

Ordinance Committee

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Video of meeting can be found at <https://youtu.be/MaKuobgpqXQ?feature=shared>

Members present: Vice Chair Linda Vacon, Jenny Rivera, David Bartley

Members absent: Chair Israel Rivera

Other councilors present: Patricia Devine, Carmen Ocasio, Howard Greaney

Acting Chair Vacon called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

Councilor Bartley made a motion to remove item 1 from the table. Councilor J. Rivera seconded the motion. Motion adopted.

Item 1: Minutes of November 13, 2024 meeting

---> Approved 3-0-2 (Magrath-Smith, I. Rivera)

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Bartley made a motion to approve item 1. Councilor J. Rivera seconded the motion. Motion adopted, 3-0-2 (Magrath-Smith, I. Rivera)

(1:05)

Councilor Bartley made a motion to remove item 2 from the table and open the public hearing. Councilor J. Rivera seconded the motion. Motion adopted.

Item 2: 11-7-24 PUBLIC HEARING Special permit extension application of 876 Grow Inc at 360 Race Street (028-06-018A) to build and operate a marijuana cultivation and processing establishment.

---> Approved one year extension 3-0-2 (Magrath-Smith, I. Rivera)

DISCUSSION:

Daneton Blake, 80 Quincy Street, Springfield, introduced himself.

Acting Chair Vacon expressed her understanding that this was requested due to work not able to be completed within the initial special permit period. She then asked for a summary of where the project was at and what was anticipated.

D. Blake stated that they were a step away from final inspection and had passed all of the previous inspections. He added that he expected everything to be done within 4-6 months.

Acting Chair Vacon asked if there was anything else the committee should understand, and if it was a monetary matter that held things up.

D. Blake stated that it was monetary, as well as there being delays in materials.

Acting Chair Vacon asked if those problems were resolved.

D. Blake stated that they were.

Acting Chair Vacon opened the floor for any member of the public to speak. No member of the public sought to speak.

Councilor Bartley made a motion to close the public hearing. Councilor J. Rivera seconded the motion. Motion adopted, 3-0-2 (Magrath-Smith, I. Rivera)

Councilor Bartley noted that the documents showed they expected to be done within 6 months of the submission date in October. He then asked if the extension should go for 6 months or for a full year in case the timetable turns out to be off a little.

Acting Chair Vacon asked if the initial permit was for 2 years or 3 years.

Councilor Bartley stated they run for 2 years, with the option for the Council to extend them up to a year.

Acting Chair Vacon stated that she would go with the majority.

Councilor Bartley deferred to Councilor Ocasio, as the Ward 2 chair.

Councilor Ocasio stated she did not have a preference.

Acting Chair Vacon emphasized that an extension would include all original conditions placed on the permit.

Councilor Bartley suggested to Mr. Blake to connect with the Ward 2 councilor as his business opened. He then made a motion to approve item 2, with an extension of 1 year, including all original conditions. Councilor J. Rivera seconded the motion. Motion adopted, 3-0-2 (Magrath-Smith, I. Rivera)

(6:40)

Councilor Bartley made a motion to suspend the necessary rules to remove items 3 and 4 from the table as a package. Acting Chair Vacon seconded the motion. Motion adopted.

Item 3: 11-7-24 Vacon- ORDER: that consideration be made to adopt the changes available under the HERO Act for Veteran Property tax exemptions: whether to adopt Clause I or Clause J or both clauses simultaneously.
*Tabled 11-13-24

---> Approved Clause J at 100% 3-0-2 (Magrath-Smith, I. Rivera)

Item 4: 11-7-24 Vacon- ORDER: that we add Clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, 22F, and 22H of the Hero's Act to expand benefits for veterans.
*Tabled 11-13-24

---> Complied with 3-0-2 (Magrath-Smith, I. Rivera)

DISCUSSION:

Acting Chair Vacon invited Chief Assessor, Deb Brunelle, into Council chambers. She then noted that an earlier order was written in a confusing way and resulted in specifically addressing the tax work off program. She added that the initial goal was to expand the exemption for veterans that had some degree of handicap along with the newly adopted state law. She then asked for a quick overview, noting the main question from the committee was the cost.

D. Brunelle referred to a sheet with a table that had previously been sent.

Acting Chair Vacon asked for an explanation of the chart.

D. Brunelle stated that the HERO Act was adopted in August 2024, with one of the clauses affecting cities was expanding veteran property tax exemptions by either a cost of living

raise, doubling the exemption, or doing both. She then explained that item 4 didn't need to be adopted because those exemptions were already in place. She noted that not everyone qualified for them, noting nobody in the city qualified for 22C, but they were there in place someone did. She then explained that the chart showed the amount of exemptions currently being received, what they would be if doubled, what it would be with just the COLA, and what it would be if both were done. She noted that the state reimbursed on a portion of exemptions, which was also shown on the chart. She emphasized that the reimbursement would not increase with an increase in the city's monetary award to veterans.

