

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

May 7, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Murphy-Romboletti at 7:02 PM

The Clerk called the roll. Present Members 13 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley, Devine, Givner, Greaney, Jourdain, Magrath-Smith, Murphy-Romboletti, Ocasio, I. Rivera, J. Rivera, Sullivan, Vacon).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

### PUBLIC HEARING

Motion was made and seconded to remove item 1 from the table and open the public hearing.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up item 39 out of order with item 1 as a package.

Councilor Devine asked if this kind of public hearing was unusual.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that the public hearing was the result of a petition signed by a certain amount of registered voters.

Petition from various Holyoke residents, petition regarding CPA rate change

#### UNDER DISCUSSION:

President Murphy-Romboletti clarified that the public that this public hearing was specifically for the CPA question and that any members of the public wishing to speak for other matters will be able to do so during public comment later in the meeting.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos asked for clarification that people who signed up for public comment may have done so to talk about the CPA matter.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that the form was for public comment as a separate matter than the public hearing, and that anyone looking to speak in the public hearing could do so without signing up.

Lori Belanger, 16 Roland Street, expressed support for putting the ballot question to the voters. She then read from Mayor Garcia's veto letter from April 2023,

"I strongly believe there is unanimous support between all Councilors including myself to allow voters to decide whether to reduce the CPA tax from 1.5% to 1.0%...Since we have a presidential election coming up in 2024, I veto the measure and encourage the City Council to send this back to committee for further discussion and agree to place the question on the ballot for the 2024 state/presidential elections.

Regardless of how people feel about CPA, I share the opinion with the Council that it's important we let

the voters decide."

She then emphasized that the mayor vetoed the order and outlined what he would like to see happen with the expectation that more voters would come out for that election. She noted that the letter was added as evidence in the court case. She also read from the judge's order, stating that "economic loss is insufficient as irreparable harm and there had been no showing of any other harm if the surcharge reduction appears on the November 2024 ballot instead of November 2023 as agreed to by defendant Garcia,"

She then expressed her belief that the city had an obligation to put the question on the ballot. She also suggested that 13 months later, anyone with questions had the opportunity to get them answered. She further suggested that without putting it on the ballot, it would become a harm as there would be no recourse for those who went through the process. She questioned if the court would then have to mandate the question be put on the ballot.

Helene Florio, 31 Wellesley Road, stated that she was a resident as well as President of the Holyoke Taxpayers Association. She asked that the question be put on the ballot. She then stated that every at large councilor during a debate the previous year professed to be in support of businesses. She then stated that the city had lost businesses since the CPA went into effect, adding that the extra tax had hit businesses hard. She then suggested that while the payments may be small for low income families or seniors, businesses paid much more. She then explained the extra cost to five of their businesses, Bresnahan Insurance at \$197, Meridian Industrial Group at \$255, Gary Rome Auto Group at \$2,310, Log Cabin and Delaney House at \$16,460, and the Holyoke Mall at \$102,671 in 2021 and \$81,209 in 2022. She noted that while a lot of homeowners fit within the exemptions, many homeowners were not doing as well.

Jay Ferreira, 6 Taylor Street, stated that he was against the reduction. He then stated that while his taxes had gone up since buying his home, he would save \$11 a year if the reduction passed. He then stated that he preferred to see investment in the parks. He added that the state also got around a 30% match from the state. He also suggested that it would be preferable to put it on the ballot during a city election.

John Counter, 427 Mountain Road, noted that people were affected by the tax in different ways. He then suggested that reducing it from 1.5% to 1.0% would not be a big deal for the CPA but would make a big difference for people on fixed incomes. He then expressed that the voters should be able to decide.

Mimi Panitch, 134 Madison Avenue, referred to a memo received by the Council from the Community Preservation Alliance. She then explained that the letter advised that the Council had to take an affirmative vote to lower the rate, and that it had to be a genuine vote on the merits and not just as a technicality to get it on the ballot. She noted that the Council could not fund projects out of the CPA fund without the CPA recommending them nor could the CPA fund projects without the Council approving those recommendations. She then asked councilors to take an honest assessment on if they believed the reduction was truly the best thing for the city before taking their vote.

Linda Pratt, 39 St. Kolbe Drive, offered a reminder that there were exemptions for seniors. She noted that the exemption would only save her \$3.50 a year. She added that there was another exemption for low income residents, as well as another exempting the first \$100,000 of property value.

Orlando Isaza, 1198 Dwight Street, suggested that any measure to lower the surcharge would be misguided and shortsighted. He added that the evidence was that the CPA return on investment was highly beneficial to the vitality of the city and its population.

Spencer Fox Peterson, 51 Portland Street, urged that the rate be kept at the current level as a good investment. He suggested that there were other places in the city budget to look for misspent funds, such as the ShotSpotter technology. He then stated that some of the earliest users of the technology were getting rid of it, including the city of Chicago which had not seen it help their gun violence problem.

Jordan Hart, 31 Walnut Avenue, Apt 2, stated that she was the Director of the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce. She then stated that she was in favor of keeping the CPA tax at the same rate. She then suggested that it had helped create an environment that made people want to come to the city and support businesses, helped update the parks for kids to have better playscapes. She added that this was a great way for the city to come together to support recreational opportunities throughout the city.

Councilor Vacon asked that the heading of the petition be read into the record. She noted that over 150 voters signed the petition, and there were more in support that were not voters.

President Murphy-Romboletti read from the petition:

"We, the undersigned residents of Holyoke, petition the Holyoke City Council to have the ballot question to amend the CPA rate to 1.0% from 1.5%, placed on the November 5, 2024 ballot as previously voted by a majority of the City Council in 2023. Mayor Garcia has indicated, if approved by the City Council, he will allow the question to go on the ballot. This is the first opportunity voters will have to vote on the rate since the CPA surtax went into effect. As our elected representatives, we seek you to vote in favor of this ballot question. We seek a meeting of the City Council to discuss this voter's rights issue."

Councilor Vacon reiterated that over 150 voters signed the petition from wards throughout the city.

Councilor I. Rivera stated that there was another petition that should also be read.

President Murphy-Romboletti read from the second petition:

"We duly registered and qualified voters in the City of Holyoke do hereby affirm that the Holyoke City Council voted with the will of the people on March 6, 2024 when it kept the Community Preservation Act surcharge at 1.5% for Holyoke. This 1.5% surcharge was strongly approved by 56% of voters in 2016. 1.5% is a modest and reasonable amount which low-to-moderate income seniors and low-income property owners can be made fully exempt from and by which every property owner in Holyoke receives an automatic exemption of the first \$100,000 in assessed value. The average homeowner pays \$35 per year into the fund. As a result, the City receives additional money back from the State for needed and vital projects in affordable housing, historic preservation, and open space/recreation. Holyoke has benefited greatly from this program in the past years. Our parks are being rehabbed! Historic properties are seeing needed work accomplished! Affordable housing units have been renovated! The proposed reduction in this money means that less local grant money is available and long-term projects (like Scott Tower/Anniversary Hill Park renovation) take longer to complete. Sadly, if this reduction gets on the ballot, Holyoke would become the first city in the Commonwealth to try to reduce the surcharge from the already low 1.5%. We need this vital program so that we can continue to improve our City. We the undersigned call for Holyoke City Council to keep the surcharge at 1.5% and not to reduce it at all."

