REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL May 18,2021

The meeting was called to order by President McGee at 07:03 PM.

The Clerk called the roll. Absent members: Present Members 13 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley, Greaney, Hernandez, Leahy, Lisi, McGee, McGiverin, Murphy, Sullivan, Tallman, Vacon)1 (Lebron-Martinez).

The name of Councilor Anderson-Burgos was drawn to head the roll call voting.

LAID ON THE TABLE

President McGee stated that Atty Lisa Ball had been invited for items 1 and 3 to give an opinion. Also noted that the Public Safety Committee met to discuss the Valley Heights items. Stated that after items 1 and 3 are addressed, public comment would follow to allow people to comment on the Valley Heights items before they are voted on. Stated that the Admin Asst noted that under City Council rules, public comment should come before tabled items.

Councilor Leahy made a motion to suspend the necessary rules to allow Atty Ball to address the Council . Councilor Tallman seconded the motion. All councilors voted in favor.

Atty Ball noted that an opinion letter had been sent that day. Clarified that the opinion sought had been whether tabling the transfers at the special meeting had been proper, as well as whether Robert's Rules of Order are the authority for the City Council. Stated that the City Charter, City Ordinances, and City Council rules were all silent on the matter, making Robert's rules the authority. Stated that Section 17, part 6 states that it to be dilatory and out of order to lay on the table a matter for which the special meeting had been called. Stated that for a special meeting, it was improper to lay on the table, adding that the order could not go forward that evening but could addressed at a later meeting. Stated that the proper motion would have been postpone indefinitely. Reiterated that without discussion on the matter and just tabling, Robert's Rules stated it would be improper. Stated the motion and order could be brought forward at the next meeting.

President McGee asked for a clarification, noting that the budget had been tabled at a special meeting.

Ball stated that with the budget, there had been a reason to put it off in order to bring in departments and to address questions. Noted lack of clarity on why the transfer orders had been tabled.

Councilor McGiverin expressed that he did not see a difference between the examples. Observed that the motion for the budget had been done routinely, noting that the purpose for the meeting had been to observe the rule requiring the release of the proposed budget at least 45 days before the end of the fiscal year on June 30th. Stated that after the first reading on the budget, he motioned to table in order for hearings to be set up. Added that with regard to the two transfer orders, noted they had been originally filed by former Mayor Morse, a second time by Acting Mayor President McGee, and a third time by Acting Mayor Councilor Murphy. Recalled they had been discussed during Finance Committee meetings as well during City Council meetings, adding that there should not be any new questions. Stated that at the special meeting, there had initially been 13 councilors, one had technical issues and another was not present on screen at the time of the vote. Stated that the first reading had been passed, with the motion to table made in order to allow for the full City Council to vote at the next regular meeting. Expressed it was understood that the budget was taken up and would be tabled, adding that the same should have been understood when the transfer orders were taken up.

Councilor Lisi asked for a clarification, noting that the opinion appeared to state that the vote to table was out of order because it would postpone the order indefinitely since another special meeting had not been planned.

Atty Ball stated that tabling without reason, that would be out order because that had been the reason for calling the reason.

Councilor Lisi asked if the motion to table would be proper if it was implicitly understood that it would appear on the next City Council agenda.

Atty Ball suggested it may not have been detrimental that the reason wasn't stated, adding that the request was to offer an opinion on if it was procedurally proper. Reiterated that Robert's Rules control the procedure.

Councilor Lisi asked for a clarification on the status of the items, noting that the opinion stated that the items were not properly before the Council for that evening.

Atty Ball stated the proper vote would have been to motion to postpone and suggested that the items should be refiled for the next agenda.

Councilor Lisi stated she had been under the impression they were laid on the table.

Atty Ball reiterated that laying on the table been improper, adding that they could not be taken up that night.

Atty Wellhoff stated that Chair's proper procedure would have been to treat it as a motion to postpone indefinitely which would have left it without action for the remainder of the session, adding that it would have to be renewed or refiled from there. Expressed agreement with the opinion from Atty Ball, stating that the orders were not properly on the agenda for that evening.

Councilor Bartley stated observed that the items are not technically before the Council. Recalled that he had asked the Acting Mayor at the special meeting if he had filed the orders, which was confirmed. Stated it had not felt right to table items when there was a quorum and the items could have been voted on. Observed the legal opinion had ruled that tabling had not been proper. Commended the Ward 5 councilor for doing the research to pursue a legal opinion, as well as to the attorneys for handling the opinions. Noted that the video would show that the votes were not there, adding that the vote to table had been a legal maneuver by those seeking to pass the orders. Suggested that the Acting Mayor could refile the orders, adding that he would hope that would not be done.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take item 35 out of order, and refer to the legal department.

BARTLEY Ordered, that The City's law department please clarify City Council Rule 66. Specifically, is a vote based on the number of councilors elected or the number of councilors present? Here is the rule: RULE 66: Quorum, Simple Majority and Supermajority-Definitions • A Quorum of the Council or any of its committees shall consist of a simple majority of the entire membership. • All votes of the Council requiring a majority shall require a majority of those members present. All votes of the Council or any of its committees requiring a 2/3 or more super majority shall require that same super majority of the entire membership.

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGiverin stated we need a chance to discuss as a body, asked to put into committee for a discussion and then get a legal opinion. Amended motion to refer to the Charter & Rules Committee with a copy to the legal department. Councilor Tallman seconded the motion.

Councilor Bartley stated he would be in favor of referring to the committee, adding that he would prefer to receive a legal opinion first and then have a discussion in committee. Reiterated that as he filed the order, he would prefer to receive a legal opinion first.

Councilor McGiverin stated that once an order is received, the order belongs the entire body. Stated that the definitions of what constitutes quorums and majorities should have an in-depth discussion.

Councilor Leahy recalled learning of Robert's Rules many years ago, adding that the members would benefit from being freshened up on the rules. Questioned the value of having a conversation for several hours on a potentially moot issue.

Councilor Vacon expressed support for the order being referred to the legal department, noting that when an opinion is requested, it is not typical to refer to committee.

Councilor Vacon made a motion to suspend the necessary rules to take item 11 out of order and refer to

the legal department. Suggested referring to the Charter & Rules Committee after a legal opinion is received. Councilor Bartley seconded the motion.

Councilor Greaney stated support for the order, noting the situation has come up many times. Recalled that the original vote failed. Stated that the legal opinion should be receive first.

Councilor McGiverin noted that item 11 was a communication and could not be voted on.

President McGee suggested that the motion would be to receive and refer to committee.

Councilor McGiverin asked how a legal opinion could be sought on a communication. Noted that the orders were filed as replacement orders due to a challenge on the same orders filed by former Acting mayor President McGee, which had been replacement of orders filed by former Mayor Morse. Expressed understanding for both sides of the issue, adding that there should be 13 votes on a controversial issue. Questioned insinuations that he had been manipulating and violating rules.

President McGee clarified for the benefit of the public that two orders listed as being on the table were found to not be properly on the agenda, noting the legal opinion on the matter. Observed that there needed to be reasons stated for laying on the table, noting the distinctions in different situations.

---> Received and adopted. Referred to the Law Department. Approved by the Mayor.

Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2021, FIVE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FIFTY SEVEN AND 00/100 Dollars (\$5,957.00) as follows: FROM:

11512-53010 SPECIAL COUNSEL \$5,957.00

TOTAL: \$5,957.00

TO:

11511-51101 CITY SOLICITOR \$5,957.00

TOTAL: \$5,957.00

---> Needs to be refiled

President McGee stated that item 2 would remain on the table

FY2022 Municipal Budget

---> Laid on the table.

Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2021, FIVE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED NINETY SIX AND 00/100 Dollars (\$5,196.00) as follows:

FROM:

11512-53010 SPECIAL COUNSEL \$5,196.00

TOTAL: \$5.196.00

TO:

11511-51101 CITY SOLICITOR \$5,196.00

TOTAL: \$5,196.00

---> Needs to be refiled

President McGee stated that items 3 and 4 would be held until after public comment, noting that several members of the public were in attendance to speak on the items and that public comment should appropriately come before tabled items anyway.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take public comment out of order.

Councilor McGiverin asked for a clarification, noting that there was supposed to be a public hearing.

President McGee stated his understanding that the public hearing had taken place in the Public Safety Committee.