*Chart document available through the document link at the end of these minutes.

Acting Chair Vacon suggested that increasing the exemption would not put a big hit on the city.

D. Brunelle agreed that it would not. She then explained that clause 22D would not double, but clause 22E would double from \$1,000 to \$2,000 each, with the total going from \$50,500 to \$101,000.

Acting Chair Vacon asked if the reimbursement would also increase.

D. Brunelle stated that it would not. She added that the city would be taking on more of a burden, but it was for a good cause. She then explained that Clause 22 was where most of the exemptions were, with the \$400 doubling. She also stated that Clause 22A, currently with only one person qualifying for it, would also double.

Acting Chair Vacon expressed her understanding that the total increase would add around \$90,000 to the tax.

D. Brunelle clarified that Clauses 22, 22A, and 22E would all double.

Acting Chair Vacon stated that she filed the order with the intent of doubling the exemption but wasn't aware of being able to do different things. She then stated that she filed the order on behalf of a veteran who was looking for a doubling of the exemption, adding that she believed that was the most straightforward thing to implement.

D. Brunelle stated that the COLA would be more difficult because it had to be calculated every year and added on. She also explained that residents had to pay at least 10% of their tax bill. She agreed that doubling it would be the best option.

Councilor Bartley asked for an explanation of the differences between Clause 22I and 22J.

D. Brunelle stated that 22I would increase the exemption by the COLA amount, which was 3.5%. She added that 22J would be to double the exemption.

Councilor Bartley asked to confirm the recommendation would be to double the exemption and leave the COLA as is.

D. Brunelle stated the Council could do either, but if only one were done, she would be more in favor of the doubling option.

Councilor Bartley asked for clarification that Clause 22J would be approved for item 3 and then 22A and 22E would be approved for item 4.

D. Brunelle clarified that only Clauses 22I or 22J needed to be adopted and would cover all veterans exemptions other than 22D.

Councilor Bartley, referring to the chart, noted that Clause 22 had an exemption total cost of \$32,800, and asked if adopted Clause 22J would double that.

D. Brunelle stated that was correct.

Councilor Bartley asked if the same was true for Clause 22A and Clause 22E.

D. Brunelle stated that was correct.

Councilor Bartley made a motion to approve item 3 at 100%. Councilor J. Rivera seconded the motion. Motion adopted, 3-0-2 (Magrath-Smith, I. Rivera).

Councilor Bartley made a motion that item 4 had been complied with. Councilor J. Rivera seconded the motion. Motion adopted, 3-0-2 (Magrath-Smith, I. Rivera).

(18:10)

Councilor Devine asked if item 10 could be taken up, noting she had some information about it.

Councilor Bartley made a motion to suspend the necessary rules to remove item 10 from the table. Councilor J. Rivera seconded the motion. Motion adopted.

Item 10: 6-4-24 BARTLEY, OCASIO -- The City determine a more efficient manner to remove Handicap/Disability signs. Perhaps a database should be maintained by the Clerk. City addresses with Handicap/Disability signs in front of a parcel's address should maintained and made public. Further, for example, on an annual basis, each addressee with such a sign should be notified and must affirm whether or not the sign should remain. Refer to Ordinance for a follow-up.

*Tabled 8-14-24, 9-25-24, 10-9-24, 11-13-24

---> Laid on the table 3-0-2 (Magrath-Smith, I. Rivera)

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Devine stated that she recently learned that people could order handicap signs on Amazon. She then expressed concern that people could get one of these signs this easily. She suggested contacting Congressman Neal to address this.

Councilor Bartley made a motion to lay item on the table. Councilor J. Rivera seconded the motion. Motion adopted 3-0-2 (Magrath-Smith, I. Rivera).

(21:00)

Councilor Bartley made a motion to remove item 5 from the table and open the public hearing. Acting Chair Vacon seconded the motion. Motion adopted.

Item 5: PUBLIC HEARING 8-6-24 GREANEY -Ordered that no group homes, profit or non-profit, be allowed within the city limits of Holyoke, Ma without the approval of the Holyoke City Council.

*Continued from November 13, 2024

--> Continued to January 22, 2025 at 6:30 PM 3-0-2 (Magrath-Smith, I. Rivera)

DISCUSSION:

Acting Chair Vacon stated that the Law Department provided feedback for the last meeting, but the hearing was left open to allow Councilor Greaney to attend and have further discussion.

Councilor Greaney stated that while he was unsure of the legal issues, he assumed it was about the property rights of individuals to do what they want with their property. He then explained that this order came as a result of request from multiple constituents in more than one ward, with people concerned about the number of groups homes coming into the city. He added that another concern was about tax exemptions, with a lot of these properties not paying them. He expressed his understanding that the Mayor was trying to work on this issue. He also stated that another question was if the City Council could create an ordinance requiring a special permit to allow group homes to come in to at least inform the public of when they were coming in. He noted that there were at least 20 group homes in the city not on the tax rolls.

