

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

February 15, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President McGee at 7:03 PM

The Clerk called the roll. Absent members: 0 Present Members 13 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley, Givner, Jourdain, Maldonado Velez, McGee, McGiverin, Murphy-Romboletti, Puello, I. Rivera, J. Rivera, Tallman, Vacon).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The name of Councilor Vacon was called to head the roll call voting.

LAI D ON THE TABLE

Motion was made and seconded remove item 1 from the table.

From Brenna Murphy McGee, MMC & Jeffery Anderson-Burgos, Admin. to City council minutes of January 18, 2022.

--->Received.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to remove items 2, 3, Late File A, and Late File E from the table as a package

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Franchesca Nunez, Cover letter and resume for interest in the Community Preservation Committee Recommended that the candidate be appointed

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

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Maribel Ortiz, Cover letter and resume for interest in the Community Preservation Committee Recommended that the candidate be appointed

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

From Jeffery Anderson-Burgos, Admin. Ass't. to City Council letter regarding City Council Appointments to the Community Preservation Committee.

--->Received.

JOURDAIN, MCGEE -- Ordered, that the City Council appoint to fill its three at-large appointments to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) with the following terms:

To the remainder of the three year appointment previously held by Rick Dominguez, expiring January 31, 2023;

To the remainder of the three year appointment previously held by Kip Foley, expiring January 31, 2024;

To the three year appointment currently held by Meagan Magrath-Smith, expiring January 31, 2025.

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Tallman clarified that the initial terms had been 1, 2, and 3 year terms to create a staggered schedule of 3 year appointments going forward. He noted Rick Dominguez left his seat the previous summer and Kip Foley's left is seat in November. He then thanked his colleagues for filing an order for the appointments, noting they were Council, not mayoral, appointments.

Councilor Jourdain expressed his support for voting that evening as long as everyone felt that the positions had been fairly posted so that people would have an opportunity to apply. He then emphasized the need to get back onto the proper cycles to assure they were on a January 31st cycle. He suggested handling the term ending in 2025 as it had been occupied by Ms. Magrath-Smith who intended to remain in her seat.

Councilor Jourdain made a motion to move to the first ballot for the term ending in 2025.

President McGee clarified that there were three seats to fill. He further clarified that the seat Mr. Dominguez vacated would expire in 2023 and the seat vacated by Kip Foley would expire in 2024.

Councilor Tallman asked if Ms. Magrath-Smith's seat could be voted on prior to its expiration.

Councilor Jourdain clarified that it had just expired in January and would be up for a new three year term.

Councilor Tallman emphasized the importance of approving the members to the committee could have a quorum for their next meeting.

---> Motion was made and seconded to go to the first ballot to fill the term for CPC, term expiring January 31, 2025. Meagan Magrath-Smith was appointed unanimously on the first ballot.

Councilor Jourdain made a motion to move to the first ballot for the term ending in 2024.

Councilor Jourdain asked for clarification of which candidates were intended for which seats.

President McGee stated that the committee intended to have Francheska Nunez fill the seat previously held by Mr. Dominguez and Maribel Ortiz fill the seat previously held by Kip Foley.

---> Motion was made and seconded to go to the first ballot to fill their term for CPC, term expiring January 31, 2024. Maribel Ortiz was appointed unanimously on the first ballot.

Councilor Jourdain made a motion to move to the first ballot for the term ending in 2023. Councilor Tallman seconded the motion.

---> Motion was made and seconded to go to the first ballot to fill the term for CPC, expiring January 31, 2023. Francheska Nunez was appointed unanimously on the first ballot.

PUBLIC COMMENT

(11:55)

Jose Adastra, 139 Hillside Avenue, suggested that for violence to stop, less drug use, and less homelessness, the city needed to prioritize these issues. He then emphasized that families are left without support when people are incarcerated. He then stated that homeless people on streets asking for money represented a failure on the part of the city. He then stated he had been a part of advocating for a department of community care in Northampton and was seeking to encourage the same in Holyoke. He stated that the city needed to help fill in the gaps in support when families are separated, and veterans are allowed to remain on the street. He also emphasized these issues especially impact the LatinX community.

Nancy Capron, 72 Congress Avenue, expressed her intent to write to the MSBA, noting her concern with specific city officials making statements that the MSBA would be watching city hearings with discussions of building a new school. She then expressed concern with attempts to quiet dissent in order to hide those opinions from the MSBA. She emphasized the need for a healthy public healthy discourse and any efforts to prevent that were an abrogation of democracy.