Councilor McGiverin asked for a point of information, stating that discussion in Public Service hadn't been

publicized as a public hearing.

President McGee clarified that the public hearing would be on for that evening.

Councilor Bartley asked for a ruling on the point of information.

President McGee stated that the items are supposed to be on the agenda as a public hearing, and that they had been incorporated into the committee report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT

(30:50)

President McGee stated that anyone attending to speak on the Valley Heights items should wait until the public hearing portion of the agenda. Reiterated the rules of public comment, noting that individuals would have a minute and a half, and that they should state their full name and address.

Councilor Lisi noted that the requirement of a public hearing is that the items are advertised.

President McGee stated they did advertise.

Councilor Lisi asked if the discussion in committee had been advertised .

President McGee stated that it had been vetted with Kate Councilor Sullivan from HG &E.

Councilor Lisi asked for a distinction of the rules between public comment and a public hearing , noting that a public hearing does not have the same time limit for speaking.

President McGee clarified that members of the public speaking for Valley Heights should wait until the public hearing is opened.

Morris Partee, 127 St Colby Drive, spoke in favor of the cannabis regulations. Noted he belonged to the second cohort of social equity applicants, as well as a member Mass cannabis Association for delivery. Urged Council to move ahead to avoid questions among the cannabis community on the Holyoke's position in supporting the industry.

Helen Gomez Andrews, 202 Pine St, stated she was a business owner, with cannabis provision licenses for cultivation, manufacturing, and retail. Observed the welcoming community that Holyoke had been with the industry. Offered support for Damaris Aponte, a social equity applicant, with strong ties and involvement in the community. Expressed excitement to build her own business in the city and asked for the body to move forward with the proposed changes.

Damaris Aponte, identified herself as an equity applicant, and as someone who had lived, worked, and was educated in Holyoke, adding her desire to open her business in Holyoke. Asked for the body to approve the proposed ordinance.

Sean Sheridan, stated he lived in Longmeadow, and offered a street address of 1981 Memorial Drive, Chicopee. Stated he was in the social equity program. Noted that Holyoke had been identified as a city that had been disproportionately impacted by the racist war on drugs. Expressed appreciation for what the city had done so far. Suggested offering support to applicants by limiting fees and other costs associated with the licenses. Suggested allowing dispensaries in retail zones.

PUBLIC HEARING

(40:35)

Councilor Bartley made a motion to suspend the necessary rules to take items 20E and 20F out of order and open the public hearing. Councilor Leahy seconded the motion. All councilors voted in favor. The Committee on Public Safety to whom was referred an order The GAS AND ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT requests permission to locate a line of wires, cables, poles and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way or ways: One(1)pole on Valley Heights near 36 & 39 Valley Heights, Holyoke MA Verizon will remove backyard poles after all parties electrical & communication services are relocated to the street. Removals will occur as soon as possible and may require permission from private land owners for temporary removal of existing structures, such as fences or other obstructions, in order to access the back yard poles Recommended that the order has been complied with.

---> Public hearing continued to June 1st.

The Committee on Public Safety to whom was referred an order Verizon New England, Inc. and Holyoke Gas & Electric Department, request permission to locate poles, wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary anchors, guys and other such sustaining and protecting fixtures to be owned and used in common by your petitioners, along and across the following public way or ways:

Valley Heights Street: Place one (1) jointly owned pole numbered T.8-3/E.1-1N on the easterly side of Valley Heights street at a point approximately three hundred (300) feet northerly from the center line of Lincoln St.

Valley Heights Street: Place one (1) jointly owned pole numbered T.8-4/E.1-2N on the easterly side of Valley Heights Street at a point approximately four hundred fifty (450) feet northerly from the center line of Lincoln St.

Valley Heights Street: Place one (1) jointly owned pole numbered T.8-5/E.1-3N on the easterly side of Valley Heights Street at a point approximately six hundred ten (610) feet northerly from the center line of Lincoln St.

Valley Heights Street: Place one (1) Jointly owned pole numbered T.8-6/E.1-4N on the easterly side of Valley Heights Street at a point seven hundred fifty five (755) feet northerly from the center line of Lincoln St.

Valley Height Street: Place one (1) jointly owned pole numbered T.8-7/E.1-5N on the easterly side of Valley Heights Street at a point approximately nine hundred (900) feet northerly from the center line of Lincoln St.

Valley Heights Street: Place one (1) jointly owned pole numbered T.8-8/e.1-6N in the middle of the cul-de-sac at the northerly end of Valley Heights Street at a point approximately nine hundred seventy (970) feet northerly from the center line of Lincoln St.

Reason: Place six (6) jointly owned pole on Valley Heights Street to provide the distribution of intelligence and telecommunications and for the transmission of high and low voltage electric current. Recommended that the order has been complied with.

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Kate Sullivan, representing HG&E, shared a screen of the proposal. Expressed appreciation to the residents of the neighborhood for working with them for the last two years as they worked to develop a safe and reliable solution, as well as for the feedback received from many of the residents. Stated an understanding for the concerns that had been expressed. Stated that from a safety perspective, placing poles on the street was the best solution. Noted the two backyard pole lines only served Valley Heights, and not any abutting streets. Observed that natural vegetation and physical obstructions had made it harder to access the poles in the 70 years since they had been installed. Stated belief that relocating was a practical solution to avoid continued issues with accessing poles in back yards . Described proposed poll locations on the street. Noted that following feedback to not place on in the cul-de-sac, they could locate two poles between properties instead. Noting concerns about safety, clarified the regulations they must comply with. Stated that Vincent V O'Connell had recently visited the neighborhood to discuss establishing rights-of-way in the backyards to replace the poles. Stated that with an increase in voltage, there could be extra safety concerns with the poles remaining in the back yards. Observed that homeowners appeared to be split on the plan, adding that many expressed a willingness to work with HG&E with either decision. Stated that they studied underground solution, noting that the cost would be five times as much which would have to be passed onto ratepayers. Noted that with coming climate legislation in the next couple of decades, having the poles on the street would allow them to provide services faster and with more ease.

Councilor Leahy asked for a clarification on underground service.

K Sullivan stated that the underground option would cost \$20K-\$30K per customer with 19 customers on the street.

Councilor Leahy asked how much it would cost with the proposed plan.

K Sullivan stated that the cost of the current plan had been built into their budget, adding it would be around \$80K for the entire street. Stated that Verizon would cover half the cost.

Councilor Leahy asked who wanted the poles.

K Sullivan stated that HG&E would own one pole.

Councilor Leahy asked why Verizon was not participating.

K Sullivan stated that Verizon did have someone on the call.

Councilor Leahy asked how much the city received from Verizon to have the poles on city property .

Vincent O'Connell stated that they were joint owners, adding that the cost is split 50/50.

Councilor Leahy noted that the city would only own one pole.

V O'Connell clarified that one pole would be solely owned by the city, adding that the other six would be split in half between maintenance areas.

Councilor Leahy suggested Verizon should take care of the cost of installing wires underground.

K Sullivan stated that Verizon would likely not go underground, leaving the poles in the backyards, and that HG&E would go underground alone.

Councilor Leahy questioned installing a pole in the cul-de-sac.

K Sullivan clarified that two design options had been discussed. Stated that the plan for one in the cul-de-sac had been to minimize structures, adding that the other option would have two poles between properties.

Councilor Leahy asked for the City Council to know which plan would be chosen before a vote.

K Sullivan stated that if a vote were taken, they would likely go with the second option following the feedback of the residents.

Councilor Leahy expressed surprise that it had been an option.

Councilor Vacon asked if the poles were moved to the front, given the concerns about aging poles behind the homes, would the old poles be removed.

K Sullivan stated that all infrastructure in the backyards would be removed, adding that the three concrete poles in the front would also be replaced.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos asked if it would create a liability to the city for the lines to remain I the backyards, especially given the higher voltage of lines. Also asked about the difficulty and hazard of accessing the poles.

K Sullivan noted that the backyard facilities were challenging, noting obstructions such as trees, swing sets, hot tubs. Stated they would have to ask customers to clear paths and clear obstructions within 25 feet of poles to address issues during outages or emergency situations.

Councilor Greaney asked for the rationale that underground wires would be five times as expensive. Councilor Anderson-Burgos clarified that his previous question had two parts, noting that only one part had been addressed.

