair Bartley noted that the timing on these items was critical. He noted that it was dated March 5th but just being received on March 19th. He then asked what the turnaround had to be after receiving complaints.

Atty Bissonnette stated that the city would have 10 days to respond but could request an extension as this was the first time the Council was getting it. He then stated that the Law Department would get a response out shortly.

Councilor Jourdain asked who would be handling the response, noting that the accusation was made against the Council.

Acting Chair Bartley stated that it was to be determined. He then asked Atty Bissonnette to follow up on that question.

Atty Bissonnette stated that he would.  
---> Received and referred to the Law Department.

From Melissa Lafond, communication regarding speed hump petition from September 28, 2022.

Acting Chair Bartley asked if this communication had been received in 2022.

City Clerk Murphy McGee stated that the petition was likely in the Ordinance Committee.

Acting Chair Bartley relayed a note from the administrative assistant that a public hearing had been scheduled for April 190th at 6:30 p.m.

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

### **PETITIONS**

(47:55)

Petition of Tai W. Kang for a renewal of a Second Hand License at 311 High St. Holyoke

Acting Chair Bartley stated that all taxes and fees had been paid.

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

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

(49:15)

Acting Chair Bartley stated that the administrative assistant received a call asking to remind councilors to speak into their microphones.

Councilor Greaney commended the Parade Committee for a great show this year.

Councilor Sullivan also commended the Road Race Committee.

Acting Chair Bartley stated that Acting Education Commissioner, Russell Johnston, would be attending the School Committee meeting the following Monday.

He then noted the city had an RFP out for a consultant to assist the city in navigating Cannabis Control Commission regulations. He added that responses had been due earlier that day.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(52:10)

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the position of Crime Analyst be created and added to Ordinance Schedule A.

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

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor I. Rivera stated that the committee reviewed the language and settled on what was providing, which included an outline of qualifications.

Councilor Greaney asked what the pay would be.

Acting Chair Bartley stated that the salary range was in Grade 10, with a minimum alary of \$58,680 and a maximum of \$82,135, with a mid of \$70,407.

---> 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 12--Nays 1 (reaney)--Absent 0.

Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order With support from the city's Veterans Benefit Department, that the City Council update its ordinances to provide free municipal parking for veterans that have an official Veteran License Plate.

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

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor I. Rivera stated that the order was for veterans who had the veterans' decal on their license plate, allowing them to park at a meter or parking garage without paying. He emphasized that they would need the decal to qualify.

Acting Chair Bartley expressed his hope that the War Memorial and other veterans advocates would promote this as much as they could.

---> 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.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order That a stipend be added to Ordinance Salary Schedule C for \$10,000.00 for the duties associated with Assistant Director of Public Works. The additional duties for the Asst Director are as outlined in city ordinance Section 2- 231 which outlines several responsibilities beyond the engineering tasks assigned.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:

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

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor I. Rivera stated that there were two different approaches being considered to get someone to apply for the City Engineer position, and the other approach to raise the salary by moving it out of the union. He noted that as the other option was in play, the other process was going to be seen through.

Acting Chair Bartley asked if there was a transfer in Finance for this.

Councilor Devine stated that she did not believe there was.

Acting Chair Bartley noted that they did have someone in mind and they needed a raise to sweeten the pot.

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

(1:00:30)

The Committee on Joint Committee of City Council and School to whom was referred an order From Erin Linville, Holyoke Public Schools, Erin Linville, HPS - School Rezoning Update

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

Committee Members:

Kevin A. Jourdain  
Howard Greaney, Jr  
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Jourdain stated that this was initially introduced in 2022 and much discussion and implementation had taken place since then. He then stated that they planned to do a one year review to reflect on the impacts of the change.

---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 19, 20, and 21 as a package.

The Committee on Joint Committee of City Council and School to whom was referred an order From Anthony Soto, Superintendent of Holyoke Public Schools letter re: Petition the MA DESE to release the City of Holyoke from State Receivership.

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

Committee Members:

Kevin A. Jourdain  
Howard Greaney, Jr  
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Greaney expressed frustration with the letter from Commissioner Riley, noting that it said nothing but to kick the can down the road.