Erin Brunelle, 44 Norwood Terrace, noted she was a School Committee member and Vice Chair of the School Building Committee. She then clarified that her statements expressed that the Commissioner of Education would be watching the city's actions relative to receivership, not the MSBA. She then emphasized that the public was allowed to attend School Building Committee meetings and offer questions and concerns during those meetings. She then thanked the Finance Committee for its recommendation to support the bond order for a feasibility study on a new middle school. She then stated that while some had concerns about a lack of a plan, the city needed to place education as a top priority.

COMMUNICATIONS

(19:15)

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

From Kathleen E. Degnan, Assistant City Solicitor letter re: Opinion on Procedure to Change Charter - Council Approval on Appointments.
--->Received.

From Kathleen E. Degnan, Assistant City Solicitor letter re: Opinion use special Act to Change Charter - Council Approval on Appointments.
---> Received.

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

Councilor Vacon, noting Atty Degnan's suggestion that a petition be filed for the Council to seek a charter change to allow for Council to confirm all mayoral appointments, asked how such a petition would be drafted. She noted this had not been done for home rule petitions in the past.

Atty Degnan stated that it could come from the Council with discussion from the Law Department on what the Council was seeking to do. She then stated that if such a petition was sent to the legislature with a mistake, it would not have to be fixed again. She added that it could come from the Mayor, or the Council could ask that an opinion be drafted.

Councilor Vacon asked to clarify that the action needed that night was to have a request referred to the Law Department to draft a petition for a home rule petition. She noted that in the past, the Law Department would draft petitions after City Council approval of orders recommended out of the Charter and Rules Committee.

Atty Degnan stated that if the Law Department drafted such a petition, the mayor would have to sign it.

Councilor Vacon made a motion to request the Law Department to draft a home rule petition based on the order adopted by the City Council in 2021. Councilor Bartley seconded the motion. All councilors voted in favor.

From Brenna Murphy McGee, MMC & Jeffery Anderson-Burgos, Admin. to City Council minutes of February 1, 2022.

--->Received.

From Damian J. Cote, Building Commissioner, letter re: Property Preservation Group 5 year report.

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

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 8, 9, and 10 as a package.

List of 2021 Elected Officials Gross pay.

--->Received.

List of Top paid 2021 City of Holyoke employees.

--->Received.

List of Top paid 2021 School Department Employees.

--->Received.

Councilor Jourdain suggested that the salary lists be posted to the website.

President McGee expressed that he believed they had been but would follow up.

Communication from Department of Public Works vote to seek changes to the ordinance Sec 2, 201.

Councilor Vacon stated that the proposed language would seek to remove the educational requirements for the DPW Superintendent. She then asked for consideration that rather than removing those requirements, relevant experience could be substituted.

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

President McGee confirmed that the salary lists had already been posted.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 12 and Late File B as a package.

From Evergreen Industries LLC, Community Outreach Meeting on Feb. 18, 2022 for 73 Sargeant St. Proposed Cannabis Cultivator.
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

From Evergreen Industries LLC notice of a secondary Community Outreach meeting due to an address correction, on March 4, 2022 at 414 Race St.
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

From Upper Echelon Cultivation LLC, community outreach meeting on February 28, 2022 for a proposed cannabis microbusiness at 420 Race St.
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

From Megan Seiler, Director Wistariahurst Museum regarding Office Assistant Position reclassification from W-2 to W-7.
---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

PETITIONS

(27:55)

Petition of River Grove LLC, for a new Marijuana Establishment at 475 Canal St.
--->Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(28:10)

President McGee stated that the mayor would be finalizing a list of who would be on the parking advisory committee, which would include one at-large and one ward councilor. He then asked for councilors to volunteer.

Councilor Bartley stated he would volunteer as the ward councilor.

Councilor Maldonado Velez stated he would volunteer as the at-large councilor.

President McGee stated that Admin Asst Councilor Anderson-Burgos was working on making orders in committee jackets available online for the public. He stated the intent was to make them available by the end of March. He also stated that there would be notations added to tabled orders providing dates and statuses.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up item 19B out of order.

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, letter appointing Ms. Jacqueline Watson, 20 Easthampton Rd. #F6 to serve as a Board Member for the Valley Opportunity Council for the City of Holyoke: Ms. Watson will replace Kate Preissler and will finish her term; said term will expire on December 31, 2023.
have considered the same and Recommended that the appointment be confirmed.