Councilor Greaney asked if residents could contribute voluntarily to the CPA.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that it was a tax and it would then be classified as a donation. She then asked if he wanted to hear from the Law Department.

Councilor Greaney stated that he would.

Atty Bissonnette stated that there were provisions for voluntary taxes to the property tax but this question had not been considered.

Atty Degnan stated that there was another provision of the statute that had not been followed. She then explained that it had to do with additional revenue. She then stated that she would come back with an answer for the next meeting.

Councilor I. Rivera recalled that the city had received funding in the form of donations in the past after being accepted by the Council. He then asked if it would be the same process if someone wanted to donate to the CPA.

Councilor Greaney suggested that it would be irrelevant whether this question went on the ballot or not.

Atty Degnan stated that it would be like any other gift the Council approves.

Milagro Isaza, 1198 Dwight Street, stated that she had lived in Holyoke since 1986, and saw Holyoke as a vital city that people enjoyed visiting, especially with attractions that people could visit. She suggested that reducing the CPA would reduce the funds that Holyoke had to continue growing.

Councilor Jourdain asked to confirm that nobody else had anything to say before closing the hearing.

Councilor Devine asked for clarification was on homeowners and businesses, but not on renters.

Councilor Jourdain suggested that they do pay it indirectly through their rent.

Councilor Devine stated that would only be if a landlord raised rent before of the CPA tax.

Motion was made and seconded to close the public hearing.

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) 8

#### 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.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted, as amended, deleting November 4, 2024 and replacing it with November 5, 2024, as well as deleting October 3, 2023 and replacing it with May 7, 2024.

Committee Members:

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

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Jourdain made motions to both accept the recommendation to reduce the CPA tax as well as place the question on the ballot.

Councilor I. Rivera raised a point of order, clarifying that a legal opinion described how the vote should be taken.

Councilor Jourdain asked for clarification if he was referring to the memo from Mr. Saginor.

Councilor I. Rivera clarified that he was referred to a late file submitted by Atty Degnan.

Councilor Jourdain stated that he believed his motion was consistent with the opinion.

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

A. From Law Department, communication regarding required procedure to amend CPA surcharge  
---> Received.

Atty Degnan stated that while she had previously provided an opinion that both votes could be rolled into one, it appeared to confuse people and was providing an opinion that the vote on reduction should be done first for clarity. She then explained that if there were seven votes, it could move forward but, if there were not, it would end there. She then recommended taking two separate votes, the first on reducing the tax and the second on placing the question on the ballot.

Councilor Jourdain emphasized that if the vote to approve the reduction was approved, it automatically had to go to the ballot and there was only one vote required. He noted that was also the opinion of Mr. Saginor. He further emphasized that that the Council could not reduce the rate itself without it being ratified by the voters.

Councilor Vacon noted that it had been stated multiple times that it had to be done the same way as the first time. She added that the first time, the Council took a vote on the rate and then took a vote at the same time to place it on the ballot without taking a position.

Councilor Greaney stated that many residents in the city wanted to remove the surtax completely. He then asked if those people could form a petition to get that on the ballot without going through the City Council.

Councilor I. Rivera asked for clarification if the vote was taken with both questions at once the first time around. He then asked if the vote came out of the DGR Committee as a recommendation with the rate already.

Atty Degnan stated that the DGR Committee set the rate and sent that to the full Council. She then stated that the Council accepted the report with the rate in the recommendation, and then voted on the question. She then explained that the question itself was regulated by state law, but not the summary. She then suggested that both the rate and the question had to be approved.

Councilor I. Rivera stated that taking two votes in one was a confusing mechanism because it did not allow individual to identify specific stances, where some may not agree with reducing the rate but did not feel the same about the question going on the ballot. He then expressed frustration that voting on both at the same time does not allow anyone to show that was the way they felt about each part. He suggested that was a mechanism to confuse the public. He emphasized that he agreed with putting it on the ballot but did not agree with reducing the rate. He recognized that people felt the impact of the tax in different ways, but the investment was giving the city more resources to offer more amenities to city residents. He also emphasized that none of the city's tax dollars from the cannabis industry were being used in the Wards 1 and 2 even though all of those businesses were located there.

Councilor Magrath-Smith thanked everyone from the public who spoke on this issue. She then explained that the guidance provided by Stuart Saginor on behalf of the state's CPA Coalition made clear that the first vote had to be the vote to reduce and then it would be put on the ballot by the Clerk. She then noted that the Law Department's opinion stated that there had to be one step to vote on the reduction and a second step to place the question on the ballot. She then questioned why this was still moving forward, noting that this process had already taken place. She then suggested that this order should be given a

leave to withdraw, noting that the Council had already voted and the question failed. She then reiterated that there was only one vote the Council needed to do.

Councilor Givner expressed frustration that the public had been led to believe this was not the process the Council needed to follow. She added that she did not understand why the parts were being merged together to be forced through. She then stated that she had not heard any complaints from Ward 4 residents who were in favor of reducing the CPA tax to 1.0%. She then recognized that a lot of businesses were contributing more to it, but then suggested that being a part of the community meant helping the community grow. She also suggested that the information on the available exemptions needed to be communicated better.

Councilor Vacon suggested that there was irony in the suggestions that voting on the reduction should automatically out it on the ballot, noting that would have meant the question would already have been on the previous year's ballot. She then explained the reason for needing to vote to put it on the ballot was because the Council took the initiative to create the CPA vote in the first place. She suggested that it was smoke and mirrors for anyone to say they support putting it on the ballot but would not vote in support of the reduction.

Councilor Jourdain stated that he was troubled by the process that allowed the Council to vote to charge other people taxes. He suggested that rather than funding communities properly, the state was putting it on communities to force taxes on their residents and businesses. He emphasized that the businesses did not get a vote on these issues. He expressed further frustration that internal debates within communities about funding was happening because the state legislature was not providing the funding they should be. He then stated that he had heard from many residents who were frustrated about seeing taxes continue to increase at faster rates. He then suggested that people were expressed their concerns about this because it was something they could control while they had less control over the city's tax levy outside of voting for the mayor and city councilors. He added that the state should be providing at least another \$4 million in unrestricted funding. He noted that the state was debating legislation to allow cities to increase an array of other taxes.

Councilor Givner stated that as the representative from Ward 4, she was voting based on feedback from her ward. She added that while she recognized the issues of tax increases was a problem everywhere, she did not believe the CPA had anything to do with it.

Councilor Sullivan recalled that when this was first put to the voters, before there was any projects to look at, they supported it with 56% in favor of it. He added that they've had six years to see the good it had done and expected that it should go through by a wider margin this time. He asked that it be put on the ballot and not be afraid of it.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos recalled that he stated the previous year that he wanted to see it go before the voters. He then suggested that with regard to the earlier argument about businesses closing, the point was missed that many businesses closed across the nation due to the pandemic. He then stated that he had seen many positive impacts in the city since the CPA went into effect, including wards that had been historically cast aside. He then stated that while he agreed with putting the question on the ballot, he was disturbed by the Making Holyoke Affordable group giving false information to constituents. He added that some city councilors belonged to that group. He then emphasized that a majority of the signatures on the petition were from Ward 5. He added that of the emails he received, all but one email had asked him to keep the CPA at 1.5%.