Acting Chair Vacon asked a member of the Law Department to address those concerns. She also asked if the City Council had the legal authority to have a special permit process requiring that an entity at least document that they were meeting the as of right purpose, both being a nonprofit and having an educational purpose. She noted there was a lawsuit questioning if one was actually serving a medical purpose.

Atty Bissonnette expressed his understanding that Acting Chair Vacon was referring to the facility at 11 Yale Street.

Acting Chair Vacon stated that was correct.

Atty Bissonnette recalled that a large residence was converted into a group home against the wishes of the neighbors, leading to a lawsuit in Land Court that the neighbors ended up losing. He then explained that Chapter 48 of the zoning laws provided an exemption for things like group homes in residential settings and preventing local communities from blocking these agencies from getting a permit. He then suggested that given the need to comply with other regulations such as code enforcement, electrical permits, or number of bathroom facilities, he believed a checklist could be recorded by the Building Department to be provided to the City Council.

Acting Chair Vacon stated that this would help eliminate the surprise that happens in many neighborhoods.

Councilor Greaney noted that there was an ordinance that dealt with boarding houses, with allowed residences to become boarding houses if they had more than 3 residents. He then asked what the difference between that and a residence that was built for 2 or 3 families.

Atty Bissonnette stated that boarded houses fell in between definitions, almost but not quite to the point of being motels in residential areas. He then explained that if they had a purpose that was exempt, they would be allowed as of right. He added that did not mean they could not be held to standards of code enforcement accountability.

Councilor Greaney expressed his understanding that an owner of a single family residence with multiple bedrooms can rent out each of the bedrooms as long as it was 3 or fewer people, but a 4th person would make it a boarding house.

Atty Bissonnette stated that he was unsure what number triggered the distinction, and then how many before it would become a motel or hotel.

Councilor Greaney emphasized that those kinds of residences would all be on the tax rolls. He then suggested more information needed to be looked into on this order.

Acting Chair Vacon asked if there was anything in the state law that allowed for consideration of density of cities where they existed, noting there were at least 20 in this city of around 40,000 people.

Atty Bissonnette stated that it was pretty much a blanket exemption. He added that the consequence of an overload of nonprofits and non-taxpaying entities into a city like Holyoke had not been reflected in reimbursements from the state. He then acknowledged that urban areas had tended to take on a greater share of the impacts of these entities.

Acting Chair Vacon asked if there was not an ability to have a role of approval, could the City Council at least have a role of being informed of compliance.

Atty Bissonnette stated that permits and licenses were issued by the city and those departments could be instructed to notify the Council in order to help councilors notify their constituents.

Acting Chair Vacon asked if an ordinance could be created to cause that to happen.

Atty Bissonnette suggested it may be able to be added onto an existing ordinance.

Acting Chair Vacon suggested that this step would at least help provide more data when advocating to the state delegation.

Councilor Bartley observed that the discussion had become a lot more involved and had a lot more nuance than what was contemplated by the Planning Board in their recommendation letter. He then stated his intent to continue the public hearing but would first like an explanation of the vehicle that would allow the City Council to be better informed relative to the proposed checklist. He noted that the Planning Board's letter did not consider anything related to boarding houses. He then asked Atty Bissonnette if he would consider how the boarding house ordinance related to group homes.

Atty Bissonnette stated that he could look at that.

Councilor Bartley suggested taking this up again in two meetings.

Acting Chair Vacon asked the administrative assistant if Chair I. Rivera had called a meeting for January 8th.

Admin Asst Anderson-Burgos stated that while nothing was officially on the calendar, the schedule had been to hold meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays.

Acting Chair Vacon asked if January 22nd would be better.

Councilor Bartley agreed, noting the 8th would be a little tight of a timeline. He then made a motion to continue the public hearing to January 22, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. Councilor J. Rivera seconded the motion.

Acting Chair Vacon asked if any member of the public wanted to speak for this public hearing. No person from the public sought to be recognized.

Motion adopted, 3-0-2 (Magrath-Smith, I. Rivera).

(37:20)

Councilor Bartley made a motion to remove item 6 from the table. Councilor J. Rivera seconded the motion. Motion adopted.

Item 6: 11-7-24 GREANEY - Ordered that DPW install a 15-minute parking sign in front of the Stop and Go variety store at the corner of Hillside Avenue and Cherry Street.

--> Laid on the table 3-0-2 (Magrath-Smith, I. Rivera)

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Greaney stated that the proprietor of the store had issues with people using the parking space in front of the store, preventing customers of the store from parking there, leading that owner to request a 15 minute parking sign to prevent long term parking.