Councilor Jourdain stated that the Mayor Garcia and Superintendent Soto were both convinced that the city's schools would get out of receivership sooner rather than later. He further stated that when he pressed for explanation, they said that control of the schools would come back in imminent time in some significant manner. He then expressed frustration that the state had provided no specific goals or benchmarks other than nebulous or vague references to MCAS scores and attendance records. He noted that some things had gotten worse under receivership while there had been progress in other areas. He added that there wasn't any explanation being provided by the state that receivership had directly led to some improvements that would not have happened otherwise. He then emphasized that that local controls of schools were a fundamental underpinning of the American experience and tantamount to being recognized as a real city. He added that this did not mean there should be no accountability but that it should be handled locally.

Councilor Greaney stated that the state senator and state representative needed to speak loudly on this issue in Boston, emphasizing that everyone in the city wanted local control.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos emphasized that the state senator and state representative were fully behind this and wanted out of receivership as much as anyone.

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

The Committee on Joint Committee of City Council and School to whom was referred an order From Jeffrey C Riley, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, Receipt of petition to end receivership.

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

Committee Members:

Kevin A. Jourdain  
Howard Greaney, Jr  
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti

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

The Committee on Joint Committee of City Council and School to whom was referred an order Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia's response To Education Commissioner Riley's message On Holyoke's Schools' receivership

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

Committee Members:

Kevin A. Jourdain  
Howard Greaney, Jr  
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti

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

22. The Committee on Joint Committee of City Council and School to whom was referred an order that Someone who is in charge of School Buses to come in and explain to parents, why kids not getting busses and if they ever going to get them.

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

Committee Members:

Kevin A. Jourdain  
Howard Greaney, Jr  
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Jourdain commended Councilor Ocasio for advocating for Ward 2, noting that she volunteered in multiple ways and had an impressive first few months as a councilor. He then stated that this was discussed as a result of her observations, including needing to make sure that the walking school bus routes were clean and safe. He then explained that when a school bus could not be provided due to financial or geographical constraints, the School Department leadership should point out safety and cleanliness concerns to the DPW. He added that the Flex Squad should also review those routes. ---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

The Committee on Joint Committee of City Council and School to whom was referred an order That the Joint Committee on City Council and School Committee review and respond to the Receivership response from Commissioner Riley & the Holyoke High & District 23-24 District Report Card that was released by Mass DESE. Documents attached.

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

Committee Members:

Kevin A. Jourdain  
Howard Greaney, Jr  
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Jourdain stated that there was a lot to be concerned about regarding the report cards. He then emphasized that the attendance rates were one of the major factors, noting that a majority of students were chronically absent, with 18 or more days absent. He added that it was hard to learn if a student is not at school, and then MCAS scores would not be good. He reiterated that the Boston receivership leadership had been in control for 8 years, and questioned what their answer was to these issues. He then expressed his support for a liberal arts education as a way to develop well-rounded students for a well-rounded community. He then expressed concern with access to the arts being one-third of the statewide rate. He then suggested that the issue was either lack of access to the arts or a lack of emphasizing to students why music and art helped make a well-rounded person. He suggested that requirements be considered to add arts to the curriculum. He then noted that Holyoke was fortunate in that not every city in receivership had the same relationship with their Receiver as Holyoke did.

Acting Chair Bartley noted that the report defined being in attendance as a student being taught for at least half the day in school. He questioned who came up with that. He also noted that the stats compared to the rest of the commonwealth did not look great. He also noted that in 2021, DESE began reports data

for the low-income students and no longer reported data for the economically-disadvantaged students. He then suggested that the numbers were being massaged.

Councilor I. Rivera emphasized that the city had one of the highest numbers of special education students, which played to the attendance issues. He expressed concern that this was a factor in attendance that was not talked about enough. He added that the city had one of the largest homeless populations in the state, where students could be in Holyoke schools one day and moved to Worcester the next day. He emphasized that this needed to be taken into account with regard to MCAS scores. He added that these issues were being pushed into the district because of the services available which, while great for the families, had an impact on the data. He added that the city was being compared to communities that did not have the same challenges.

Councilor Magrath-Smith noted that with regard to MCAS scores, it was not a standards-based exam with a certain number of points that all students were expected to reach. She then explained that it was a scaled test where communities were scaled based on where they fell, whether at the median, or above or below. She added that this meant 50% of schools would be above and 50% would be below. She then suggested that it was impossible for all districts to be successful until the exam was restructured in a way that allowed all districts to be successful, adding that it would always be where 50% would not be meeting the "halfway benchmark."