Jeff Brouillard stated that an in house estimate had been done, including installing all wiring, installing two pad-mounted transformers, undergrounding to each house under driveways and lawns. Stated largest cost would be the excavation. Stated they would have to contact electricians to built to all 19 houses, as well as relocating many meter sockets.

Councilor Greaney asked if there are new streets being built, is underground the right way to do the work. J Brouillard stated that with a new street, they would be required to build underground, adding that the cost would be with the developer.

Councilor Greaney asked if there are ways to reduce the costs, such as with grants or other sources of funds.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos reiterated his question was to ask if there would be a liability to the city with the wires remaining in the backyard.

K Sullivan stated that the lines would be in their prescriptive right-of-way, adding that they would need to do research to provide an answer to that question.

Nayroby Rosa-Soriano, 7 Valley Heights, expressed concern that with the poles in the front, it would devalue the homes with the changed aesthetics. Expressed understanding of the safety concerns with the poles in the back. Noted that much of the vegetation around the locations of the poles were due to the maintenance that had not happened every four years as required. Expressed a hope to find a way to address safety without devaluing homes.

Emma Kerr, 24 Valley Heights, stated she lived at the address for almost five years. Stated she lives at the portion of the street with the 4800 volt line in the back yard. Stated her pole was surrounded by many tall trees coming from the conservation property. Observed that many branches have fallen, hitting the poles many times. Expressed concern for the higher voltage and offered support for the poles being moved to the street. Recognizing the great view of the street without poles, stated she prefers the view of the back yard more. Also expressed concern that creating a right-of-way in the back yard would reduce the useable part of the back yard.

Rick and Beth Bigelow, 19 Valley Heights. Beth stated that when she initially asked about the costs of installing underground, she was told it would be around \$100K. Noting they were now stating it would be close to \$400K, asked what the correct figure was. Also asked who would pay for the movement of the

boxes on their homes, with the movement of the boxes to the front of the homes. Also asked why the concrete poles have to be removed for wooden poles.

K Sullivan stated that the infrastructure could not be transferred to the concrete poles, requiring them to be replaced by wooden poles. Reiterated that the cost of installing underground would be close to a half million for the street, adding that she was not sure where the \$100K would have come from.

B. Bigelow express concern that she could trust the information, noting that she had been given different information previously.

K Sullivan stated that HG&E would pay for the electric serving being moved on the homes.

B. Bigelow asked about the total cost of the project, noting that they would have ot pay no matter which option.

J Brouillard stated that with the overhead street option, not everyone's service would have to be relocated.

B. Bigelow asked if the tree in their front yard would have to be moved.

J Brouillard stated that they looked into that and were clear of any obstructions.

B. Bigelow stated she supports a safe environment but expressed concern about reducing property values. Noted that the poles had been in the back for decades, and that she could only recall three times when repairs were needed.

Francisco Andrade, 35 Valley Heights, stated he had not heard about trucking needing to access poles in the backyard. Asked if that is a change to the requirements.

K Sullivan stated it would be a change, noting that to change the infrastructure, they would need to reestablish the right-of-way.

F Andrade asked if they would incur the cost of moving the fence to allow for access.

K Sullivan stated that would be part of the current proposal. Suggested they could visit and talk through what they would need to do in order to create the right-of-way.

Keyla Centeno, 35 Valley Heights, stated they have a pole in the back, adding that the fence is about a foot away from the pole. Stated they asked if the fence would be okay. Asked for clarification of the type of access needed with regard to trucks.

K Sullivan stated they would need to be able to get a bucket truck to the pole, at least up through where there is primary cable of 13,000 volts.

K Centeno asked if they were asking to stablish an alleyway.

K Sullivan stated that they would have to reestablish a right-of-way that had been created 70 years ago.

F Andrade asked if they were talking about an alleyway.

K Sullivan stated it would not have to be a paved path, just a clear path so a truck could get in.

K Centeno stated they did not support for the changes, adding that when they bought the house, they were told that the utility easement meant that the property remained theirs and that they would need to grant access for utility workers. Asked for clarification of what a utility easement entails.

Denis Sanchez, 60 Valley heights, stated that he collected 10 signatures on a petition of the residents, noting that there are 20 houses on the street. Added that there were a couple against it but hadn't wanted to publicly speak out about it. Questioned what would not be safe about the utility workers doing the job. Stated that he lived there for over 10 years and had only one power outage. Expressed concern about neighbors needing an alleyway. Noted that HG&E had told many neighbors that they would have to pay to move their stuff. Suggested that the only danger would be the trees hitting the power lines, adding that they should have been trimmed. Questioned the insinuation that HG&E had more than 50% approval. Expressed concern about the impact on home values.

Estelle Stasz, 31 Valley Heights, stated she spoke with Vincent V O'Connell many times. Expressed concern that Mr. Sanchez included her in the address list of people that signed her petition during the Public Safety Committee meeting. Stated she was not against moving the poles. Expressed concern about the poles in her backyard being increased to 13,000 volts. Stated that a right-of-way would be within 10 feet of her garage, as well as 3 feet of her patio. Added that her backyard neighbors would have to lose all of their trees. Suggested that moving the poles to the street would be the safe option.

Dan Cunha asked if neighbors in favor of moving the poles would be in favor of having lines going down the middle of the street. Suggested it would be difficult for fire trucks and tree trimming trucks to get down the street. Asked why the city had not been maintaining the trees located on the conservation land abutting the street, adding that would take care of the pole problem. Questioned the accuracy of the information that had been provided.

D Sanchez stated he had not mentioned the address of 31 during the committee meeting discussion. Noted that in conversation with her, she stated she did not care where they went. Suggested the job could

be done by creating an alleyway.

E Stasz reiterated that he had mentioned 31 and 27, adding that she wrote the numbers down as he stated them.

President McGee stated the intent of the hearing was to get the information out.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos suggested that residents going at each other was not appropriate. Expressed confidence that the City Council would do the right thing for the neighborhood. Asked for the residents to try to maintain peace in the public meeting.

Councilor Greaney asked if the excavation would be done by HG&E or if it would be put out to bid J Brouillard stated they had JSC Construction under contract for their excavation work.

Councilor Greaney asked for a clarification that it would not be put out to bid.

J Brouillard stated they were awarded an annual bid, adding that the work goes out to bid every year.

D Cunha expressed concern with the property sinking in the cul-de-sac. Reiterated that the city should be maintaining the conservation property behind the residents' properties.

R. Bigelow stated that with the other locations of 13,000 volt lines in the city, those poles could be in danger of being struck by cars and pedestrian issues. Stated he did not see an issue with the poles I the back, adding they had been fine for many years.

K Sullivan stated that since 2002, the city had been working to concern 4800 volt lines to 13800 volts. Stated that if Valley Heights poles remain in the back, it would be the only place in the city with these wires in back yards.

R. Bigelow suggested that the poles in the back should remain safe. Recalled very few occasions in decades that there had been issues. Suggested more research on the cost of installing underground. Stated that the street is nice aesthetically and expressed concern for reduction in property values. Rosa-Soriano noting she has an abutting backyard with Taylor Street, asked if those residents would have to move things that could be obstructing the right-of-way.

K Sullivan stated that the majority of the obstructions would been the Valley Heights side as the lines would be serving that street. Suggested that they may need a 5 foot buffer.

V O'Connell stated that they may need Taylor Street piece as a laydown area for materials. Rosa-Soriano asked for a clarification that remaining in the backyard would require disturbing the residents on Taylor Street.

V O'Connell confirmed that was correct. Stated that as Taylor Street receive no service from the poles, it would be an inconvenience to them.

K Sullivan stated that if the underground became more economical or if there were funds that became available, Verizon would keep their poles in the backyard and access would still need to be provided. B. Bigelow stated that too many unanswered questions remained for a vote to be appropriate at the time. City Clerk McGee noted that President McGee's computer went down and that it would be a few minutes for him to return.

Councilor Bartley made a motion to nominate Councilor McGiverin to chair the meeting . Councilor Lisi seconded the motion. All present councilors voted in favor .

Councilor McGiverin temporarily took over as Acting President.

F Andrade stated that when the bought their house, there had been an issue with a tree falling on a line on their property. Noted that they had been in the back yard minutes before. Suggested that safety concerns should not be down played.