Acting Chair Vacon expressed her understanding that this had been done for others. She then asked if an ordinance was needed to create the 15 minute parking spot.

Councilor Bartley stated that it would require that. He then suggested getting measurements from the City Engineer for one space closest to the abutter's driveway on the side of the building, opposite of the side abutting Cherry Street.

Councilor Greaney clarified that the driveway belonged to the store.

Councilor Bartley stated it should be as close to the curb cut for the driveway as possible, for the duration of the store's hours of operations.

Acting Chair Vacon asked if the hours of operation were known.

Councilor Greaney stated that he was unsure.

Councilor Bartley stated that could be received for the next meeting.

Acting Chair Vacon asked the administrative assistant to get the measurements for the next meeting.

Councilor Bartley made a motion to lay item 6 on the table. Councilor J. Rivera seconded the motion. Motion adopted, 3-0-2 (Magrath-Smith, I. Rivera).

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM

Documents for meeting can be [found here](#).

LAID ON THE TABLE

(Items taken up at previous meeting(s) and laid on the table. Discussion may or may not take place)

Item 7: 3-21-23 JOURDAIN -- Ordered, The City of Holyoke develop a personnel policy for the handling of administrative leave and codifying the rules into Ordinance as recommended by the Personnel Dept including but not limited to when employees should or should not be placed on paid leave or unpaid leave. The current process appears lacking objective standards. Taxpayers should also be protected to ensure people who should not be out on paid administrative leave are placed on unpaid administrative leave.

*Tabled 5-23-23, 6-27-23, 9-12-23, 10-24-23, 12-12-23, 8-14-24, 9-11-24, 9-25-24, 10-9-24, 11-13-24

Item 8: 10-4-22 MURPHY-ROMBOLETTI -- Ordered that the City examine and study the Schedule A increases that were recommended by the salary study completed in 2014, so that we can implement salary adjustments that are competitive and more aligned with neighboring municipalities in order to retract and retain City employees.

*Tabled 4-25-23, 2-7-24, 10-9-24, 11-13-24

Item 9: 5-2-23 MURPHY-ROMBOLETTI -- Ordered, That schedules B and C of ordinance 2-35 be updated as appropriate with competitive salaries to attract and retain employees.

*Tabled 3-27-24, 10-9-24, 11-13-24

Item 11: 9-4-24 MURPHY-ROMBOLETTI -Ordered -that the City create the position of a municipal hearings officer to hear appeals by offenders of the State Building Code made pursuant to MGL c. 148A, Section 2 and that a stipend be determined for said position.

*Tabled 9-25-24, 10-9-24, 11-13-24

Item 12: 10-3-23 PUELLO -- Ordered, That the no parking sign at 14 Arthur St please be removed. Per DPW must go to ordinance.

*Tabled 10-23-24

Item 13: 10-3-23 J. RIVERA -- Ordered, Request the implementation of a three-way stop at the intersection of Mosher and Bowers Streets.

*Tabled 10-23-24

Item 14: 8-1-23 MCGIVERIN, J. RIVERA -- Ordered, The DPW install a crosswalk for the city parking lot on N. Canal St. across from GTI.

*Tabled 8-14-24, 10-23-24

Item 15: 8-1-23 TALLMAN -- Ordered, That the DPW/Engineer consider putting stop signs at Joanne/Bemis, Drake/Bemis, Mt. Tom/Bemis and West Meadowview/Bemis.

*Tabled 10-23-24

Item 16: 4-4-23 GIVNER -- Ordered, Per constituent requests, that a right turning lane be designated on Hamden at the corner of Pleasant St in an effort to enhance traffic flow.