Councilor Greaney recalled that the state used MCAS scores for the takeover which never should have been done. He added that when they voted to take over the schools, it was a 7-2 vote, with the 2 dissenting votes being the only two members of the Department of Education that actually visited the city and been in the Holyoke Public Schools. He suggested that it was a done deal before they took over.

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

The Committee on Joint Committee of City Council and School to whom was referred an order Referred from the School Committee - Update re: Purchase of 225 High Street

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

Committee Members:

Kevin A. Jourdain  
Howard Greaney, Jr  
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Jourdain stated that they received a brief update on a topic that was being discussed in the Finance Committee. He then encouraged councilors to attend the Finance meeting on March 26th for a second round discussion of this topic.

Acting Chair Bartley noted that 225 High Street was diagonally across the street.

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

## **ORDERS AND TRANSFERS**

(1:26:05)

Murphy-Romboletti- Ordered that the City Council invite the Mayor, Police Department and relevant financial department heads to a future meeting of the Finance Committee to provide an update on the status of the off-duty police account and former vendor Off- Duty Blue.

Councilor Devine stated that the order would likely be taken up by the committee on April 3rd.  
---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

Devine- Ordered, that the Law Department render an opinion as to whether the current CPA ballot question in the Finance Committee that reduces the % from 1.5% to 1.0% be placed on the November ballot after the City Council voted 8-5 NOT to reduce the % from 1.5% to 1%.

Councilor Vacon asked if this order along with the other order on the CPA ballot question would be taken up at the Paril 3rd meeting.

Councilor Devine stated that she was waiting to hear from the Law Department before taking it up.

Acting Chair Bartley asked if there was a request for the Law Department to respond within a specific period of time.

Councilor Devine stated that when they were able to.

Acting Chair Bartley asked when this could be expected to be turned around.

Atty Bissonnette stated it could be done within 30 days.

Councilor Vacon offered a reminder that the lock was ticking. She also offered a reminder that a motion was made at that meeting to reconsider the vote that was noted in this order, adding that following reconsideration, it was sent back to committee. She then questioned what the opinion needed to be on.

Councilor Devine recalled that the vote was 8-5 not to reduce it. She then explained that she was seeking to have the Law Department provide an opinion as to whether there would be a ballot question.

Acting Chair Bartley reiterated that the Council did reconsider the action and referred it back to Finance.

Councilor I. Rivera asked for clarification that even after reconsideration, it would still require the same two-step process.

Acting Chair Bartley clarified that after back and forth with the Law Department. He then stated that they could give clear guidelines when this is discussed in Finance.

Councilor Jourdain offered a reminder that tabled items and items referred back had to be put on the agenda.

Acting Chair Bartley stated that this was being done. He noted that the administrative assistant explained that some committee chairs in the last term did not like it and would not allow him to do it, but it had since been done since this was brought up recently.

---> Received and referred to the Law Department.

Devine- Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, TWO THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY SEVEN AND 22/100 Dollars (\$2,457.22) as follows:

FROM:

12201-51105 FIREFIGHTERS \$2,457.22            \$2,457.22

TOTAL:

TO:    12201-51180    INJURED ON DUTY    \$2,457.22

TOTAL: \$2,457.22

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Acting Chair Bartley stated that this would cover 1 firefighter.

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

Councilor Greaney made a motion to reconsider the action on item 26 in order to ask the Law Department a question.

Acting Chair Bartley asked what the question was.

Councilor Greaney asked if a petition could be put out to the residents of Holyoke to have the question placed on the ballot.

Acting Chair Bartley suggested filing an order for the next meeting. He added that this was putting the Law Department on the spot for a tough question.



Councilor Greaney stated that he was seeking to know if it would be legal.

Acting Chair Bartley stated that there were two procedures to put it on the ballot. He suggested reaching out to the Law Department to ask them.

Devine- Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, THIRTY THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SEVEN AND 37/100 Dollars (\$30,107.37) as follows:

FROM:

12101-51105 SERGEANTS \$10,493.16

12101-51107 PATROLMEN 19,614.21

TOTAL:\$30,107.37

TO:

12101-51180 INJURED ON DUTY \$30,107.37

TOTAL:\$30,107.37

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Acting Chair Bartley stated that this covered 11 officers.