K Centeno expressed a need to understand the easement, how it might turn into an alleyway.

E Kerr stated that she had near missed with branches falling. Stated that it create a tough position, noting the trees are on conservation land and need to be regularly trimmed and adding that the regularly impact the power lines. Suggested that more serious concerns could happen with the higher voltage power lines. K Sullivan stated that if they developed a right-of-way in the back, that would help to clear up the issues with the trees. Stated that notes were taken in order to follow up with answers at a future date.

Acting President McGiverin suggested that the public hearing could be closed, continued, close and table. Councilor Bartley clarified that the reason for nominating Councilor McGiverin to take over was that he was the most senior member of the body. Expressed opinion that the items should be tabled, noting that too many outstanding matters remained. Also stated the HG&E needs to establish a right-of-way and figure out the tree trimming issue. Noted ongoing issues with Verizon. Expressed respect for HG&E, adding that he would prefer more to be done by HG&E before he would be ready to support the petitions. Stated he would prefer a forum in another setting for the residents to address their concerns.

Councilor Greaney stated he would like to see an estimate of all costs, including trimming, underground

installation, and cost of poles in order to weigh the differences and find a logical solution that all can be happy with.

Councilor Leahy suggested tabling to get more information and to receive explanation of prices in writing of each of the options. Also expressed a need for assurances that a pole would not be placed in the cul-de-sac.

Councilor Lisi made a motion to continue the public hearing.

Acting President McGiverin stated that there were two options, continue the public hearing or closing the public hearing and tabling for answers.

Councilor Murphy stated that they had not received enough information in order to make a decision.

Suggested that the cost of underground installation could be spread out over the course of ten years.

Councilor Tallman emphasized the importance of continuing to listen to the residents .

Councilor Greaney seconded the motion to continue the public hearing.

Councilor Vacon suggested reaching out to HG&E to find out a reasonable time frame for them to provide answers to the questions being sought.

Acting President McGiverin asked how much time would be required to get answers. Asked if there were any streets with similar situations with easements and poles in the back.

K Sullivan stated that Valley Heights was unique, noting that many streets with back yard infrastructure were able to be fed from a main road.

Councilor McGiverin asked for a clarification on the potential dates for continuation .

President McGee returned to the meeting. Stated that the next meetings would be June 1st and June 15th. K Sullivan stated that they had all information and just needed to put it together, adding that they could be ready for the next meeting in two weeks.

---> Public hearing continued to June 1st

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that handicap spaces on Ivy Ave. be condensed to one space in front of 8 Ivy Ave, to be located on the East side of the street, 90 feet north of Dwight St. Recommended that the order be adopted.

---> Laid on the table.

Councilor Lisi made a motion to take item 5 off the table. Councilor Leahy seconded the motion. All councilors voted in favor.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the Holyoke Code of Ordinances 7.10 "Marijuana Facilities" be reviewed and amended: including any amendments to definitions, zone requirements, and changes to the permitting process. Recommended that the order be adopted.

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

The Ordinance passed its second reading.

The Ordinance was passed to be enrolled.

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

Report of Enrollment received.

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Lisi clarified that the ordinance includes zoning changes, requiring a two-thirds vote on 9 out of 13. Stated that five basic changes came out of the document:

- 1. extending the hours of operation for manufacturing facilities which would create more opportunity for employment and productive.
- 2. reducing the setback requirements for manufacturing facilities from 500 feet to 200 feet, adding that cultivation had been carved out at 200, adding that cultivation is not singled out as a specific use in the ordinances. Stated the buffer is form any school or other location where children gather.
- 3. Allows for marijuana deliveries. Stated that this would be an important tax revenue for the city. Stated that the city cannot prohibit delivery into Holyoke, so creating prohibitions on deliveries would prohibit the city from enjoying tax revenues. Noted that delivery licenses are exclusively available to social equity applicants for the next three years. Emphasized that allowing deliveries would create equity.
- 4. Creates a pre-application meeting requirement, noting that there had been many incomplete applications submitted or amendments made that created confusion during hearings.
- 5. Creates site plan review component to assure that conditions are complied with once applications move from the City Council to the applicant.

Noted that when the state voted to legalize marijuana, the city of Holyoke voted to approve overwhelmingly. Noted that information from the Assessor showed that the industry had added \$5.7 million in real property value to the city since 2017, bringing in estimates \$1.1 in tax revenue. Added that host community agreements brought in \$50,000 in 2019, \$394,000 in 2020, and \$1.1 million in 2021. Stated that the 3% excise tax brought in \$220,000. Stated that the city permitted around 25 businesses, noting that revenues had come from the 4 businesses that had opened to date.

President McGee suggested giving the Atty Wellhoff an opportunity to speak, noting that a legal opinion had been sought on the threshold required for passage.

Councilor Lisi clarified that it was known that a two-thirds vote was required, adding that the question had been whether or not the Council had been consistent in requiring two-thirds for all ordinance changes. Councilor Murphy suggested the question had been whether or not passage of the ordinance change required two-thirds.

Atty Wellhoff stated that it had been her understanding was that the question had been whether or not the order constituted an ordinance change or a zoning change. Clarified that the order would be a zoning change.

Councilor McGiverin stated that there had been confusion because the change covers a great deal.

The Ordinance was passed to be Ordained and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays --Yeas 9--Nays 3 (Bartley, Greaney, McGee)--Absent 1 (Lebron-Martinez).

Approved by the Mayor

COMMUNICATIONS

(2:12:45)

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take items 6, 7, and 8 as a package.

From Acting Mayor Terence Murphy letter reappointing Ms. Mary Louise Monahan, 20 Coit St. to serve as a member of the Board of Appeals for the City of Holyoke: Ms. Monahan will serve a three year term; said term will expire on July 1, 2024.

---> Received and appointment confirmed.

From Acting Mayor Terence Murphy, letter reappointing Christopher H. Gauthier, 1 Taylor St. to serve as a member of the Local Historical Commission for the City of Holyoke: Mr.Gauthier will serve a three year term; said term will expire on May 1, 2024.

---> Received and appointment confirmed.

From Acting Mayor Terence Murphy letter reappointing Mr. Jeffrey A. Trask, 28 Central Park Dr. to serve as the Emergency Management Director for the City of Holyoke: Mr. Trask will serve a one year term; said term will expire on May 2022.

---> Received and appointment confirmed.

From Brenna Murphy McGee, MMC and Jeffery Anderson-Burgos, Admin. Ass't. to City Council minutes of May 4, 2021.

---> Received and adopted.

From Councilor Libby Hernandez, letter re: Not running for re-election of Ward 4 seat. Councilor Hernandez stated that the reasoning behind her decision was due to the need to focus on family matters with her mom. Stated she would miss the interactions with the Council, but would remain close and active in the community and looked forward to the transformation for the city of Holyoke.

President McGee thanked Councilor Hernandez for her service, adding that she would always be welcome in the Chambers.

---> Received.

Communication from Linda Vacon re: objections to manipulations and violations of our rules relative to these transfers.

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

FFY2021 Spreadsheet, Community Development Block Grant.

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

Public Notice Community Development Block Grant COVID-19.

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

Notice of Community Outreach Meeting for Pleasantrees, Inc., Wednesday May 26, 2021. ---> Received.

PETITIONS

(2:16:30)

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take items 15 and 16 as a package.

Petition of Kim Silva, (Holyoke Turnverein) for a renewal of 1 pool table and 6 bowling alleys at 624 So. Bridge St.

---> Received and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays --Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (Lebron-Martinez).

Approved by the mayor.

Petition of FYE #725 for a renewal of a second hand license at 50 Holyoke St.

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

Approved by the mayor.

Petition of Pleasantrees, Inc. f/k/a Herbology Group for a new special permit for a Marijuana Growith Facility at 111 Mosher St.

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(2:18:20)

President McGee stated there had been an update from Holyoke Media regarding the interpreter. Stated that there had been concerns about liability issues if Holyoke Media contracted with the interpreters , adding that they would still be covering the costs. Stated that it would be up to the city to pick and contract with the interpreters.

Stated that monitors were ready in order to allow councilors to hold meetings in the Chamber again, adding that there was additional equipment yet to be received in order to make everything work. Stated that once everything was ready, they would invite councilors in for a demo meeting to test it out. Stated that the Chamber had been carpeted and the furniture was set up.