Councilor Greaney quoted from an essay on civil disobedience, stating "the government that governs lease governs best." He then stated that the people had the right to vote.

Councilor Devine expressed amazement that this had taken so long to get to this point. She then stated that in looking at the document from Mr. Saginor and the opinion from the Law Department, both appeared to advise the same process where two votes had to be taken, one to reduce and one to put it on the ballot. She then proposed taking two votes.

Councilor Magrath-Smith made a motion to bifurcate the votes. Councilor Anderson-Burgos seconded the motion.

President Murphy-Romboletti suggested taking a roll call vote on that motion.

Councilor Jourdain suggested that would be amending the recommending from the committee.

Motion to bifurcate the votes adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 7--Nays 6 (Bartley, Greaney, Jourdain, Ocasio, Sullivan, Vacon)--Absent 0.

Councilor Jourdain made a motion to reduce the rate from 1.5% to 1.0%. Councilor Vacon seconded the motion.

Councilor Jourdain emphasized that the only way to get the question on the ballot was to first vote to reduce the rate. He then suggested that everyone in favor of placing it on the ballot should vote to reduce it.

Councilor Vacon offered a reminder that there was much debate in committee, through DGR the first time and then through Finance this time. She then stated that she puts orders through on behalf of the people she represents. She further stated that her original order on this had been to reduce it to 0.5%, but the compromise position was to put it at 1.0% following a lot of debate. She reiterated that it was smoke and mirrors to express support for putting it on the ballot while voting against the reduction.

Councilor I. Rivera suggested that election season appeared to be starting now. He then stated that he was flattered that others were now choosing to use his words. He then suggested that it was more confusion being created to state that voting on the reduction would automatically place it on the ballot, adding that another vote had to be taken to place it on the ballot. He then reiterated that he was only going to be straight with people, and that would not be voting for the reduction because he did not support it. He added that he was not there to make up scary stories for people, or to play games, and that he was not planning to be on Council for 30 years.

Councilor Jourdain suggested that he would likely not be there for 30 years.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that was out of order.

Councilor Jourdain raised a point of order, expressing frustration with references being made to senior members of the body.



President Murphy-Romboletti stated that everyone makes references to other councilors, adding that Councilor I. Rivera currently had the floor. She then expressed her intent to start calling anyone out for talking under their breath when someone else has the floor.

Councilor I. Rivera recalled that when he was first elected and was still serving in his role as an employee of the schools, a lot of community members spoke to the Council, and councilors still made decisions based on what they thought was right rather than what their constituents said. He then explained that now four years later, he was trying to make a decision based on what constituents were telling him. He questioned the divisiveness he was feeling across the board.

Councilor Devine called the question.

President Murphy-Romboletti explained that first vote was on the motion to reduce the CPA surcharge from 1.5% to 1.0%.

---> Report of Committee received and recommendation to reduce the CPA surcharge from 1.5% to 1.0% Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 7--Nays 6 (Anderson-Burgos, Givner, Magrath-Smith, Murphy-Romboletti, I. Rivera, J. Rivera)--Absent 0.

---> Report of Committee received and recommendation to place the question to reduce the CPA surcharge from 1.5% to 1.0% on the ballot Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 1 (Magrath-Smith)--Absent 0.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

(1:36:40)

No members of the public signed up to speak.

### **LAID ON THE TABLE**

(1:37:40)

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

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that an ordinance be established to address the 2/3 majority vote of the body for votes. Legal please provide the language necessary for review. Recommended that the order, with two separate legal drafts, be referred to the Council without recommendations.

### **UNDER DISCUSSION:**

Councilor I. Rivera stated that the two drafts were created to have a democratic process so that everyone can take a position based on how they feel. He then explained that one language provides a vote based on two-thirds of those present while the other language would have voted based on two-thirds of the whole body. He added that a third language was provided incorporating all of that for the City Council as well as other public bodies of the city. He noted that the Law Department proposed the third language.

Councilor Vacon clarified that the whole purpose of the order was to put into ordinance the City Council's procedure for adopting ordinances. She added that it was intended to be narrow. She noted that the adoption of ordinances was not included in the legal language. She then made a motion to amend the language to add in "with the adoption of ordinances."

Councilor I. Rivera stated that had not been his understanding, adding that he believed it was meant to apply to most votes other than financial transfers.

Councilor Vacon stated that she would prefer to not repeat the committee meeting discussion.

Councilor Jourdain made a motion to lay this item back on the table, noting that the intent was that ordinances would be two-thirds, but the debate was whether it would be the whole body or of those present. He suggested that expanding it to other bodies should be a whole separate debate.

Councilor I. Rivera stated that the intent was to have two sets of language and then Atty Mantolesky sent a third one stating that it should be for all bodies. He agreed that it should be tabled to have more discussion.

President Murphy-Romboletti asked if it should be tabled or sent back to the committee.

Councilor I. Rivera made a motion to refer the item back to the Ordinance Committee. Councilor Vacon seconded the motion.

Councilor Bartley stated that he was agnostic as to whether it was two-thirds of the body or of those present, but that it should be simple one way or the other. He then stated that while he had a preference, the Council generally all showed up to meetings anyway.

Councilor Jourdain asked that the committee make a recommendation one way or the other. He then suggested that there should be two sections if other bodies were also going to be addressed. He reiterated that the whole point was to address ordinances adopted by the City Council.

Councilor I. Rivera stated that the committee had been focused on just the City Council and that the third language came out of nowhere.

---> Report of Committee received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

(1:46:10)

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

From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter appointing Catherine Pratt of 11 Lexington St. to serve on HEDIC. Ms. Pratt will replace Rosa Pantoja and will serve a three-year term, expiring June 30, 2027.

---> Received and referred to the Public Service Committee.

From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter appointing Lauren Niles of 40 Lexington, to serve as a Commissioner of the Planning Board. Ms. Niles will replace Mr. Nathan Chung and will serve the remainder of his term expiring on June 30, 2027.

---> Received and referred to the Public Service Committee.

From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter reappointing Anthony Luciano of 24 O'Connor Ave to serve on the Licensing Board. Mr. Luciano will serve a six year term, expiring August 1, 2030.

---> Received and Adopted.

From City Clerk Brenna Murphy McGee and Jeffery Anderson-Burgos, minutes from April 16, 2024 meeting.

---> Received and Adopted.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 7, 8, and 11 through 14 as a package.

From City Solicitor Lisa Ball, outside counsel on litigation.

---> Received.

From City Auditor Tanya Wdowiak, 4-30-2024 GENERAL FUND BUDGET VERSUS ACTUAL

---> Received.

From Stuart Saginor, CPA Coalition, communication regarding CPA reduction

---> Received.

From Local Historic District, minutes from December 21, 2023, January 18, 2023 and February 29, 2024

---> Received.

From Historical Commission, minutes for March 11, 2024

---> Received.

Grant Completion, SAFE FY23 Fund FIR688

---> Received.

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

From Retirement Board, communication regarding COLA

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

From Community Preservation Act Committee, FY25 CPA Budget Proposal

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

## **PETITIONS**

(1:51:10)

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 15 through 18 as a package.

Petition from John McCann of 415 Ingleside St., renewal of a Home Occupation for Ingleside Therapeutic Massage and Yoga

---> Received and Adopted.