Committee Members:

Peter Tallman
Will Puello
David K. Bartley

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Tallman stated that Ms. Watson had served on several boards in the city, worked with Finance at the Gas and Electric, and much experience working with city government. He stated that she would plan to provide updates every couple of months.

Councilor Vacon expressed her support for the appointment., noting Ms. Watson was a dedicated public servant.

Councilor McGiverin stated that Ms. Watson has been involved in city service in many area well beyond the Gas and Electric.

President McGee stated he had known Ms. Watson since he had been a child, adding that the work she had done for the city had been well appreciated.

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

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up item 26 out of order.

MCGIVERIN -- TO ACCEPT DONATIONS OF \$10,000 FROM PEOPLES BANK AND \$1,000 FROM EASTHAMPTON SAVINGS BANK TO SUPPORT THE LADY LIBERTY CIVIL WAR MONUMENT RESTORATION

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

McGivern observed that monetary gifts to city departments had to be approved by the City Council. He then stated that the Lady Liberty project was approved through the Community Preservation Act funds. He then noted that the City Engineer requested that the order be approved that night, noting time constraints.

Councilor Jourdain made a motion to amend the order clarifying that the statue's official name from its dedicated on July 4, 1876 was Goddess of Victory. He emphasized the historical significant to the city. He then expressed appreciation to Peoples Bank and Easthampton Savings Bank. He also emphasized that the 57 Holyokers who died in the Civil War deserved to be remembered throughout history.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos recalled that while growing up in the city, he walked by the statue often and would read the names. He noted that he had not been able to read them recently. He emphasized that the 57 people engraved gave their lives and preserving the statue was the least that could be done.

Councilor McGiverin recalled that Mike Falcetti had led the effort at the CPA committee level to approve the restoration project.

Councilor I. Rivera echoed Councilor McGiverin's recollection of Mr. Falcetti's efforts.
---> Passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays --Yeas 13--Nays 0--
Absent 0.
Approved by the Mayor.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(39:10)

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the "FY22 FIREFIGHTER EQUIPMENT GRANT, \$23,063, NO MATCH, " grant and authorizes the establishment of a Fund or other method appropriate for the accounting of the receipts and expenditures of all resources associated with the administration of said grant.
(Recommended by the Mayor)

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

Committee Members:
Joseph McGiverin
Kevin A Jourdain
Will Puello
Juan . Anderson-Burgos
Peter Tallman

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGiverin stated the grant would purchase several pieces of equipment including cameras with thermal imaging and a disinfectant for turnout gear. He also noted that the department had done well to maintain and reconcile their grants.
--->Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays --
Yeas 13--Nays 0--Absent 0.
Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the "GREEN COMMUNITIES MUNICIPAL ENERGY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (META), \$15,000, NO MATCH, " grant and authorizes the establishment of a Fund or other method appropriate for the accounting of the receipts and expenditures of all resources associated with the administration of said grant.
(Recommended by the Mayor)

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

Committee Members:
Joseph McGiverin
Kevin A Jourdain
Will Puello
Juan . Anderson-Burgos
Peter Tallman

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGiverin stated that the grant would be used at Dean School to study and design specifications for water source heat pumps. He noted that the need for the school was well explained.

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

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the "VETERAN'S HERITAGE GRANT PROGRAM, \$15,000, 50% MATCH, " grant and authorizes the establishment of a Fund or other method appropriate for the accounting of the receipts and expenditures of all resources associated with the administration of said grant.
(Recommended by the Mayor)

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

Committee Members:
Joseph McGiverin
Kevin A Jourdain
Will Puello
Juan . Anderson-Burgos
Peter Tallman

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGiverin stated the grant was a collaboration between the Veterans Services and Wisteriahurst. He then stated that the matching funds would come from the Holyoke Cultural Center as well as the Wisteriahurst Foundation, in addition to in-kind hours. He stated that the grant would enhance the program at Wisteriahurst.

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

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That the City Council approve the expense of the FY2022 Holyoke Share-ValleyBike Administration in the amount of \$9,610.00 to be paid from the TNC-Rideshare receipts reserved for appropriation fund #2601
have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:
Joseph McGiverin
Kevin A Jourdain
Will Puello
Juan . Anderson-Burgos
Peter Tallman

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGiverin stated that the committee had been 4-1. He then stated that the order was a transfer request to pay the administrative costs to Northampton as the lead community out of the TNC-Rideshare receipts, noting that they had been steadily increasing annually. He noted that the bikes had been used well by the city. He then expressed his concern why the receipts would be used to pay to a for-profit company, adding that some of those profits should be shared to pay some of the administrative costs.