*Tabled 10-23-24

- Item 17: 3-21-23 PUELLO -- That the following entry be added to the City Ordinances Sec. 86-325. - Schedule IV: Stop streets, this will be directed to the Ordinance Committee to be heard.
Street Stopped/ Vernon St
Direction of Travel/ Southerly
Intersection/ Main St
*Tabled 4-25-23, 8-14-24, 10-23-24
- Item 18: 9-7-21 MURPHY -- Ordered that the city council work with the mayor to establish a formalized procedure for any request to have a street closing.
*Tabled 10-23-24
- Item 19: 2-20-24 SULLIVAN -- Ordered, That the Vacant Building fee be adjusted to take into account the size (SF) of the building. Currently, a flat fee is assessed which is not reflective of the burden to the city and its taxpayers.
*Tabled 4-10-24, 10-9-24
- Item 20: 4-18-23 MCGEE -- Ordered, that the position of Chief Administrative and Financial Officer be created and added to Schedule A
*Referred back 9-18-24, Tabled 9-25-24
- Item 21: 11-21-23 PUELLO — That we consider crafting an ordinance stipulating requirements for expenditure of funds of the police special events line and requirements. Example: committee organized event, private businesses participating, alcohol served, who is profiting etc.
*Tabled 11-28-23, 12-12-23, 9-25-24
- Item 22: 4-5-22 VACON, JOURDAIN, PUELLO -- Ordered, That a Legal opinion be issued to clarify allowed uses of marijuana impact fee money. For example, if odor from a facility is a problem in the community can the money be used for mitigation?
*Tabled 11-29-22, 8-14-24, 9-11-24
- Item 23: 11-16-21 MCGEE -- ORDERED that the City Council amend Ordinance 2-69 by striking section (g) (2) from the ordinance. That section states " No employee of the city shall simultaneously serve on the city council during their time of employment."
*Referred back 11-21-21, Tabled 8-14-24, 9-11-24
- Item 24: 2-21-23 PUELLO — in accordance with the city charter, create ordinance language that confirms, no sitting city councilor shall become a member of any board or commission in city government during the term of office. To Ordinance Committee
*Tabled 11-28-23, 12-12-23, 9-11-24
- Item 25: 8-1-23 GIVNER -- With community support, order that the City of Holyoke establish, in the Schedule A, a Homeless and Housing Liaison position.
*Tabled 6-5-24

Item 26: 8-1-23 ANDERSON-BURGOS -- Ordered, that when the use a building is changing requiring permits from city departments but not City Council approval, a communication be sent to the City Council informing of the change. This can help councilors keep constituents informed so that concerns can be addressed.

*Tabled 5-8-24

Item 27: 3-7-23 MCGEE -- Ordered, that the Zoning Ordinance be amended to add a section for Short Term Rentals, in addition to amending Section 2 DEFINITIONS, and any other sections that may apply to this use.

*Public hearings held 4-25-23, 5-23-23, 8-22-23, 10-24-23, 1-23-24.

Tabled 1-23-24 Pending Planning Board recommendation.

Item 28: 3-7-23 MCGEE -- Ordered, that the Zoning Ordinance be amended to add a Section for Tiny Houses, in addition to amending Section 2 DEFINITIONS, and any other Sections that may apply to this use.

*Public hearings held 4-25-23, 9-26-23, 11-28-23, 1-23-24.

Tabled 1-23-24 Pending Planning Board recommendation.

Item 29: 10-17-23 MCGEE -- Ordered, That the DPW Commission return to reviewing and setting the Sewer Rate.

*Tabled 2-7-24

Item 30: 1-22-24 (Referred back 4-2-24) DEVINE, GIVNER, J. RIVERA -- Ordered, to add the position of City Engineer to the Ordinance under Schedule A, Grade 13.

*Referred back 4-2-24, tabled 4-24-24

Item 31: 12-19-23 MALDONADO VELEZ -- Ordered, Order that the city creates a Housing Committee tasked with creating policy suggestions and implementation of office of tenant protections, office of returning citizens and homelessness liaison. Roles and committee to be created by Ordinance while bylaws to be created by the committee. The committee should included at least one of the following - 1 tenant in market rate housing, 1 tenant with section 8 voucher holder, 1 tenant with MRVP or continuum of care, 1 tenant of HHA, 1 tenant representative of local organization working on housing issues, 1 home owner, 1 landlord.

*Tabled 2-7-24

Item 32: 11-15-22 From Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, letter of Veto regarding order on reporting damages:

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order That an ordinance be created that requires a department head to report (with an incident report explaining the cause) of any loss in their department over \$250 in value to the City Council and Mayor within 30 days Recommended that the order be adopted, as amended for losses over \$500.

*Tabled 11-29-22

Item 33: 1-18-22 MALDONADO VELEZ -- Order that we look into creating an ordinance around trash pick up that is similar to when it snows, where residents, business owners, and the city are responsible for the trash on their property.

*Tabled 5-11-22

Item 34: 5-18-21 VACON, BARTLEY, MCGIVERIN, LISI -- Ordered, that the setting of the sewer rate be returned from the City Council to the DPW Commission where it had been previously determined.

*Tabled 6-29-21, 1-25-22, 6-7-23

Item 35: 4-6-21 MURPHY, LISI -- Ordered that the city council consider adopting a wage theft ordinance for all contractors doing projects for the city or receiving special tax incentives by the city similar to Easthampton and Springfield with the following purposes: prevent misclassification of employees as independent contractors; assure that employers are paying all payroll taxes and workers compensation premiums; comply with state laws governing the payment of prevailing wages; assure that contractors provide opportunities for Holyoke residents, veterans, people of color and women.

*Referred back 1-18-22

Item 36: 5-16-23 MURPHY-ROMBOLETTI -- Ordered, that the City Council amend Ordinance 2-336(a) and (b) to reflect a streamlined process for disposition of tax title properties and other properties not needed by the City for municipal purposes and to add a new section for the creation of an Abutter Lots Sale Program.