Petition of Erin Kelly, application for a renewal of a Home Occupation at 123 Homestead Ave for a Yoga Business

---> Received and Adopted.

Petition of Karen Spear, application for a renewal of a Home Occupation at 778 Homestead Ave for a Nail Salon

---> Received and Adopted.

Petition from Holyoke Turn Verein at 624 S. Bridge St., application for a renewal of one pool table and 6 bowling alleys

---> Received and Adopted.

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

Petition of William F. Councilor Sullivan & Co Inc, of 107 Appleton St. for a Junk Dealer's License

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

Petition of William F. Councilor Sullivan & Co Inc, of 1-3 Jed Days Landing. for a Junk Dealer's License

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

Petition from GameStop at 50 Holyoke St. application for a renewal of a Second Hand License

Councilor Vacon asked about the hours of operation. She noted that while it was in the mall, she believed they were open late.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that he believed they were open 11am-7pm.

Councilor Vacon clarified that she was thinking about a different location.

Councilor Jourdain noted that it would have to be mall hours since they didn't have their own entrance.

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

Petition of Felix Rivera Soto Jr, application for a Street Vendor License

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

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

(1:54:35)

President Murphy-Romboletti offered a reminder that the PVTA would hold a public meeting about updating bus routes, which would take place on May 22nd at 5:30 pm in the office across the hall from Council chambers.

Councilor I. Rivera emphasized the importance of lower ward councilors getting residents out to the meeting, noting that the greater impact to people living in those wards.

Councilor Givner offered a reminder that there would be a mayoral bike ride on May 20th at 5pm starting at City Hall. She added that it would end at Fame Lounge.

Councilor Jourdain stated that the dedication of the Laurel Park fountain to Helen Norris would take place on May 24th at 10am. He added that Ms. Norris was very touched by the dedication and was very appreciative.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(1:57:20)

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 23 and 49 as a package.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that all ordinance/charter references to an Assistant Superintendent of Public Works be updated to Assistant Director of Public Works

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 this was done the previous year and this was just to clear it up that it was done.

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

The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order that all Charter references to an Assistant Superintendent of Public Works be updated to Assistant Director of Public Works.

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

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith  
Linda L. Vacon  
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Magrath-Smith stated that when the committee looked at it, the Law Department clarified that there were no specific charter changes to be made. She added that the City Clerk was asked to confirm when the changes would be completed in municode.

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

(2:01:25)

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, THIRTY TWO THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE AND 00/100 Dollars (\$32,975.00) as follows:

FROM:

8811-10400 CAPITAL STABILIZATION \$32,975

TOTAL: \$32,975.00

TO:

16303-58001 RECREATION CAPITAL OUTLAY-VEHICLES \$32,975

TOTAL: \$32,975.00

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 the transfer was for a new utility vehicle for maintaining Roberts Field.

Councilor Jourdain stated that while he was in favor of this, he asked the Parks Director, Tom Reynolds, to look into having ESSER funds from the School Department used for this since they needed to use those funds by September 30th and this was clearly for the purpose of using it for the schools.

Councilor I. Rivera expressed agreement with that idea. He added that they had a separate account for that complex that generated revenue. He then asked if they were using any funds from that account. He noted it was an account the city could not tap into.

Councilor Magrath-Smith asked if these funds could be returned to the capital stabilization account if use of ESSER funds was approved.

Councilor Jourdain expressed hope that the funds would be returned. He added that he trusted Mr. Reynolds to take care of that.

---> 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.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, EIGHT THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$8,000) as follows:

FROM:

16101-51103                      REFERENCE LIBRARIAN                      \$8,000

TOTAL: \$8,000

TO:

16101-51112                      FINANCIAL MANAGER \$8,000

TOTAL: \$8,000

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 the library had been looking for a financial manager for some time. She stated that they hired someone who could become full time on July 1st.

---> 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.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That the Water Commission and Manager come to the finance committee for an annual financial update to discuss the status of their finances, projects and rates.

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

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine

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

**UNDER DISCUSSION:**

Councilor Devine stated that the Water Department provided a comprehensive capital improvement overview, as well as an explanation of the water rates. She encouraged councilors to reach out to Dave Conti at the Water Department for copies of the presentation.

Councilor Jourdain stated that the people running the Water Department were a phenomenal all-star team. He added that while they were in excellent shape, they did have some challenges. He then explained that they had a drop in value, now down to 3 1/2 million gallons per day of average usage. He recalled that in 1999, there was a demand of 11 million gallons a day. He noted that there had been a good job done on conservation but revenue from usage had gone down greatly. He added that the city had seen an 15% reduction in population and more infrastructure costs were being put on a smaller number of people and institutions. He also stated that they were showed the rationale behind a coming 5 cent increase in water rates as of July 1st. He explained that while it was justified, it was one more cost on people. He emphasized that Holyoke was one of very couple communities in the state that still had a filtration waiver due to its amazing water quality. He emphasized that Holyoke was blessed to be water-rich and that should be leveraged.

Councilor Greaney stated that after asking about accounts in arrears, he was providing information that showed their arrears had gone down from \$900,000 to \$400,000.

Councilor Sullivan recalled one of the points discussed was the issue of tuberculation. He highlighted two posters displayed in chambers that showed the interior of a couple cast iron pipes and valves from the city looked like. He emphasized that it did not affect the water quality but was a reaction to the water against the cast iron. He then explained that the issue was that it restricted the flow of water through the pipes. He further explained that the coming rate increases would be necessary to address the cost of increasing materials and labor to remedy these issues before they became a more serious problem than they already were.

Councilor I. Rivera expressed appreciation to the Water Department for the work they did. He then stated that several constituents had expressed concern with the process of paying bills, specifically the extra charge on top of it. He added that they were concerned with the amount of the fee being based on the amount of the bill.

Councilor Devine asked if he was referred to the payment of the water bill. She recalled that an extra charge had been initiated a couple years earlier to address maintenance.

Councilor I. Rivera clarified that it was a service fee for paying online with a card, calculated at around 5-8% of the bill.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that while the tuberculation was not hazardous to the water quality, the department had communicated in the past that people let their water run for 10 seconds before drinking it



because of sediment.

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

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, TWENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$20,000) as follows:

FROM:

8815-10400 CANNABIS STABILIZATION \$20,000

TOTAL: \$20,000

TO:

19442-53005 CANNABIS - OPEL LEGAL SERVICES \$20,000

TOTAL: \$20,000

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 the transfer for the Office of Planning and Economic Development. She then explained that the department had been working with Blue Skies Consulting to review host community agreements and update the master cannabis list.

---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--  
Yeas 10--Nays 3 (Bartley, Greaney, I. Rivera)--Absent 0.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, EIGHTY THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SIXTY AND 00/100 Dollars (\$80,160) as follows:

FROM:

8811-10400 CAPITAL STABILIZATION \$80,160

TOTAL: \$80,160

TO:

12203-58000 FIRE DEPT. - CAPITAL OUTLAY VEHICLES \$80,160

TOTAL: \$80,160

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 the transfer to replace two Ford Escape hybrids that were made in 2007. ---> 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.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the amount of ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED TWENTY SIX AND 29/100 Dollars (\$1,126.29) be authorized from the TREASURER Department's R&M OFFICE EQUIPMENT (11452- 52400) appropriation in fiscal year 2024 for services rendered in fiscal year 2023 which were unencumbered at the 2023 fiscal year end.