Councilor Jourdain expressed that he did not have an issue with spending the funds, noting the great public service to the citizens of the community. He also emphasized that there had been statistical analysis showing thousands of bike trips to and from the city, with over 800 Holyoke citizens identified as using the program. He further emphasized that the city was getting a great return on investment from the program.

Councilor Tallman observed having seen the bikes in heavy use throughout different neighborhoods of the city. He also noted that the city was still ahead even with the requested spending out of the rideshare receipts. He then suggested that some of the funds should be used for repairing roads.

Councilor Vacon expressed her support, adding a suggestion that the rest of the funds should be used for repairing potholes.

Councilor McGiverin clarified that he understood the benefit, noting his concern was that the profit being made was not being shared with the city. He then suggested that all of the TNC money could be used for repairing potholes.

---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays --
Yeas 12--Nays 1 (McGiverin)--Absent 0.

Approved by the Mayor.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 17E and Late File F as a package.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the sum of \$475,000 is appropriated to pay the costs of the new middle school design phase 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(7) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor; 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 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 outstanding bonds of the City, as well as 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.

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

Committee Members:

Joseph McGiverin

Kevin A Jourdain

Will Puello

Juan . Anderson-Burgos

Peter Tallman

--->Given a leave to withdraw.

MCGIVERIN -- That the City appropriate the amount of Four Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$475,000) for the purpose of paying costs of a feasibility study relating to the William R. Peck Middle School, located at 1916 Northampton Street in Holyoke, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, and for which the City may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of School Committee. To meet this

appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The City acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the City incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City, and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Feasibility Study Agreement that may be executed between the City and the MSBA.

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

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

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

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGiverin clarified that the purpose of the late file was to take up language more appropriate for the purpose. He noted that the original order, item 17E, was filed when there was an impression that the MSBA would not be in a position to reimburse some of the costs of the feasibility study. He added that this could change if the MSBA brings the city into consideration. He also noted it had been the standard language for a bond proposal. He then stated that the late file added in language required by the MSBA to specify certain project and location details. He noted the language had one error, clarifying that School Committee should read as School Building Committee. He then asked to confirm that the order had a signature from the mayor on the order.

President McGee confirmed that his copy did have the mayor's signature.

Councilor Jourdain stated his copy did not have a signature and showed the name of former Mayor Murphy.

President McGee clarified his copy featured the signature of Mayor Garcia.

Councilor Jourdain asked to confirm that the two copies had the same language.

President McGee confirmed that they did.

Councilor McGiverin stated his belief that the School Building Committee language was minor and that the Council should be able to proceed.

President McGee asked what should be done with the original order.

Councilor McGiverin stated that the amount was the same, reiterating that the late file was to include language required by the MSBA. He then stated that the original order could be disposed of and replaced with Late File F.

Motion was made and seconded to give item 17E as leave to withdraw.

Motion was made and seconded to take final action on Late File F.

Councilor McGiverin noted that the School Building Committee had met to discuss the one school project for around two years. He added that the purpose of building a new middle school was to take middle schools students out of the elementary schools, consolidate elementary schools, take at least two offline, which would result in savings for administrative, staffing, and maintenance costs. He also emphasized that the aging schools' buildings required a lot of repair, noting that the last school building in the city had been in the 1980's. He observed that the Finance Committee vote had been 3-2 in favor. He acknowledged that arguments on both sides were legitimate and had merit. He further stated that the new middle school would be built at the location of Peck School for 550 students. He also noted that they may be able to utilize a template design and enjoy potential cost savings. He recalled there had been an original proposal for one school for 1,100 students, later split into two schools for 550 students each, both that eventually failed to receive approval. He emphasized that communities have an obligation to offer equal opportunities for education. He then emphasized that a feasibility study had to be done in order to be considered by the MSBA. He then stated that the project manager from the previous proposal would be utilized and would result in a cost savings. He then explained that the study would include additional work to redesign the previous two projects into one, a traffic study, and environmental studies. He then emphasized that the costs may not require the entire \$475,000. He also emphasized that there was no obligation to approve the final vote for a school in approving the bond for the study. He then recalled concerns he had with the previous project being linked to a tax override vote. He then stated State Rep Duffy and State Senator Velis would be advocating for higher reimbursements from the MSBA, noting the formula should be changed to respect the greater needs of gateway communities.