Stated that Councilor Lebron-Martinez had not been able to attend that evening, noting she had a family matter to attend to.

Councilor Leahy stated that he had received many messages regarding the city fireworks. Stated it had been confirmed there would not be fireworks for the 4th of July holiday.

Councilor McGiverin suggested working with the law department, noting that the city would have to hire them as a contractor or a city employee similar to when the city had hired a stenographer.

President McGee stated that phone calls had been received form the media regarding drag racing issues . Noted a late file had been filed to invite in the police to discuss the issue and get solutions to the problem .

Councilor Leahy asked to be added to the order. Observed language from the Springfield City Council had been received to work on issue.

President McGee clarified that the previous language had been about dirt bikes.

Councilor Murphy observed that five new police reserve officers had been sworn in , adding that City Clerk McGee participating in swearing them in. Stated that the contract with ZipCars had been terminated, and that they would pull their cars out by the end of the month. Stated that there were proposals to make property at Elm and Sargeant Streets surplus property. Observed he had heard up to 70 cars in the early morning drag racing Stated he had been in contact with the police chief as well as surrounding communities on the issue. Stated that he met with the Superintendent to convert properties and provide additional homes, bring in additional property taxes, and address litter. Stated he had been working with Alicia Zoeller, Kate Jackowski, and Tanya Wdowiak on answering questions regarding the appropriation of recovery act funds. Stated he would be conducting meeting with city employees on plans to reopen City hall for June 1st. Stated he was working with DPW to make Northampton Street safer, adding that he hoped to address it earlier than 2023. Stated he was working on addressing enforcement issues with fishing and dog walking around the reservoirs. Stated that there would be interviews taking place to hire a new Personnel Instructor. Stated that he and the Planning Department were scheduling listening sessions with the restaurants in the city to find out what they needed to help them recover from the struggle over the past year. Stated that there would be an order regarding a dog day-care, adding that many city departments had worked together to address concerns in the neighborhood.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(2:29:55)

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order Special Permit Application for North Country Production, LLC for a marijuana manufacturing enterprise at 12 Crescent St.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted with the following conditions:

- 1. That the owner of the building always pay the commercial property tax rate to the extent allowed by Federal, State, and Local Laws for the duration of the Special Permit
- 2. That the business retain a minimum 30% Holyoke residents for non-security jobs
- 3. That Hiring preference be given to security personnel that are retired Holyoke Police or are a retired member of another police department that now lives in the City of Holyoke
- 4. There shall be no marijuana consumption allowed on site
- 5. There shall be no deliveries of retail or medical marijuana from the site to individual homes, residences, or people
- 6. That hours of operation be set according to city ordinances.

Committee Members:
Rebecca Lisi
Juan . Anderson-Burgos
Linda L. Vacon
Terence Murphy
Libby Hernandez

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Lisi observed that sixth condition was preferable language, noting that with the change in the ordinance, it allows for the condition to adapt with changes. Suggested deferring to Councilor Anderson-Burgos, noting he had chaired the committee meeting.

Councilor Vacon stated that the new ordinance made it possible for 24 hour operation, adding that the language uses the word "may."

President McGee asked if the intention was to change the language on condition six.

Councilor Vacon stated that if the applicant intended to operate 24 hours, it should state that in the language.

President McGee asked if they sought that in the meeting.

Councilor Lisi stated that they changed to 24 hours specifically for manifesting, noting that the permit would be for a manufacturing enterprise. Stated that the hours would be set according to the ordinances, unless a condition said otherwise based on feedback from the public.

Councilor Vacon clarified that her point was that the new ordinance had not been in place at the time this permit had been discussed in committee.

Councilor Lisi stated the language was appropriate because it accounts for any changes to the city ordinances, adding that the Council has the ability to change hours according to feedback.

Councilor Vacon reiterated her point was that because the new ordinance had not been in place, it would not have come up in discussion whether or not to allow 24 hour operation.

---> Report of Committee received and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays --Yeas 11--Nays 1 (Greaney, Jr.)--Absent 1 (Lebron-Martinez). Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order The City of Holyoke ordain a No Left Turn sign into the former K-Mart Plaza from Whiting Farms Rd. (As background, the sign was installed years ago; HPD's issued many tickets that Judges have dismissed because Holyoke never ordained the sign into law.) Refer to Ordinance Committee, Law Dept for legal language. have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:
Rebecca Lisi
Juan . Anderson-Burgos
Linda L. Vacon
Terence Murphy
Libby Hernandez

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Lisi stated that the order was straightforward, noting that a sign had been in place but had not been enforceable without an ordinance.

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

The Ordinance passed its second reading.

The Ordinance was passed to be enrolled.

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

Report of Enrollment received.

The Ordinance was passed to be Ordained and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays --Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (Lebron-Martinez).

Approved by the Mayor.

(2:40:30)

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order Mackenzie Stadium Lease, between the City of Holyoke, Parks & Recreation Department and Commission and Valley Blue Sox Foundation, Inc. (Recommended by the Mayor)

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

Committee Members:
Joseph M. McGiverin
Peter R. Tallman
Michael J. Sullivan
James M. Leahy
David K. Bartley

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGiverin stated that the order is identical to one from 2019. Noted that 22 games would be scheduled, and likely additional playoff games. Stated that the funds would be for paying the bill to HG&E.

President McGee asked if they had won a championship recently.

Councilor Leahy stated they won two years in a row.

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

Approved by the Mayor.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules and take items 19B, 19C, 19D as a package

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order Petition for a new Junk Dealer's License for Luis Nieves at 2 Harrison Ave

(Recommended by the Mayor)

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

Committee Members:
Joseph M. McGiverin
Peter R. Tallman
Michael J. Sullivan
James M. Leahy
David K. Bartley

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order Petition for a new Junk Dealer's License for Luis Nieves at 2 Harrison Ave Recommended that the order be adopted.

Councilor McGiverin that the owner would go to private properties and remove junk and dispose of properly.

Councilor Bartley made a motion to amend to assure that no commercial activity could be done on site . Councilor Murphy seconded the motion.

Councilor Bartley stated he spoke with the petitioner and got assurance he did not intent to have commercial activity at the address, adding that any such activity would go against his lease with the owner, Valley Opportunity Council.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos excused himself from the meeting, noting he had been feeling ill.

Councilor McGiverin stated that any decision to perform commercial on site would have required a special permit, noting that the applicant had no intent to pursue that.

Motion to amend passed on a voice vote.

---> Report of Committee received and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays --Yeas 11--Nays 0--Absent 2 (Anderson-Burgos, Lebron-Martinez).

Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order Petition of ECOATM, LLC for a new second hand license at 2261 Northampton St.

(Recommended by the Mayor)

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

Committee Members:
Joseph M. McGiverin
Peter R. Tallman
Michael J. Sullivan
James M. Leahy
David K. Bartley

---> Report of Committee received and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays --Yeas 11--Nays 0--Absent 2 (Anderson-Burgos, Lebron-Martinez).

Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order Petition of ECOATM, LLC for a new second hand license at 250 Westfield Rd.

(Recommended by the Mayor)

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

Committee Members:
Joseph M. McGiverin
Peter R. Tallman
Michael J. Sullivan
James M. Leahy
David K. Bartley

---> Report of Committee received and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays --Yeas 11--Nays 0--Absent 2 (Anderson-Burgos, Lebron-Martinez).

Approved by the Mayor.

Councilor McGiverin stated that 19C and 19D were the same company. Stated that they had learned the company takes discarded or used cell phones and recycles them. Stated they have one site located in the city, adding that these would be two new sites. Stated they inventory devices, take images of licenses of sellers, hold the devices in case the police department needs to check for stolen property.

President McGee stated that the current location was at the Holyoke Mall.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That loan order of the City Council adopted on March 2, 2021, and approved by the Mayor on March 9, 2021, which order appropriated, by borrowing, \$1,216,500 for the purchase of Department of Public Works and Fire Department vehicles, is amended to also permit the expenditure of any funds in excess of the amounts needed to purchase the vehicles originally described therein, to purchase a front end loader.