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 the Treasurer Department had an invoice remaining at the end of the fiscal year for a postage machine.

---> 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.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 30, 93, and 94 as a package.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That the amount of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) is appropriated for the purpose of financing the demolition, remodeling, reconstruction, engineering, construction, and equipping or re-equipping of various city parking facilities, including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7 or any other enabling authority.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Mayor is authorized to contract for and expend any state aid available for the project; and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out these projects.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes.

Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council.

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

---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 1 (Bartley)--Absent 0.

Devine- That the amount of two million and five hundred-thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) is appropriated for the purpose of financing the demolition, remodeling, reconstruction, engineering, construction, and equipping or re-equipping of various city parking facilities, including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7 or any other enabling authority. FURTHER ORDERED: That the Mayor is authorized to contract for and expend any state aid available for the project; and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out these projects.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes. Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Devine stated that item 94 was a duplicate of item 93. She then stated that they learned one of the elevators at the Dwight Street parking garage had been closed for nine years, with possible oil leaking problems. She then explained that they wouldn't need the \$5 million right away but at least needed something to get the work started, especially with potential fines.

Councilor I. Rivera asked if this aligned with the parking study.

Councilor Jourdain stated that this included a package of \$1 million in repairs that were necessary right away. He then explained that it wasn't making alterations to the garages but to keep them useable.

Councilor Devine added that they may have to hire a structural architect because they were not yet sure what additional issues may be there. She reiterated that the state would begin to fine the city if the work didn't begin soon.

Councilor I. Rivera stated that he would support this, but was looking to hear steps in order to prevent this from happening again.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that the DGR Committee would be taking up discussion of the parking plan at a coming meeting.

Councilor Bartley expressed opposition to this. He then expressed concern that this was being considered. He then asked rhetorically who was supposed to be running the parking garages.

Councilor Jourdain stated that the DPW ran them.

Councilor Bartley suggested that the DPW had been derelict in their duties. He then stated that there weren't enough specifics to explain why they needed \$2.5 million. He added that local news had been running stories about the deplorable conditions. He then stated that he was not interested in hearing excuses that people had not been there long and just learned about these issues. He then suggested denying this request and asking them to come in with a real plan.

Councilor Jourdain emphasized that the original request had been for \$5 million. He then offered a defense of the Treasurer and the DPW, stating that they provided an explanation of all of the needed repairs. He added that there were additional issues on the deck behind City Hall, with concerns that it may not be structurally sound. He noted that some of the funds were to evaluate that possibility. He recalled asking why they were asking for \$5 million when the detailed expenses were \$1 million, and there explanation was that they may run into additional needs along the way. He added that he was not in support of that, and a compromise was found at \$2.5 million. He added that they planned to check in with the Council to explain the use and need of the additional funds. He added that he believed there was room for recriminations, emphasizing that there were inspections that had not taken place for nine years. He then expressed hope that adopting this would show the state that the city was serious in getting this addressed.

Councilor Devine stated that the DPW Director, Carl Rossi, had been in his position for a little over a year. She then stated that Mr. Rossi planned to seek a waiver to avoid fines.

Councilor I. Rivera suggested that the city was losing a lot of significant revenue because there was no mechanism for collecting parking fees at the lots. He further suggested incorporating ways to address that into the funding they were asking for.

Councilor Greaney asked to move the question.

Councilor Sullivan commended Mr. Rossi and the DPW Commission, emphasizing the issues they inherited and were finally addressed. He then suggested that the \$2.5 million was a good compromise, emphasizing that it was hard to know how far oil leaks and structural issues may have spread until they begin the work.

Councilor Bartley asked if this order could be amended.

Councilor Jourdain stated that it could not be.

Councilor Bartley questioned providing a compromise at \$2.5 million when they only detailed a need for \$1 million based only on a promise that they would come back to explain why it was needed.

Councilor Ocasio thanked the DPW for finally getting around to cutting branches off of trees in front of her house. She explained that when they cut the branches, they found the tree was cracked down the middle and had to take the entire tree down.

Councilor Vacon suggested that the motion come with a request that they report back in 60 days.

Councilor Sullivan suggested 90 days because it was more than just the elevator problem.

Councilor Devine asked if this was on item 30 or item 93.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that they were packaged together.

Councilor Jourdain suggested voting on them as a package, with 30 being denied and 93 being adopted.

Councilor Greaney asked for clarification that this was approving a bond.

Councilor Jourdain confirmed that was accurate.

City Clerk suggested voting on them separately as one was to deny and one was to approve.

---> Passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 1 (Bartley)--Absent 0.

Devine- That the amount of two million and five hundred-thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) is appropriated for the purpose of financing the demolition, remodeling, reconstruction, engineering, construction, and equipping or re-equipping of various city parking facilities, including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7 or any other enabling authority. FURTHER ORDERED: That the Mayor is authorized to contract for and expend any state aid available for the project; and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out these projects.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes.

Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council

---> Received and returned to the Auditor.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, SEVEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FORTY FIVE AND 96/100 Dollars (\$7,145.96) as follows:

FROM:

8811-10400	CAPITAL STABILIZATION	\$7,145.96
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TOTAL: \$7,145.96  
TO:  
14222-52502 R&M CITY HALL \$7,145.96  
TOTAL: \$7,145.96

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 related to repairs from a water main break at City Hall a couple months earlier.

---> 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.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, TWENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$20,000) as follows:

FROM:

14251-51106 PROP MAINTENANCE & DEMO WORKER \$5,000  
14301-51103 REFUSE LABORER 10,000  
16501-51106 PARKS HMEO 5,000

TOTAL: \$20,000

TO:

14262-52410 R&M VEHICLES \$20,000

TOTAL: \$20,000

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 to cover costs of repair and maintenance of DPW vehicles.

---> 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.

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 "MASSDEP FY24 SEWAGE NOTIFICATION ASSISTANCE GRANT, \$50,000, 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.

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 would help streamline the CSO process of notifying people of overflow releases into the Connecticut River.

---> 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.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$25,000) as follows:

FROM:

15101-51103 SANITARIAN II \$11,000  
15101-51107 SANITARIAN III 6,000  
15101-51109 SANITARIAN I 5,000  
15101-51111 FLOATING CLERK 3,000

TOTAL: \$25,000

TO:

11512-53010 SPECIAL COUNSEL \$20,000  
11512-53006 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES -OTHER 5,000

TOTAL: \$25,000

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 for the Board of Health to hire a private investigator to address a complaint that had been going on for a number of years. She added that there may be a criminal complaint.

Councilor Greaney asked if there was information on if there were funds left over from snow removal.

Councilor Jourdain suggested looking at the transfer reports that come in every other meeting. He added that the Auditor could be asked.

Councilor Greaney noted that it was a relatively light winter.

Councilor Bartley asked what the address was that was being investigated.

Councilor Jourdain stated that they had not provided an address.

Councilor Devine suggested checking with the Board of Health Director.

Councilor Jourdain clarified that the \$5,000 request was for the investigator and that the \$20,000 was sewer related legal services.

---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--  
Yeas 11--Nays 2 (Bartley, Vacon)--Absent 0.