*Referred back 2-6-24

ADMINISTRATIVELY LAID ON THE TABLE

(Per City Council Rule 9P, "Any order not acted on within 45 days shall be deemed tabled." Items within this section are laid on the table by virtue of being in the committee more than 45 days. Discussion of these items is unlikely, but any item may be removed from the table upon motion of the committee.)

Item 37: 8-4-20 MCGEE -- Ordered, That the ordinance committee review the draft Telecommunication ordinance changes. This is being filed on behalf of a constituent request.

Item 38: 3-2-21 From Harold and Lois Darcy, concerned citizens

Item 39: 1-18-22 GIVNER -- Ordered, that That the City of Holyoke amend ordinance that provides Columbus day as a Holiday be updated to wording that reflects that Columbus Day will now be referred to as "Indigenous Peoples Day, formerly known as Columbus Day"

Item 40: 3-15-22 JOURDAIN, VACON -- Ordered, that That Columbus Day holiday ordinance be changed so the holiday be known as both Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples Day so everyone may celebrate both, one or the other, or neither if they choose according to their own conscience. This will allow the maximum amount of sensitivity to the issue.

Item 41: 4-5-22 MALDONADO VELEZ, I. RIVERA -- Order that we add a Grant Manager position to oversee, streamline, and expand our grant applications and money for our city.

- Item 42: 4-5-22 From Massachusetts Association of Realtors, Guide to Understanding housing choice and its opportunities.
- Item 43: 4-5-22 GIVNER -- Ordered, With community support: That the Holyoke City Council adopt, and create a method of enforcement for, a wage theft ordinance for all contractors doing projects for the city or receiving special tax incentives by the city similar to Easthampton and Springfield with the following purposes: prevent misclassification of employees as independent contractors; assure that employers are paying all payroll taxes and workers compensation premiums; comply with state laws governing the payment of prevailing wages; assure that contractors provide opportunities for Holyoke residents, veterans, people of color and women.
- Item 44: 4-5-22 I. RIVERA -- Order that legal review the Boston Cannabis Equity program ordinance and begin to draft language similar to it for the purposes of creating a Holyoke Cannabis Equity program.
- Item 45: 4-5-22 MALDONADO VELEZ -- Order that we allow for overnight parking on city parking lots for people to sleep in their cars. This would be an added measure in the work already being done to provide a safe, temporary place for our unhoused population until a more long term solution is created.
- Item 46: 6-7-22 GIVNER -- Ordered, With community support, Pouloit Pool will be free to Holyoke residents with a target market of students and seniors. A Holyoke pool pass should be easily obtainable at the Parks and Rec office with proof of Holyoke residency including but not limited to a Holyoke school ID, Holyoke Library card, State ID, Mail, etc. A daily fee of no more than \$3 shall be charged for adult residents and no more than \$5 for adult non-residents, along with a \$2 fee for non-resident students and seniors.
- Item 47: 6-7-22 GIVNER -- Ordered, With community support, the City of Holyoke request a PVRTA bus stop be added on Appleton between Linden and Locusts streets.
- Item 48: 6-7-22 JOURDAIN, I. RIVERA -- Ordered, That City Council create an ordinance that states that no department establishes user fees until those have been established by ordinance (unless governed under some other law). Additionally, that a pool pass system be established which allows all Holyoke residents to receive a free pool pass for city pool administered by the Parks & Recreation dept. A fee shall be established for non-Holyoke residents only at a rate to be determined by ordinance.
- Item 49: 6-7-22 VACON -- Ordered, Amend the speed hump ordinance (section b) that when a city engineer evaluation and report determines eligibility for speed humps on a city street, then temporary speed humps may be installed.
- Item 50: 8-2-22 I. RIVERA -- Ordered, That the honorable city council pass an ordinance banning facial surveillance technology (Please see attachment).
- Item 51: 10-4-22 MCGEE -- Ordered, That the City Solicitor be given the authority to hire a paralegal above mid range up to no more than max without needing further approval

from CC due to special circumstances.

*Another order with the same language was filed later and adopted. This can probably be voted as complied with.

Item 52: 10-4-22 MCGEE -- Ordered, That Department heads be given the authority to hire Schedule A positions above mid-range up to no more than max without needing further approval from CC due to special circumstances.

Item 53: 11-1-22 MURPHY-ROMBOLETTI -- Order that we revise Section 58 - 18 of our City Ordinances to establish that it is the responsibility of the business establishment to collect and return shopping carts to their original locations. Any business that does not adhere to this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of no less than \$25 and not more than \$300, to be issued by the city's enforcement officer.
CURRENT ORDINANCE: Any individual or group who removes a shopping cart from the business lot where the cart originated shall be subject to a fine of no less than \$25.00 and not more than \$300.00, to be issued by the city police department.