Councilor Jourdain commended Councilor McGiverin for his efforts as committee chair to assure all of the information was gathered. He then expressed concern that the vote was being rushed and based too much on emotion. He then stated that more financial analysis needed to be done to assure the city could afford the long term bonding of a new school, noting that the available analysis showed debt service coming off but left out any estimates of potential new projects that may require additional bonding. He then emphasized that there was time to do more financial analysis. He pointed to additional capital needs the city will require in the coming years, such as major sewer projects. He then emphasized that the estimate of the new school would be \$39 million, noting that would be \$1.3 million for 30 years. He also noted that the tax levy would likely not continue to grow. He further expressed concern that while the school bond may not require a tax override, its impact will lead to overrides to pay for other needed expenses such as for police service or road repairs. He also noted that the schools had been taken over by the state, the proposed reimbursement of 58-60% was insufficient, and the state should be more willing to provide more funds to build new schools. He also emphasized that while marijuana businesses had added around \$9 million in additional valuation into the community, the mall had lost \$55 million in valuation. He then expressed his intent was to assure the process was totally transparent with complete financial analysis.

Councilor Puello questioned the rush to take a vote when the MSBA's deadline was not until April. He then added that financial questions remains and there were not immediate financial repercussions to tabling them item to allow time for an additional financial assessment of the city's debt.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos questioned the condescending tone behind downplaying the concern for children. He then stated that the study was needed to be able to fully understand the costs of building the school. He then questioned support for a study during the last attempt to build a school while not supporting the study now.

Councilor Vacon noted that in discussions with the City Auditor, she understood that a deeper financial analysis could be done within a few weeks. She added that a deeper financial forecast would allow the Council to have a better understanding of the city's finances. She then expressed she would be willing to consider supporting the bond if given an opportunity to receive more information before being forced to take a vote.

Councilor Murphy-Romboletti emphasized that the order was not a request to bond for the school, adding that vote would come later. She then recalled that while campaigning, many votes expressed that while they had been against supporting two new schools, they were more supportive of building one school.

Councilor I. Rivera expressed concern that it was too much to ask for assuring kids have an educational space with equal access where they feel valued. He recalled attending UMass and being in a space with access to the tools needed to adequately learn. He then expressed concern that one school would mean some students would get access to better resources, adding that this situation was a result of continuing to kick the can down the road. He then suggested that costs will continue to increase as the decisions gets pushed further down the road. He also suggested that people who have been working on the project should be trusted to do their job. He then questioned how there had been unanimous support for transferring \$400,000 of extra funds in the Police Department budget for their use while not supporting the bond for the school study.

Councilor Vacon noted that the vote on the Police Department budget had been a transfer within their budget and was a completely different matter. She also noted that she had attended UMass when there were fewer resources. She emphasized that outcome of education was not dependent upon the look of the building. She then expressed concern that the vote was being taken based on a financial analysis that was a year old.

Councilor Puello emphasized that the vote on the Police Department transfer was not a bond but had been already appropriated funds being moved from one line to another. He also emphasized that the defeat of the two school proposal had been about opposition to an override, adding that it would be an issue if this bond led to an override later on.

Councilor Jourdain emphasized that support for a study previously had been years ago when the city's finances were different and in better shape. He also noted the state had paid 80% of the costs of that study. He then reiterated that nobody would be against the study as long as financial analysis could be done. He then stated that he did not find emotional argument of support for kids to be compelling, emphasizing that everyone supported kids and would want to make sure they have what they need, but would not buy things for them that cannot be afforded. He also conceded that while the bond for the school was not technically up for a vote, the \$475,000 for the study was unrecoverable even if the eventual vote for a new school failed.

Councilor Murphy-Romboletti stated that if the study was not done, the city would not be able to find out if it could afford the cost of a new school. She also stated that delaying the vote was not a good use of time and resources.

Councilor Givner expressed her support for the study. She then stated that while she did not have children, she felt safer in a community when kids have educational spaces that keep them occupied, stimulated, and challenged. She also stated that the communities she had enjoyed the most had been those that focused on education. She then stated that support for the study would show the community that the Council was serious about supporting education.