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 "PLYMOUTH PAPER DONATION, 12 PALLETS -ASSORTED PAPER GOODS, ESTIMATED VALUE \$23,882, " 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 donation.

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 it was a generous offer of 12 pallets of paper that the Auditor would put into



the correct fund. She added that a thank you letter would be sent.

---> 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.

(2:57:30)

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to extend the meeting for 15 minutes.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the amount of ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 Dollars (\$1,950) be authorized from the COMPUTER Department's SOFTWARE LICENSE/USAGE FEES (11552-53100) appropriation in fiscal year 2024 for services rendered in fiscal year 2023 which were unencumbered at the 2023 fiscal year end.

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 for a new Wild Card SSL certificate aa part of upgrades to the computer system.

---> 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.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 37 and 38 as a package.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$850,000.00) as follows:

FROM:

- 3000-10400 SCHOOL ROOF PROJECTS \$9,718.40
- 3010-10400 DPW HIGHWAY RECONSTRUCTION \$2,269.50
- 3040-10400 DESIGN OF CONNECTOR ROAD \$10,113.55
- 3100-10400 POLICE STATION \$29,859.85
- 3130-10400 PROPERTY DEMOLITION PROJECT \$2,080.25
- 3150-10400 FIRE STATION \$3,453.54
- 3170-10400 MOSHER STREET CSO \$96,784.01
- 3250-10400 COMMUNITY FIELD \$44,721.97
- 3270-10400 APPLETON STREET SEWER SEPARATION \$1,568.25
- 3290-10400 FLOOD CONTROL LEVEE CERTIFICATION \$614.63
- 3320-10400 PARKING GARAGES RECONSTRUCTION \$16,602.59

3330-10400 DEAN VOC SCIENCE LAB \$156,211.90  
3340-10400 FIRE TRUCKS \$20,692.14  
6040-10400 SEWER PLANT IMPROVEMENTS \$7,309.42  
0430-10400 SALE OF REAL ESTATE \$303,000.00  
8811-10400 CAPITAL STABILIZATION \$145,000.00  
TO:  
13003-58200 CAPITAL OUTLAY-SCHOOL BUILDINGS \$850,000.00

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be returned to the Auditor.

Committee Members:

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

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Devine stated that the mayor asked that this be returned to the Auditor. She then stated that something happened with the sale of the buildings.

Councilor Bartley questioned why there wasn't a specific answer. He also questioned why 16 accounts were going to be drained to purchase a building to house the School Department. He noted that many expressed to the mayor that it was dead in the water and likely would not go anywhere. He then stated that the seller had made an agreement for a private sale, keeping the property on the tax rolls. He suggested that it was a win for the city that it would not be blowing \$850,000 on this building.

Councilor I. Rivera questioned the intention of moving funds out of some of these accounts, such as \$150,000 out of an account for a science lab at Dean Voc. He then stated that he had understood this was going to be a friendly taking but the seller had been told by someone that the Council would never approve of this so they went ahead and searched for another buyer, making it no longer a friendly taking. ---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order 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.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be returned to the Auditor.

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine  
Kocayne Givner  
Michael Sullivan

Kevin A. Jourdain  
Linda L. Vacon

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

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 40 and 41 as a package.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that 2 separate votes be taken by the City Council on the Community Preservation Act (CPA) as follows:

#1 whether to reduce the percentage from 1.5 % to 1%

#2 vote to put the CPA results from this question on the ballot

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

Committee Members:

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

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

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the recent vote by the City Council to keep the CPA at 1.5% be rescinded and a new vote be taken to reduce the CPA tax to 1.0% and be placed on the November ballot.

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

Committee Members:

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

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

(3:07:25)

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order Special permit application of Hasan Kuruca at 263 Hampden Street (006-04-013) for an outdoor vehicle sales lot.

have considered the same and Recommended that the special permit be granted with the following conditions:

1. That the hours of operation be Monday-Saturday, 8am-6pm
2. That there be no more than 10 vehicles on the property
3. That there be no vehicle repairs done on site beyond safety repairs to make the vehicles safe for sale.

Committee Members:

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

**UNDER DISCUSSION:**

Councilor Givner stated that Mr. Kuruka presented on the plans for the lot, promising that he would not be working on any vehicles that did not already belong to the lot. She then noted that it used to be a car lot anyway. She added that he already had a successful car lot in Connecticut.

Councilor Greaney asked where 263 Hampden Street was.

Councilor Bartley stated that was near Walnut Street. He then noted that standard conditions related to hours of operation, number of vehicles on the property, as well as a restriction on repairs other than getting cars ready for sale. He then stated that this was a good businessman who had other businesses in the city.

Councilor Magrath-Smith asked what was meant by safety repairs and how it was limited to other types of repairs.

Councilor Givner stated that they clarified in committee that repairs could only be made to cars owned by the lot in order to make them ready to sell, but could not offer repair service to outside vehicles.

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

(3:12:10)

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to extend the meeting for 15 minutes. Motion failed on a show of hands vote.

Councilor Bartley suggested being mindful of injured on duty on duty orders that should be adopted to avoid issues with pay.

Councilor Jourdain suggested a compromise at 10 minutes.

Councilor Magrath-Smith suggested that the next meeting would be short if nothing got moved to committee.

(3:14:45)

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to extend the meeting for 10 minutes.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up item 45 out of order.

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order that the City Council approve the Resolution for the Certified Housing Development Incentive Program Project including a Local Tax Increment Exemption (TIE) Agreement with Open Square Properties, LLC for the new downtown market rate housing development at 4 Open Square Way (Assessors Map 022, Block 01, Parcel 003).

have considered the same and Recommended that the order adopted.

Committee Members:

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

**UNDER DISCUSSION:**

Councilor Givner stated that HDIP was one of the tools to bring businesses to Holyoke. She then explained that Open Square negotiated a 5 year HDIP which would mean they would not pay full taxes until the fifth year. She then emphasized that the exemption would not apply until the project was completed. She then stated that they would be building 60 residential units.

Councilor Bartley stated that this was a tremendous use of the program that OPED should be credited for, noting that it would be around 80 units. He noted that many other communities were not interested in creating more housing. He also stated that the city would not be losing any revenue but would be slowly scaled up over five years.

Councilor I. Rivera expressed concern that 84 new market rate housing units would not be paying full taxes for five years and contribute to gentrification.

Councilor Sullivan stated that while it was true, it was 84 new units paying half the price of 84 units just two blocks away.

---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 11--Nays 1 (I. Rivera)--Absent 1 (Greaney).

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up item 46 out of order.

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order that Ordered that the City Council sign and support the attached amended Resolution to create a state-authorized cultural district for at least (10) years to be named the Puerto Rican Cultural District.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order adopted.

Committee Members:

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

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Givner stated that the amendment was to extend it to ten years instead of five to allow them to apply for more funding and do different kinds of programming in the cultural district.

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

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 83, 84, and 92 out pf order as a package.