Item 54: 12-20-22 (copy, original sent to Public Safety) Petition from Residents of Holyoke in support of a Tenant Bill of Rights.

Item 55: 1-17-23 I. RIVERA -- Order that honorable city council add a section to Holyoke code of ordinances titled "Human Relations".

Item 56: 1-17-23 I. RIVERA, JOURDAIN, MURPHY-ROMBOLETTI, TALLMAN -- (copy - original sent to Public Safety, complied with 3-7-23) Order that the honorable city council invite in the chief of police to discuss whether or not the department has a "Traffic Squad", ordinance references the designation of 6 officers that are required to act as traffic officers. Constituents are concerned with drivers that speed, eat stop signs, etc ... Investment in a "Traffic Squad" as city ordinance states, should help tremendously with mitigating some of our constituent concerns.
Sec 50-42. - Traffic squad-Designation and training of members.
The chief of police shall designate six members and such additional members as may from time to time be required to act as traffic officers. Such members shall receive and be given thorough and adequate training in the regulation and direction of traffic, in accordance with a uniform and recognized standard.

Item 57: 1-17-23 I. RIVERA -- Order that the honorable city council work with the city solicitor's office to draft an ordinance prohibiting the discrimination or discriminatory practices based on an individuals, or the perception of an individual's race, color, creed, religion, sex, domestic relationship status, parental status, familial status, sexual orientation, national origin, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, criminal history or the use of a service animal.

Item 58: 2-7-23 MCGEE -- Ordered, that the residency requirement for the CPO/Purchasing Director position be removed.

- Item 59: 3-7-23 JOURDAIN -- Ordered, that the City Council work with the Treasurer to review and codify the city's investment policy by ordinance.
- Item 60: 4-4-23 I. RIVERA, GIVNER, MALDONADO VELEZ, MURPHY-ROMBOLETTI, J. RIVERA -- (copy - original sent to Public Safety, complied with 5-2-23) Ordered, that Chapter 50, Article II of the Holyoke City Ordinances be amended to add Section 50-56 establishing a Police Commission.
- Item 61: 5-16-23 VACON, JOURDAIN -- Ordered, An ordinance be created that requires a department head to report (with an incident report explaining the cause) any loss in their department over \$500 in value to the City Council and Mayor within 30 days.
- Item 62: 6-20-23 MALDONADO VELEZ, GIVNER -- Ordered, that if someone is putting in an RFP through the city for a property that is up for sale and the applicant has outstanding issues with the Board of Health, Building Department, or any other city department having to do with other properties they own, that they are not eligible to win the bid for the RFP.
- Item 63: 6-20-23 MALDONADO VELEZ, J. RIVERA -- ORDER that Sec 38-73 (6) of our ordinances be amended for the hours to read 10pm instead of 11pm and 8am instead of 7am.
- Item 64: 6-20-23 MALDONADO VELEZ, GIVNER -- Ordered, that we create an ordinance that if the J owner of a rental property does not live in Holyoke, they are required to hire a local property management company that is accessible to our residents. There have been too many issues with rental property regarding rodents, water, and electrical problems where residents have been unable to get in contact with the owner in order to remedy the situation.
- Item 65: 10-3-23 GIVNER -- (copy, original sent to Charter and Rules) Ordered,
With community support, order that the following section of our Codes of Ordinances and charter be updated to reflect use of email as sufficient for special meeting notice:
Sec. 12. - Special meetings of city council.
The mayor may at any time call a special meeting of the city council by public posting through the city website along with written notifications thereof, together with a statement of the subjects to be considered thereat, to be deposited in the post office, postpaid and addressed to the persons to be notified, at least forty-eight hours before the time appointed for such meeting, or to be left at the usual place of residence of each member of the council, by email at least forty-eight hours before the time appointed for such meeting.
(Acts 1965, c. 187; Acts 1992, c. 189)
- Item 66: 10-17-23 From Board of Public Works, Mary L. Monahan, Chairperson letter re: FY24 Sewer Rate.
- Item 67: 10-17-23 MCGIVERIN -- Ordered, That the City Council adjust the sewer rate according to updated operation costs and revenue projections, along with projected deficit for FY 2024.