Councilor Maldonado Velez recalled thinking on the magnitude of voting to spend \$475,000. He then emphasized the importance of what the funds would be spend on. He recalled things that were in need of updating when he attended Peck School, let alone the state of things currently. He then recalled hearing and understanding the affordability arguments against buildings two new schools, but to build one instead. He emphasized that the point had arrived to consider building one. He also stated that the city had a mayor that was going to be very involved in staying on top of the city's finances.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that there were two questions before the Council: can we afford it, or how can we afford it? He then suggested that the opposition was placing too many questions as roadblocks to figuring out how to make it affordable.

Councilor McGiverin stated that he was in contact with the City Auditor nearly every day. He also emphasized that the new mayor had the capacity to understand the importance and implementation of financial analysis. He also stated that financial analysis occurs constantly. He then stated that the city can afford the cost of \$475,000, adding that it cannot be known what the city's eventual financial obligation for the new school will be until the MSBA brings the city into the process which would allow them to do their analysis of the feasibility study. He also suggested that there would be savings with the consolidation of elementary schools, of high salary administrators, and better schools for children to be educated in. He also emphasized that the MSBA had a limited number of schools that would be bringing into the process for the year. He then stated that without passage of the study, it was uncertain when Holyoke would be invited back into the process again.

Motion was made and seconded to allow Councilor Puello to speak for a third time.

Councilor Puello suggested that the city knew that the school would cost \$31 million and all of the information to make a determination if the city can afford it was available. He then suggested that the cost is likely to be higher. He also expressed concern that the proposal was being advocated for by the same people that had advocated for the tax override before. He then reiterated that the vote did not need to take place until April, giving enough time for more analysis.

Councilor Tallman expressed respect for his colleagues for asking tough questions of Cinder McNerney, adding that she had done the analysis she was asked to do and determined the city could afford it. He then reiterated that if the bond did not get passed, the school doesn't get build. He also emphasized that several of the city's schools had several severe maintenance issues, adding that building one new school would allow a couple to be taken offline. He also noted that the opposition to two new schools in 2019 had largely been opposition to an additional tax, reiterating that this school's costs would be a part of the budget. He also emphasized that new revenue would be coming in as well. He emphasized that education attracts people into the community.

---> Passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays --Yeas 9--Nays 4
(Bartley, Jourdain, Puello, Vacon)--Absent 0.
Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2022, ELEVEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND 00/100 Dollars (\$11,200.00) as follows:

FROM:

14251-51105 POWER SHOVEL OPERATOR \$11,200.00

TOTAL: \$11,200.00

TO:

14251-51106 PROPERTY MAINT & DEMO WORKER \$11,200.00

TOTAL: \$11,200.00

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

Committee Members:

Joseph McGiverin

Kevin A Jourdain

Will Puello

Juan . Anderson-Burgos

Peter Tallman

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGiverin stated that the surplus had been due to vacancies in the position. He then stated that the request had been due to an expectation that an employee would be leaving but had stayed on, requiring additional funds to be needed in the salary line.

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

Councilor Vacon noted that Councilor Bartley mentioned to her he needed to leave for a prior obligation.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2022, SIXTY FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$65,000.00) as follows:

FROM:

14251-51104 HEAVY MOTOR EQUIPMENT OPERATOR \$65,000.00

TOTAL: \$65,000.00

TO:

14302-53100 REFUSE-OTHER SERVICES \$65,000.00

TOTAL: \$65,000.00

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

Committee Members:

Joseph McGiverin

Kevin A Jourdain

Will Puello

Juan . Anderson-Burgos

Peter Tallman

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGiverin stated that the DPW had a line item used to pay for temporary replacements. He noted that they had experienced difficulties keeping positions filled causing a need for temporary workers. He then stated that the Sheriff's Department had provided workers to fill in through the York Industries program, adding that it had not been previously understood that the contract of \$360 per day they were used had been paid from the DPW budget for many years. He then noted that the transfer was to pay for a past due bill. He then suggested that they should revisit whether it is appropriate for the city to pay for a program through an agency that the state already pays for.

Councilor I. Rivera noted his familiarity with the program. He then noted that as an ex-felon, he understood that the program provided work opportunities for ex-felons coming out of prison, offering a change to work and gain experience and begin to acclimate with society. He then suggested there could be ways to improve it and grow the program to help people find more sustainable work.