(Recommended by the Mayor)

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

Committee Members:
Joseph M. McGiverin
Peter R. Tallman
Michael J. Sullivan
James M. Leahy
David K. Bartley

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGiverin noted that the original bond had been with the Council recently. Stated that when the original bid went out, a couple of the trucks came back under the expected cost and that the DPW was asking to use the extra funds for a front end loader to replace outdated equipment.

---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays --Yeas 10--Nays 0--Absent 3 (Anderson-Burgos, Leahy, Lebron-Martinez).

Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2021, ONE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED THREE AND 00/100 Dollars (\$1,403.00) as follows:

FROM:

11751-51109 SENIOR PLANNER \$1,403.00

TOTAL: \$1,403.00

TO:

11712-53020 CT RIVER CHANNEL MARKER \$1,403.00

TOTAL: \$1,403.00

(Recommended by the Mayor)

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

Committee Members:
Joseph M. McGiverin
Peter R. Tallman
Michael J. Sullivan

James M. Leahy David K. Bartley

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGiverin stated that the surplus in the sending line item had been due to a vacant position . Stated that there had been a presentation the river markers, noting that communities pay for keeping of the makers. Observed that the Fire Chief discussed the safety implications and the impact on addressing riverway accidents.

---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays --Yeas 9--Nays 1 (Sullivan)--Absent 3 (Anderson-Burgos, Leahy, Lebron-Martinez). Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2021, SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY NINE AND 00/100 Dollars (\$689.00) as follows: FROM:

11211-51103 AIDE TO MAYOR \$689.00

TOTAL: \$689.00

TO:

11511-51101 CITY SOLICITOR \$689.00

TOTAL: \$689.00

(Recommended by the Mayor)

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

Committee Members:
Joseph M. McGiverin
Peter R. Tallman
Michael J. Sullivan
James M. Leahy
David K. Bartley

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGiverin stated that the surplus was due to a surplus, adding that the transfer was to cover part of the pay period for the new City Solicitor.

---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays --Yeas 10--Nays 0--Absent 3 (Anderson-Burgos, Leahy, Lebron-Martinez).

Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2021, TWENTY ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY NINE AND 00/100 Dollars (\$21,569.00) as follows:

FROM:

12101-51590 COURT \$21,569.00

TOTAL: \$21,569.00

TO:

1116-10400 FY19 SUSTAINED TRAFFIC ENF \$4,308.24

1166-10400 FY19 PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLIST SAFE 871.51

1348-10400 2018 MEMA HOMELAND SECURITY 3.779.38

1397-10400 EMD & TRNG 1,258.44

1436-10400 FY20 TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT 343.87

1446-10400 DIVERTING JUVENILES 5,349.06

1447-10400 2019 TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT & EQUIP 3.056.50

1461-10400 2018 TRAFFIC 2,353.46

1462-10400 2018 SUS TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT 248.54

TOTAL: \$21,569.00

(Recommended by the Mayor)

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

Committee Members:

Joseph M. McGiverin Peter R. Tallman Michael J. Sullivan James M. Leahy David K. Bartley

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGiverin stated that the surplus had been due to no jury trails during the Covid period, adding that the funds were being transfers to cover deficits in grant accounts.

---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays --Yeas 10--Nays 0--Absent 3 (Anderson-Burgos, Leahy, Lebron-Martinez).

Approved by the Mayor.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take items 19I, 19J, 19K, and 19L as a package.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order The DPW Superintendent provide the City Council with an inventory list of all DPW vehicles that are currently in use and those that are not in use . have considered the same and Recommended that the order has been complied with.

Committee Members:

Joseph M. McGiverin Peter R. Tallman Michael J. Sullivan James M. Leahy David K. Bartley

Councilor McGiverin stated that with the discussions of the bonds, it had been important to get a list of the vehicles in the department's inventory. Noted that Councilor Greaney had asked about the value of operating Humvees in the department.

Councilor Greaney stated he would have future questions on where the vehicles are housed, the maintenance, which are taken home.

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

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That the City Council meet with DPW Superintendent to discuss bonding for replacement of vehicles. have considered the same and Recommended that the order has been complied with.

Committee Members:

Joseph M. McGiverin Peter R. Tallman Michael J. Sullivan James M. Leahy David K. Bartley

Councilor McGiverin stated that the bonding had been discussed and handled.

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

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that, the Water Department working in conjunction with the Environmental Police submit a report to the City Council itemizing the fines for dogs in the Cities reservoirs and fishing In the Reservoirs, as well.

Please submit this report monthly or for the remainder of the time the City has retained the Environmental Police.

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

Committee Members:
Joseph M. McGiverin
Peter R. Tallman
Michael J. Sullivan

James M. Leahy
David K. Bartley

Councilor McGiverin stated that there had been a report provided, and that an annual report would be expected in the future.

Councilor Murphy noted that environmental police can cite people but cannot fine people. Stated that an order would be filed that would allow people to be fined.

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

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the city council encourage the mayor to appropriate a percentage of the yearly interest from the stabilization account in order to make sure that projects needed around the city will be funded and completed as soon as possible. Projects such as West Glen St, estimated at \$35,000-\$40,000, sidewalks on Woods Ave, and potentially on Northampton St, the intersection of Apremont Hwy and Rock Valley Rd, sidewalk on St Jerome and Dwight St corner should be included, as well as other sidewalks etc. The goal of this is to get these projects which impact the quality of life throughout the city not be delayed because of lack of funds, when in fact the stabilization fund continues to grow.

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

Committee Members:

Joseph M. McGiverin Peter R. Tallman Michael J. Sullivan James M. Leahy David K. Bartley

Councilor McGiverin stated that funds were going to be spent to address the concerns in several, noting that some of the projects had been a need for a long time.

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

(3:01:35)

The Committee on Public Safety to whom was referred an order that the city council approve A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO STATE INCENTIVES FOR BIOMASS PLANTS AND TO CONSTRUCTION OF ONE SUCH PLANT IN EAST SPRINGFIELD have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:
Terence Murphy
Joseph M. McGiverin
Todd McGee

Councilor Murphy stated that the order had been with the Council, and it had looked like the plant would not be approved. Stated that the decision had been under appeal and that considering the health impacts, it would not be in the best interest of the city to have the plant nearby.

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

The Committee on Public Safety to whom was referred an order that the council work with the city solicitor, the police chief, and our state legislative delegation if needed, to put in place significant penalties for dirt bikers and others endangering the public with their tactics on public streets. This is both a quality of life issue and a public safety issue that needs addressing.

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

Committee Members:
Terence Murphy
Joseph M. McGiverin
Todd McGee

Councilor Murphy stated that the police were working with the state police to deter them from coming into the city. Stated that the state police had been using a helicopter to alert the local police. Stated they would try to cite people as much as they can, while maintaining safety of the public as well as the officers. Stated they would be working with the state delegation to address the issue and seek to impound the vehicles whenever possible and allowed.

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

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take items 20C, 20D, and 20G as a package.

The Committee on Public Safety to whom was referred an order that the public safety committee invite in Jim Lavelle and/or a representative of the HG&E with regard to the Valley Heights Street area. have considered the same and Recommended that the order has been complied with.

Committee Members:
Terence Murphy
Joseph M. McGiverin
Todd McGee

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

The Committee on Public Safety to whom was referred an order The disabilities commission for the City of Holyoke consider creating signage that is age-appropriate for resident who require it. For example, a sign that reads, "SLOW, Autistic Child" is not appropriate for a person in her mid-thirties. Holyoke can and should be a leader in this regard. Refer to Public Safety Committee and copies to Disabilities Commission, DPW and acting Mayor.

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

Committee Members:
Terence Murphy
Joseph M. McGiverin
Todd McGee

Councilor Murphy stated that signage had gone up prior to the committee's meeting, adding that language that makes more sense could be considered in the future.

Councilor Bartley commended the work that had been done to address the concern. Observed that concern was brought by the parent of an adult with autism, noting that the previous sign had not been appropriate for the situation. Noted the value making a difference in the lives of individual constituents that may seem small but would be major for the people.

Councilor Tallman commended the work to make a difference for the constituent.

---> Report of Committee received and Adopted.

The Committee on Public Safety to whom was referred an order Parking on Rt. 202 near the Appalachian trail signs is creating a safety hazard. Invite conservation/state and other parties to meet to locate a safe parking area for hikers and consider removing trail signs from roads where parking is prohibited. Recommended that the order has been complied with.