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

Devine-Ordered, that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the "EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT WORKPLACE SAFETY GRANT, \$11,000, 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.

Sec 2-509 - Grant Reporting

Any city department, of which has received grant funding by approval of the city council pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, or any other authorizing criteria, shall within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 60 days from the conclusion of said grant, generate a detailed report which outlines the planned outcomes with the documented actual results. Said report shall be submitted to the city clerk for addition to the city council's next agenda.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 30 through 33 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 "FFY2023 MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY EMPG GRANT, \$12,350, 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.

Sec 2-509 - Grant Reporting

Any city department, of which has received grant funding by approval of the city council pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, or any other authorizing criteria, shall within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 60 days from the conclusion of said grant, generate a detailed report which outlines the planned outcomes with the documented actual results. Said report shall be submitted to the city clerk for addition to the city council's next agenda.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, March 19, 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 "MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE ON DISABILITY, \$89,850, 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.

Sec 2-509 - Grant Reporting

Any city department, of which has received grant funding by approval of the city council pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, or any other authorizing criteria, shall within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 60 days from the conclusion of said grant, generate a detailed report which outlines the planned outcomes with the documented actual results. Said report shall be submitted to the city clerk for addition to the city council's next agenda.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, March 19, 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, TWENTY ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND 00/100 Dollars (\$21,300) as follows:

FROM:

8811-10400	CAPITAL STABIIZATION	\$21,300	TOTAL:	\$21,300
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TO:  
15412-52500 R&M BUILDINGS & GROUNDS \$21,300 TOTAL: \$21,300

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, March 19, 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, EIGHTY SEVEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$87,000) as follows:

FROM:

14101-51101	PAY-ENGINEER	\$20,000	
14251-51106	PAY-PROP MAIN & DEMO	22,000	
14301-51103	PAY-REFUSE LABORER	20,000	
14251-51107	PAY- HIGHWAY LABORER	14,000	
16501-51106	PAY-HMEO PARKS	10,000	
16501-51106	PAY-HMEO PARKS	1,000	TOTAL: \$87,000

TO:

14102-53010	PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES	\$20,000	
14252-52600	R&M STREETS	22,000	
14301-51300	PAY-REFUSE OVERTIME	20,000	
14221-51300	PAY-CITY PROPERTY OVERTIME	14,000	
16501-51300	PAY-PARKS OVERTIME	10,000	
14211-51300	PAY-ADMIN OVERTIME	1,000	
TOTAL: \$87,000			

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

Magrath-Smith- Ordered, that the City Council review for approval the FY24 projects recommended for funding by the Holyoke Community Preservation Act Committee (CPAC)

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

### **LATE FILED ORDERS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

(1:40:45)

Devine - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, SIXTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$60,000) as follows:

FROM:

11211-51276 MAYOR-CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS: \$60,000

TO:

11411-51102 ASSISTANT ASSESSOR: \$3,000

11411-51125 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-ASSESSOR: \$3000

14221 -51105 DPW PROPERTY BUILDING CUSTODIAN: \$6,000

16931-51101 WAR MEMORIAL SR BUILDING CUSTODIAN: \$3,000

16931-51102 WAR MEMORIAL BUILDING CUSTODIAN: \$3,000

11611-51105 2ND ASSISTANT CITY CLERK: \$5,000

11611-51126 SR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-CITY CLERK: \$3,000

11611-51125 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-CITY CLERK: \$3,000

11631-51103 ASSISTANT REGISTRAR OF VOTERS: \$3,000

12401-51126 SR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-BUILDING & CODES: \$3,000

15101-51126 SR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-BOARD OF HEALTH: \$3,000

15101-51109 SANITARIAN I: \$10,000

15101-51104 PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE: \$2,0001

11461-51106 SR DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR: \$5,000

11451-51131 SR PAYROLL SPECIALIST: \$5,000

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Monday, March 19, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

Petition of Horan Kuruca at 263 Hampden St for an outdoor solar lot.

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

Settlement Agreement by and Between the City of Holyoke and N.A.G.E. R1-180 Clerical Union

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

  
Adjourned at 8:43 PM