Devine- Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, FIFTEEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FIFTY NINE AND 80/100 Dollars (\$15,359.80) as follows:

FROM:

12101-51105 SERGEANTS \$6,995.44  
12101-51107 PATROLMEN 8,364.36

TOTAL: \$15,359.80

TO:

12101-51180 INJURED ON DUTY \$15,359.80

TOTAL: \$15,359.80

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

---> 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 there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, TWENTY ONE THOUSAND EIGHTEEN AND 67/100 Dollars (\$21,018.67) as follows:

FROM:

12101-51105 SERGEANTS \$8,744.30

12101-51107 PATROLMEN 12,274.37

TOTAL: \$21,018.67

TO:

12101-51180 INJURED ON DUTY (PAYROLL 4/13/2024) \$21,018.67

TOTAL: \$21,018.67

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

---> 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 there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY SEVEN AND 58/100 Dollars (\$877.58) as follows:

FROM:

12201-51105

TOTAL:

TO: FIREFIGHTER

\$877.58 \$877.58

12201-51180 INJURED ON DUTY (PAY PERIOD #21) \$877.58

TOTAL: \$877.58

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

---> Passed two readings 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 item 85 out of order.

Devine- Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, FIFTEEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FIFTY NINE AND 80/100 Dollars (\$15,359.80) as follows:

FROM:

12101-51105 SERGEANTS \$6,995.44  
 12101-51107 PATROLMEN 8,364.36  
 TOTAL: \$15,359.80|  
 TO:  
 12101-51180 INJURED ON DUTY \$15,359.80  
 TOTAL: \$15,359.80

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor  
 ---> Received and returned to the Auditor.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to extend the meeting to allow for transfer of financial orders 86 through 91 and 95.

Councilor I. Rivera suggested taking up pertinent items first in the future.

Devine- Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, THIRTEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$13,000) as follows:

FROM:  
 14211-51306 ADMIN OVERTIME-SUPERVISORS - DPW \$13,000  
 TOTAL: \$13,000  
 TO:  
 14301-51400  
 REFUSE PAY-LONGEVITY \$750  
 12941-51300 FORESTRY PAY- OVERTIME 1,600  
 14101-51400 PARKS PAY-LONGEVITY 1,000  
 14211-51300 ADMIN PAY-OVERTIME 2,000  
 14212-53190 ADMIN EDUCATION EXPENSE 2,000  
 14222-52505 PROPERTY R&M SENIOR CENTER 4,000  
 14222-52514 PROPERTY R&M N HOLYOKE FIRE STATION 1,000  
 14261-51400 AUTO PAY-LONGEVITY 650  
 TOTAL: \$13,000

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, May 7, 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, ONE THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$1,000) as follows:



FROM:  
11751-51223 DEVELOPMENTAL SPECIALIST \$1,000  
TOTAL: \$1,000  
TO:  
11751-51300 OVERTIME \$1,000  
TOTAL: \$1,000

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, May 7, 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 THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$30,000) as follows:

FROM:  
12201-51105  
TOTAL:  
TO: FIREFIGHTERS  
\$30,000 \$30,000  
12201-51300 OVERTIME \$30,000  
TOTAL: \$30,000

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, May 7, 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, FORTY FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$45,000) as follows:

FROM:  
14101-51105 PAY-SR CIVIL ENGINEER \$20,000  
14101-51101 PAY-ENGINEER 25,000  
TOTAL: \$45,000  
TO:  
14102-53010 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES \$45,000  
TOTAL: \$45,000

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, May 7, 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, FOUR THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED THIRTY SIX AND 00/100 Dollars (\$4,136) as follows:

FROM:

12101-51204 POLICE PT PRINCIPAL CLERK \$4,136

TOTAL: \$4,136

TO:

12101-51110 POLICE PRINCIPAL CLERK \$2,336

12101-51201 MATRON 1,800

TOTAL: \$4,136

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, May 7, 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, FOUR THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 Dollars (\$4,750) as follows:

FROM:

11451-51103

TOTAL:

TO: DEPUTY TREASURER

\$4,750 \$4,750

11451-51300 OVERTIME \$4,750

TOTAL: \$4,750

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, May 7, 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 "USDA URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY IRA GRANT, \$1,000,000, 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.

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order that the Honorable City Council accept the revised proposal for 689 Main Street (Assessors Map 055, Block 00, Parcel 009) as described in the letter (attached) previously submitted as a communication to the City Council.

have considered the same and Recommended that the revised proposal be adopted.

Committee Members:

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

---> Report of Committee received and Laid on the table.

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order that the City Council approve an Amendment to a Home Rule Petition for the Purpose of expanding the Center City Liquor License Area.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order adopted.

Committee Members:

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

---> Report of Committee received and Laid on the table.

The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order that the Legal Department clarify the meaning of "senior member" as related to City Council rules 3B and 8D.

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

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith  
Linda L. Vacon  
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti

---> Report of Committee received and Laid on the table.

The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order From Attorney Kathleen Degnan, legal opinion regarding context of "senior"

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

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith  
Linda L. Vacon  
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti

---> Report of Committee received and Laid on the table.

The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order that City Council Rule 7B be amended to allow speakers during Public Comment to speak for up to 3 minutes. The current rule allows for up to ten speakers to each speak for 1.5 minutes.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted, amending the rule to allow for up to 2 minutes.

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith  
Linda L. Vacon  
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti

---> Report of Committee received and Laid on the table.

The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order that the City Council establish a rule that requires any resident running to fill a vacant city council seat will need to obtain 50 signatures from eligible residents in order to be considered by the full City Council for appointment.

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

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith

Linda L. Vacon  
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti

---> Report of Committee received and Laid on the table.

The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order That the City of Holyoke, through its Honorable City Council and Honorable Mayor, hereby petitions the Massachusetts General Court to enact legislation "Establishing an Appointed Treasurer for the City of Holyoke" in the form set forth below; provided, however, that the General Court may reasonably vary the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.

"An Act Establishing an Appointed Treasurer for the City of Holyoke" – This act proposes to change the City Treasurer from an elected position to an appointed one; the appointment will be made by the Mayor, with approval of the City Council, for a term not to exceed five (5) years and qualifications for the position may be established by ordinance. If adopted, the Treasurer elected in the 2023 municipal election will fill the vacancy in the office for the remaining two (2) years, and a Treasurer will be appointed to the position following the expiration of that term in January 2026 or sooner if the office is vacated.

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

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith  
Linda L. Vacon  
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti

---> Report of Committee received and Laid on the table.

The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order That the City of Holyoke, through its Honorable City Council and Honorable Mayor, hereby petitions the Massachusetts General Court to enact legislation "Establishing an Appointed Treasurer for the City of Holyoke" in the form set forth below; provided, however, that the General Court may reasonably vary the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition. "An Act Establishing an Appointed Treasurer for the City of Holyoke" – This act proposes to change the City Treasurer from an elected position to an appointed one; the appointment will be made by the City Council, for a term not to exceed five (5) years and qualifications for the position may be established by ordinance. If adopted, the Treasurer elected in the 2023 municipal election will fill the vacancy in the office for the remaining two (2) years, and a Treasurer will be appointed to the position following the expiration of that term in January 2026 or sooner if the office is vacated.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted, amending "five (5) years" to "three (3) years," amending "qualifications for the position may be established by ordinance" to "qualifications for the position shall be established by ordinance," and removing the clause, "elected in the 2023 municipal election will fill the vacancy in the office for the remaining two (2) years, and a Treasurer."

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith

Linda L. Vacon  
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti

---> Report of Committee received Laid on the table.