- Item 68: 11-9-23 From Atty Michael Bissonnette, Asst City Solicitor, Memo on Optional Municipal Administration Act (MGL Chapter 43C)
- Item 69: 11-9-23 MCGEE -- Ordered, that the City of Holyoke accepts and adopt the provisions of MGL Chapter 43C entitled "Optional Forms of Municipal Administration."
- Item 70: 11-9-23 MCGIVERIN -- Ordered, that pursuant to Section 12 of MGL Chapter 43C, the City of Holyoke, acting by and through its City Council and Mayor, creates a Finance Department as provided for in the statute subject to implementation by city ordinance approved with an effective date no later than December 31, 2025.
- Item 71: 12-19-23 MALDONADO VELEZ -- (copy, original sent to Public Safety) Order that the council works with Tapestry, state delegation, and appropriate city departments to work towards creating safe injection sites. These would be medically supervised and connect users to services available in our community.
- Item 75: 12-19-23 MALDONADO VELEZ -- Order that the city creates an Office of Tenant Protections, that would oversee rental registration, certificate of occupancy and public database implementation, build relationships with landlords, tenants and community agencies to create recurring Know Your Rights and Responsibilities program, and house tenant legal services.
- Item 73: 12-19-23 MALDONADO VELEZ -- (copy, original sent to Public Safety) Order that we create pathways for community ownership of property (land trusts, condominium conversion, cooperative housing etc).
- Item 74: 1-2-24 I. RIVERA -- (copy, original sent to Public Safety) Order that the honorable city council request that the mayor, Department of Public Works, and the parking advisory committee at the Public Safety committee to discuss the possibility of making parking enforcement a subdivision of the Traffic division.
- Item 75: 1-2-24 I. RIVERA -- Order that the honorable city council place a temporary moratorium on cannabis retail business. Until the footprint of where this industry can be located within the city of Holyoke, I believe it prudent that we put a temporary halt on permitting new business.
- Item 76: 1-22-24 DEVINE, GIVNER, J. RIVERA -- Ordered, That the City Council resurrect the "Peace and Good Order Ordinance."
- Item 77: 2-20-24 From Jane Mantolesky, Assistant City Solicitor, Approval of Zoning Ordinance Amendment
- Item 78: 3-19-24 From Melissa Lafond, communication regarding speed hump petition from September 28, 2022
- Item 79: 3-19-24 From Board of Public Works, communication regarding City Engineer position

- Item 80: 4-16-24 MAGRATH-SMITH -- Ordered, that City Ordinance section 7 4-34 be revised to remove (2): "Any entity that does not receive city solid waste collection services will be exempt from this section if they can prove that the cost of implementing such a plan, over a 12- month period, would cost more than their current solid waste removal plan."
- Item 81: 5-21-24 MAGRATH-SMITH -- Ordered, that the language from sections 7 4-32, 7 4-33, 7 4-34, and 74-35 be updated based on guidance from the Board of Public Works and the Recycling Advisory Committee.
- Item 82: 8-6-24 OCASIO- ordered that the DPW install a Handicap sign for Ana Rodriguez at 361 Chestnut St
- Item 83: 8-6-24 BARTLEY -Ordered that a handicap sign be placed at 15 Davis St. The sign is requested by Teresa Lewis and the placard number is PL6980631.
- Item 84: 8-6-24 RIVERA I. - Ordered that the Personnel Department and Law Department work in conjunction to update the following ordinances to reflect a modern Human Resources Department:
Article I
30-1 (a), 82-4 (c), 82-5 (c)
Article II Division I
2-40 (a), 2-43 (e) (k), 2-64, 2-66 b (3), 2-67 (a), 2-69 (h)
Article II Division II
2-86
Article II Division VI
2-182 b (3) e (2)
Article III Division II
2-311 a, b, c, d, 2-312 a, b (21), 2-313, 2-314
Article IV
2-422 (b)
- Item 85: 8-6-24 From Mayor Joshua Garcia and Personnel Director Kelly Curran-COH Remote Telecommuting Pilot Program
- Item 86: 9-4-24 BARTLEY - CC establish by ordinance a minimum sewer fee to be paid to the City upon the sale of any real estate closing. Currently none exists though a \$5.00 fee was the norm. The present actual rate is \$7.50/1000 gallons. Refer to Ordinance. Copy Board of Public Works, Legal for their input. FYI - this is not to be a revenue raiser but would be monies to cover city expenses to coordinate this time-consuming work.
- Item 87: 9-18-24 Givner-As a service to property owners, order that the City of Holyoke create an ordinance of fully transparent timelines and dated building department policies and procedures for Holyoke property owners. In order to hold property owners accountable there must be clear systems that can be followed and enforced.
- Item 88: 9-18-24 Anderson-Burgos- Ordered that the DPW install a Handicap sign at for Hector Torres of 184 Sargeant St.

Item 89: 9-18-24 Givner- With community support, order that the City of Holyoke create an ordinance of accountability by business owners in the form of public trash bin sponsorships. The idea would be to partner with chains, bodegas, grocery, and convenient stores in an effort to mitigate trash issues in our city.

Item 90: 9-18-24 Givner-With community support and in service of our museum goers, order that Wistariahurst museum patron parking signs be added from handicap spaces on Beech to Cabot st, creating no less than 3 designated museum parking spaces in addition to existing handicap spaces.

Item 91: 10-1-24 Speed Hump Petition from Hampshire Street Residents.