Councilor Murphy stated that there may be a need to move signage that gets people to the trail without having people park there. Stated they may also need no parking signs, adding that the Water Department wanted to prevent people form parking on their land. Stated that the Conservation Director would be working with the people who handle the trails to seek suggestions.

Councilor McGiverin commended the order, noting that he has observed cars parked there regularly. Noted the need to prevent the location from becoming a known access point, adding that the safety of the road needed to be the priority.

Councilor Vacon clarified that the order should have said the New England Trail. Stated she looked forward to the Conservation Director coordinating to address the issue.

Councilor Tallman observed it had been a good discussion to work on making the area safer.

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

The Committee on Public Safety to whom was referred an order Parking on Rt. 202 near the Appalachian trail signs is creating a safety hazard. Invite conservation/state and other parties to meet to locate a safe parking area for hikers and consider removing trail signs from roads where parking is prohibited. have considered the same and Recommended that the order has been complied with.

Committee Members: Terence Murphy Joseph M. McGiverin Todd McGee

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

ORDERS AND TRANSFERS

(3:12:55)

BARTLEY Ordered, that Ordered, that the Honorable City Council, in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 30B and the Holyoke Code of Ordinances procurement ordinance, declare 12 Main Street (Assessors Map 033, Block 04, Parcel 013) as surplus property available for disposition. The property is approximately 5,141 square feet in size, zoned General Industry (IG) and has an assessed value of \$15,800.

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

BARTLEY Ordered, that Ordered, that the Honorable City Council, in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 30B and the Holyoke Code of Ordinances procurement ordinance, declare 22 Main Street (Assessors Map 033, Block 04, Parcel 012) as surplus property available for disposition. The property is approximately 2,614 square feet in size, zoned General Industry (IG) and has an assessed value of \$2,400.

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

BARTLEY Ordered, that Ordered, that the Honorable City Council, in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 30B and the Holyoke Code of Ordinances procurement ordinance, declare the parcel on High Street identified as Assessors Map 012, Block 01, Parcel 009 as surplus property available for disposition. The property is approximately 3,615 square feet in size, zoned Downtown Business (BC) and has an assessed value of \$21.600.

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

BARTLEY Ordered, that Ordered, that the Honorable City Council, in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 30B and the Holyoke Code of Ordinances procurement ordinance, declare the parcel on High Street identified as Assessors Map 012, Block 01, Parcel 010 as surplus property available for disposition. The property is approximately 4,443 square feet in size, zoned Downtown Business (BC) and has an assessed value of \$30.900.

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

BARTLEY Ordered, that Ordered, that the Honorable City Council, in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 30B and the Holyoke Code of Ordinances procurement ordinance, declare 394 High Street (Assessors Map 011, Block 04, Parcel 014) as surplus property available for disposition. The property is approximately 4,095 square feet in size, zoned Downtown Business (BC) and has an assessed value of \$21,900.

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

BARTLEY Ordered, that Ordered, that the Honorable City Council, in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 30B and the Holyoke Code of Ordinances procurement ordinance, declare 400 High Street (Assessors Map 011, Block 04, Parcel 013) as surplus property available for disposition. The property is approximately 3,833 square feet in size, zoned Downtown Business (BC) and has an assessed value of \$24,200.

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

BARTLEY Ordered, that Ordered, that the Honorable City Council, in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 30B and the Holyoke Code of Ordinances procurement ordinance, declare 588 High Street (Assessors Map 010, Block 01, Parcel 020) as surplus property available for disposition. The property is approximately 2,222 square feet in size, zoned Downtown Business (BC) and has an assessed value of \$14,800.

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

BARTLEY Ordered, that Ordered, that the Honorable City Council, in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 30B and the Holyoke Code of Ordinances procurement ordinance, declare 297 Elm Street (Assessors Map 004, Block 04, Parcel 005) as surplus property available for disposition. The property is approximately 6,360 square feet in size, zoned Downtown Residential (DR) and has an assessed value of \$32,500.

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

BARTLEY Ordered, that Ordered, that the Honorable City Council, in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 30B and the Holyoke Code of Ordinances procurement ordinance, declare 301 Elm Street (Assessors Map 004, Block 04, Parcel 006) as surplus property available for disposition. The property is approximately 6,316 square feet in size, zoned Downtown Residential (DR) and has an assessed value of \$32,500.

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

BARTLEY Ordered, that Ordered, that the Honorable City Council, in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 30B and the Holyoke Code of Ordinances procurement ordinance, declare 297 Elm Street (Assessors Map 004, Block 04, Parcel 007) as surplus property available for disposition. The property is approximately 8,276 square feet in size, zoned Downtown Residential (DR) and has an assessed value of \$32,900.

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

LISI Ordered, that the City Council invite in Jim Lavelle from the HG &E and any commissioners as appropriate for an update on the nature and impact of the natural gas moratorium in Holyoke, and discuss any opportunities available for ensuring that we have the natural gas capacity we need in order to grow.

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

LISI Ordered, that That the City Council review the Fire Department plan review fee for monitored fire alarm systems

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

MCGIVERIN Ordered, that That the City of Holyoke appropriate the amount of Seven Million Four Hundred Seventy One Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Four Dollars (\$7,471,654) for the purpose of paying costs of:

Partial roof replacement at the Lt. Clayre Sullivan Elementary School, a 112,000 square foot school building originally constructed in 1960, and located at 400 Jarvis Avenue, Holyoke, Massachusetts,

Partial roof replacement at the Maurice A. Donahue School, a 70,550 square foot school building originally constructed in 1972 and located at 210 Whiting Farms Rd., Holyoke, Massachusetts, and

Partial roof replacement at the E.N. White School, a 63,965 square foot school building constructed in 1958 and located at 1 Jefferson Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts,

including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school (s) and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Holyoke has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under

the direction of The Holyoke City Council. To meet this appropriation the City Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The City of Holyoke acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Holyoke incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Holyoke, and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Holyoke and the MSBA provided further that any grant that the City of Holyoke may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) Eighty (80) percent (%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA.

Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G.L. c. 44, Section 20, thereby reducing the amount

The City Treasurer is authorized to file an application with the appropriate officials of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts (the "Commonwealth") to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all bonds or notes of the City authorized by this order and to provide such information and execute such documents as such officials of the Commonwealth may require in connection therewith.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

Terence Murphy, Mayor ---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take items 38, 39, and 41 as a package.

MCGIVERIN Ordered, that Ordered that the sum of \$1,351,250 is appropriated to pay the costs of building demolition at the following City of Holyoke properties: 145 Brown Avenue, 16 Commercial Street, 345 Dwight Street, 84 Newton Street, 144 High Street, 106 Pine Street, and 246 Lyman Street, and the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefore; 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 this project.

Further Ordered: That any premium received by the City upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44,. Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

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 in order to reduce interest costs, the City Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to refinance any bonds issued pursuant to this Order and in connection therewith, to issue refunding bonds in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 21A of the General Laws.

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.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

Terence Murphy, Mavor

prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council.

Councilor Murphy stated he received information noting that 16 Commercial had been sold and asked that the order be returned to the auditor to pull the address from the order.

Councilor Bartley commended the Acting Mayor for acting quickly when it had been known that the property was going to be sold to a private party. Observed that the properties had been sitting for many years.

Councilor Greaney asked if the order could be amended to pull the address out.

President McGee stated that the order needed to be refiled.

---> Received and referred to the Auditor.

MCGIVERIN Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2021, FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 Dollars (\$50,000) as follows:

FROM:

16101-51275 16101-51102 16101-51113	SALARY STUDY REFERENCE LIBARY ASSISTANT ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	TOTAL:	\$16,000 7,000 27,000 \$50,000
TO: 19191-51999 19121-51999	POLICE/FIRE INDEMNIFICATION WORKERS COMP	TOTAL:	\$25,000 25,000 \$50,000

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

Terence Murphy, Mayor

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

MCGIVERIN Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2021, FOURTEEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SIXTY NINE AND 07/100/100 Dollars (\$14,269.07) as follows:

FROM:

12101-51104 12101-51107 12101-51105	LIEUTENANT PATROLMEN SERGEANT	TOTAL:	\$3,807.08 7,166.01 3,295.98 \$14,269.07
TO: 12101-51180	INJURED ON DUTY		\$14,269.07

To the City Council:

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

TOTAL:

\$14,269.07

May 18, 2021.