### **ORDERS AND TRANSFERS**

Jourdain- Ordered, that the Joint Committee on City Council and School Committee review the process for the naming of the new middle school replacing Peck Middle School at the same location; including, the apparent desire by some to possibly change the name from Superintendent William R. Peck who was Superintendent of our Schools from 1920-1963 and a World War 1 Naval Veteran and had this middle school named for him by the city in 1970. That the Joint Committee and Law Department also review our ordinances and rules on naming Holyoke owned facilities and buildings specifically Chapter 12 of our Ordinances so that we ensure we are following the proper procedure for the naming of the new school which is a city owned municipal building.

---> Received and Laid on the table.

Jourdain, Vacon, Devine, Sullivan, Bartley- Ordered, that the Holyoke City Council go on record as opposed to the legislation pending in Boston to create a new 2% local surcharge tax on real estate transactions. This new surtax would create crippling costs on our residents and businesses, robbing residents of precious needed funds, make home ownership even more unattainable and unaffordable (appx \$5,000 tax surcharge on the average Holyoke home and appx \$8,800 on average Holyoke business), and further reduce economic development in our city. Holyoke has been deeply committed to affordable housing for many decades while many other communities do little to help. Instead of taxing Holyokers more, the state should be providing resources to cities like Holyoke who are already doing their fair share. This new surtax is unaffordable to Holyokers and allows the state to pass the buck onto cities and towns instead of meeting its own commitments. That this resolution be adopted and sent to our state delegation, Registrar of Deeds Cheryl Coakley-Rivera and the Governor's office.

---> Received and Laid on the table.

Magrath-Smith- Ordered, that the language from sections 74-32, 74-33, 74-34, and 74- 35 be updated based on guidance from the Board of Public Works and the Recycling Advisory Committee.

---> Received and Laid on the table.

Ocasio- Ordered that Pettiah and Main St. going up or down have, that needs paved

---> Received and Laid on the table.

Ocasio- Ordered that James and Temples from the corner to the center needs to be fixed.

---> Received and Laid on the table.

Ocasio- Ordered that Meadow St be fixed, residents said that it was filed and send to DPW

---> Received and Laid on the table.

Ocasio- Ordered that a Speed Hump be put on, Main and Temples St . They using the road as a speedway, tire mark on road.

---> Received and Laid on the table.

Ocasio- Ordered that " No Parking on Grass " Sign be put up at Springdale Park.  
---> Received and Laid on the table.

Ocasio- Ordered that they put, another "POOP" stand on the other side. And refill the one that is already there.  
---> Received and Laid on the table.

Ocasio- Ordered that they go look at the " Picnic Tables " at Springdale Park and replace with new ones, the cracked and missing screws.  
---> Received and Laid on the table.

Ocasio- Ordered that someone comes to the City Councilor meeting and explained why the " Traffic Light " that was removed and replaced with " STOP SIGNS " what's the plan.  
---> Received and Laid on the table.

Ocasio- Ordered that the "Black Fencing Light Poles" around Clemente St and South Bridge St, be turned on for residents safety. never on.  
---> Received and Laid on the table.

Rivera, J.-Order for the removal of the handicap parking sign currently installed at 36 Northeast Street. The tenant, Lori Bresnahan, has relocated to Easthampton, making the presence of the handicap sign unnecessary at the specified location.  
---> Received and Laid on the table.

ANDERSON-BURGOS -- Ordered that temporary speed humps be placed on Columbus Ave to see if they will help reduce speeding. Constituent request.  
---> Received and Laid on the table.

Bartley- DPW PLEASE stripe the "no parking" area on Russell Terrace (east side) asap. This is already designated in Ordinance but the striping has been pending for a few years. Receive, Adopt, Refer to DPW and please follow-up with the admin. Assistant in 45 days to advise if/when installed.  
---> Received and Laid on the table.

Bartley- The Veterans Services department head look to expanding the number of signs on Holyoke's Purple Heart Trail. Refer to Veterans Services Dept, War Memorial Commission and refer to Public Service for a follow-up.  
---> Received and Laid on the table.

Bartley- City Council present a Proclamation to Barbara Bernard on the occasion of her well-deserved induction into the Massachusetts Broadcasters Hall of Fame. (See attachment for a list of the honorees – event to take place June 13, 2024 at the Boston Marriott Quincy Hotel)  
---> Received and Laid on the table.

Bartley- DPW install raised X-walk on South St. at Elmwood Towers. Similar to either the ones on Westfield Rd. at Mayer Field and on Main St. at Dean Tech. Receive, Adopt & Refer to DPW and Mayor.

Refer to Finance and Public Safety for follow-up.

---> Received and Laid on the table.

Bartley- DPW install TEMPORARY NO PARKING signs on the South side of the South St. X-walk from Elmwood Towers. Please do so immediately so that seniors have a clearer pathway to see vehicles prior to crossing. Leave them installed until the Pedestrian Traffic light is repaired. Receive, Adopt and Refer to DPW. Send order to Public Safety for a follow-up to ensure compliance.

---> Received and Laid on the table.

Bartley- DPW, Emergency Management, HPD and Mayor's office determine a safety plan to better warn truckers traveling on Main St. of the iron R/R bridge at Lyman St. Yet another collision occurred last week. Consider checking out the flashing beacons and warning signs on East Mountain Rd, Westfield.

---> Received and Laid on the table.

Bartley- DPW work with MA DOT to remove the dead trees by the US Route 91 overpass at Westfield Rd. This area is in need of some attention. Receive, Adopt and Refer to DPW. Refer to Public Safety for a follow-up.

---> Received and Laid on the table.

Bartley- The City Council present a Proclamation to The Support Network, champions of emotional health for children, in recognition of the work it does for youth in the community and to honor Mental Health Week (May 5-11) in Massachusetts.

---> Received and Laid on the table.

Devine- ORDERED that the DPW place a ONE WAY sign facing Pine Street across from the Pine Street exit of the Holyoke YMCA

---> Received and Laid on the table.

Devine- ORDERED that the City Council consider a rule addition to to RULE 6C (DECORUM/SPEAKING) adding the following words as a second paragraph:

"No Councilor shall speak more than 4 minutes during debate. The President/and or the City Council Administrative Assistant shall keep track of the minutes. A (1) one minute reminder shall be given at the 3 minute mark during debate."

---> Received and Laid on the table.

Devine- ORDERED: That a digital time clock be provided to the President of the City Council, in the City Council budget for the purposes of keeping time for Public Speak and City Council rule addition to Rule #6C.

---> Received and Laid on the table.

Givner- By constituent requests, order that crosswalks be installed from the parking lot on canal serving businesses in the block between Water and Appleton streets.

-Public Safety copy to DPW

---> Received and Laid on the table.



Givner- In an effort to improve efficiency, order that the last sentence of voting rule K, from our City Council Rules, be changed to reflect "Motion that the Legal Form be Ordained, by a majority of the full Council voting in a recorded roll-call vote."-Charter & Rules  
---> Received and Laid on the table.

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

Devine - Ordered, that a proclamation be given to Police Chief David Pratt for his over 31 years of dedicated service to the city of Holyoke.  
---> Received and Laid on the table.

From Chief David Pratt, Holyoke Police Department, communication in support of installing a temporary "no parking" sign on South St near Elmwood Towers.  
---> Received and Laid on the table.

Adjourned at 10:29 PM