Terence Murphy, Mayor

Councilor McGiverin noted that this is an order with every meeting, filed for accounting purposes.

President McGee clarified that the order refers to 5 employees.

Councilor Bartley stated that there is an order for police officers, but no order for the fire department. Noted that the salary for injured on duty does not get taxed.

---> Passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays --Yeas 10--Nays 0--Absent 3 (Anderson-Burgos, Leahy, Lebron-Martinez). Approved by the Mayor.

MURPHY, Bartley, Tallman Ordered, that Ordered that the joint committee of city council and school committee meet to discuss potentially transferring school property on the Dean campus at the intersection of St Vincent and Northampton St to the city for the potential purpose of constructing some homes, and making the streets and sidewalks safer for all, while producing some tax revenues.

Councilor Bartley asked to be added to the order. Stated that during the early Covid stages, there had been plastic all over the place. Noted that it appeared to be developable lots, commending Councilor Murphy for his work to pursue development on the lots.

Councilor Tallman asked to be added to the order, recalled there had been a report from the Engineer a while back. Stated a hope to see development happen on the location.

Councilor Murphy noted that the Engineer had been doubtful early on, adding that his feedback evolved with the belief that three homes could be developed at that location.

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

MURPHY Ordered, that Ordered that the finance committee consider a potential proposal from "Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid to include Holyoke on the public television series, "Great Places to Live, Work & Visit." Consideration needs to be given to the potential marketing benefits in terms of economic development and tourism against the potential cost to subsidize the production.

Councilor Murphy stated a call from the producer asking about Holyoke and expressing that they could come to the city and put together a good presentation. Stated that they would focus on the economic opportunity, tourism, low costs of water and energy, plus the surrounding lands and mountains, as well as the history. Stated there would be a cost, adding that they would like to appear before the Finance Committee to present what they could do.

Councilor Bartley expressed it would be great news for the city.

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

SULLIVAN, Bartley, Greaney, Jr., Vacon Ordered, that Ordered, that The City of Holyoke, through its Honorable City Council and Honorable Mayor hereby petition the Massachusetts General Court to enact Legislation to establish a process for recalling elected officials in the City of Holyoke, and that said Legislation be entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE RECALL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS IN THE CITY OF HOLYOKE

and that said act read as follows see attached:

Councilor Sullivan stated that Councilor Vacon's name should be on the order. Stated it had been passed twice before but had not been signed by the former mayor. Expressed that it should not need to go to committee as it was the exact same language as before.

Councilor McGiverin asked for a reading of the language, noting that he would have preferred to have it in advance if it was to be adopted that evening.

Councilor Vacon made a motion to table in order to allow the members to read it prior to the June 1st meeting.

Councilor Bartley suggested that the DGR Committee could take up the order the following Monday.

Councilor Vacon withdrew her motion to table.

Councilor Sullivan stated that the order was exactly what was filed when it was passed before, and had been taken directly from the Clerk's records.

---> Received and Denied on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays --Yeas 7 (Bartley, Greaney, Jr., Hernandez, McGee, Murphy, Sullivan, Vacon)--Nays 3--Absent 3 (Anderson-Burgos, Leahy, Lebron-Martinez).

Councilor McGiverin made a motion to reconsider and refer to the Development and Governmental Relations Committee. Councilor Lisi seconded the motion.

Councilor Vacon noted that it had been the same language as had passed unanimously before.

Motion to reconsider passed on a voice vote.

VACON Ordered, that Install a street sign for Holy Family Road at the intersection of Lower Westfield Road.

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

VACON, Bartley, Lisi, McGiverin Ordered, that the setting of the sewer rate be returned from the City Council to the DPW Commission where it had been previously determined.

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

HERNANDEZ Ordered, that That a handicap sign be removed from the front of 143 Oak St. ---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

LATE FILED ORDERS & COMMUNICATIONS

(3:37:00)

MCGEE Ordered, that Ordered, that Ordered, that the City Council vote to approve an exemption from MGL Ch. 268A, Sec. 20(b), the Conflict of Interest Law, for Patricia Devine, a temporary employee of the City Clerk's Office.

Councilor Lisi asked what positions Devine would be holding.

President McGee stated that Devine was working as a special part time employee in the City Clerk's office and that she had just been appointed as a commissioner for the Board of Public Works. Stated that the filing had been at the recommendation of Atty Lisa Ball.

Councilor Bartley asked if the state ethics commission needed to weigh in .

President McGee stated that there had been previous similar situations, adding that Atty Ball stated that this is how it needed to be done.

Councilor Bartley asked for information on the compensation of the two positions.

President McGee stated that it was \$4,000 a year on the Commission and that it was a stipend for the work in the Clerk's office.

Councilor Bartley made a motion to suspend the necessary rules to allow the City Clerk to address the Council. Councilor Tallman seconded the motion. All present councilors voted in favor.

City Clerk McGee stated that Devine was considered a temporary seasonal employee to help with the city census and election work. Stated it pays minimum wage.

Councilor Bartley suggested his intent was to see if there was a way to avoid this step.

Councilor Greaney noted there was precedent for the step and that he would support approving it.

Councilor Lisi asked if in the past, had a special employee been forced to forego the salary.

President McGee stated that Atty Ball looked into that, noting that there was a threshold for that

requirement.

City Clerk McGee stated the threshold would have been 800 hours.

---> Received and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays --Yeas 10--Nays 0--Absent 3 (Anderson-Burgos, Leahy, Lebron-Martinez).

Approved by the Mayor.

MURPHY, Bartley, Greaney, Jr., Leahy, McGee, Vacon Ordered, that Ordered that the Public Safety Committee invite in the Chief of Police, West Springfield Police representative to discuss and address the illegal drag racing on city streets and come up with solutions to better address these issues.

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

BARTLEY Ordered, that The Dpw and Disabilities Commission remove the Handicap parking sign in front of 7 Russell Terrace. The house is vacant and there is no need for handicap parking.

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

MURPHY Ordered, that That the Ordinance Committee meet with the Water Department Superintendent and commissioners to amend the ordinance restricting activities such as fishing and dog walking etc., both to increase the fines and to authorize either State Police or Environmental Police as well as Holyoke Police to issue citations.

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

From Holyoke Media, Communication regarding interpretation at City Council meetings Councilor Murphy stated that the goal would be to have interpreters ready for the first meeting in August.

Councilor Bartley asked for a letter from Holyoke Media detailing the opinion from their attorney. Stated it should be a matter of public record. Stated that the Council had nothing to do with the formation of Holyoke Media. Stated it had been an independent corporation set up by the former mayor.

President McGee stated he spoke with Scott MacPherson, and that there was an expectation that the letter would be coming soon.

Councilor Bartley suggested that the Admin Asst could follow up with MacPherson on the receipt of that letter.

Councilor Hernandez asked what the matter was about.

President McGee stated that Holyoke Media had been set up by the former mayor, using funds to provide public access.

Councilor Hernandez asked what the body was trying to find out.

President McGee stated that in order to get interpreters, funds going to Holyoke Media from subscriber fees could be used to help pay for that service to avoid having it come from taxpayer funds. Stated it had been approved, and that during discussions, the liability issue came up.

Councilor McGiverin offered a reminder that it had not just been paying for the interpreter, but that it the City Council President would provide the body's input on who was hired. Stated his concern that hiring the School Department interpreter could have political implications. Stated it would be a concern to have the mayor hire the interpreter.

Councilor Greanev emphasized that whoever is selected should not be politically biased.

President McGee stated his intent to bring it before the full body on who would be selected.

---> Received.

LEBRON-MARTINEZ Ordered, that That city council thru the appropriate committee consider a drop & pick up for 2 parking spots for the van that will pick & drop off the participants that attend the Vcare Adult at the addresses 200-210 High Street This program serve a population of 60 and older and is necessary to assure their safety. Enclosed letter of company request.

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

Petition of Goron Alexander, for a Zone Change Map 076 Block 02 Parcel 001 & 003 ---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

Petition of Jean Paul Boulais and Palmira Boulais, for a Special Permit for a Commercial Animal Establishment

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

Adjourn at 10:55 PM. A true record ATTEST:
City Clerk