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

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the mayor and the receiver meet with the finance committee to update the city council on the potential of receiving MSBA approval for building one new middle school with MSBA assistance. Please provide any update on when the city might know the status of the proposal, and the financial implications of any approval.

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

Committee Members:

Joseph McGiverin

Kevin A Jourdain

Will Puello

Juan . Anderson-Burgos

Peter Tallman

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGiverin stated that the order was to bring the committee up to date before taking up the bond order.

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

President McGee stated that there were no reports from the Public Safety Committee.

(2:12:30)

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, letter appointing Ms. Cheryl Figueroa, 223 Pine St. to serve as a Board Member for the Valley Opportunity Council for the City of Holyoke: Ms. Figueroa will replace Anthony Soto and will finish his term; said term will expire on December 31, 2022.

have considered the same and Recommended that the appointment be confirmed.

Committee Members:

Peter Tallman

Will Puello

David K. Bartley

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

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up item 19J out of order.

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, letter appointing Mr. Nicholas A. Duclos, 11 Arlington St. to serve as a Commissioner of the parks and Recreation for the City of Holyoke: Mr. Duclos will replace Mr. Israel Rivera and will serve Mr. Rivera's remainder of the term; said term will expire on June 30, 2024.

have considered the same and Recommended that the appointment be referred to the City Council.

Committee Members:

Peter Tallman

Will Puello

David K. Bartley

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Tallman made a motion that the appointment be confirmed. He then stated that Mr. Duclos had been involved in the city in many capacities, had Political Science degrees, worked at Gary Home Hyundai, had served in the Air national Guard. He then stated Mr. Duclos had answered many questions relative to his intentions as a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that he had been impressed with the interview, noting his commitment to Holyoke through living, working, and raising a family in the city. He then expressed that he had been appalled by attempts to discredit Mr. Duclos by bringing up his past. He then recalled hearing of intentions to use his own past issues against him when he ran for City Council in 2015. He noted that he had worked hard since then to move past his wrongs. He then emphasized that many people have mistakes to learn from. He then asked what message it sends to say that people should be defined by their lowest moments.

Councilor Jourdain made a motion to request a roll call vote. Councilor Vacon seconded the motion. Councilor Puello (per Council rules) thirded the motion.

Councilor Jourdain stated expressed that he has a duty to add to the discussion based on the way he sees the issues, and it is up to the voters to determine if they like the way councilors conduct themselves.

He then stated that he did not find anything reprehensible to bring up a nominee's past conduct as it relates to the city. He then stated that Mr. Duclos had been involved in an incident when he had been driving the mayor's car with a suspended license. He then emphasized there was a distinction between disclosing personal conduct and the city related business of this incident. He then stated Mr. Duclos took a city car, had been drunk driving into Northampton, had been speeding, and various other driving violations. He then expressed that while some people make mistakes, this had involved city property and should be disqualifying from being a part of a city department. He then questioned what would be unconfirmable if this confirmation was adopted. He then suggested that the only unforgiveable would be voting Republican, noting a flyer during the previous election questioned the judgement of he and other conservatives.

Councilor I. Rivera recalled that he had been confirmed by the City Council unanimously twice in the past with a worse record than Mr. Duclos. He then asked if it was the opinion of some colleagues that he should not be sitting in his seat as a city councilor. He then emphasized that the incident with Mr. Duclos happened several years ago. He then asked if someone in that position should never get access to being a normal citizen again. He then emphasized that communities spend most of their money arresting people. He also suggested that the community could reach a point when most people are not allowed to have a voice.

Councilor Murphy-Romboletti suggested that this type of decorum and attitude is why people choose not to put their name up for positions and don't run for office. She then compelled people who have made mistakes and turned their lives around, she would hope they would not be afraid. She then emphasized that while she not a friend of Mr. Duclos, mostly because of the incident, she believed he was capable of still contributing to the city. She then noted she voted for Councilor I. Rivera. She then reiterated this conversation was why people choose not to step up.

Councilor Vacon observed hearing the terms "horrific" and "hypocrisy" during the debate. She then suggested that both were present at the meeting. She then recalled herself and other councilors and candidates were vilified in a political because of a legal position. She then suggested that nobody spoke out in their defense that they had a right to their opinions. She then stated that while she had not known the record of Councilor I. Rivera when taking past votes on his appointments, the incident with Mr. Duclos was very public. She then emphasized that the appointments are positions of community leadership, adding that while people can turn around from their mistakes, they should not necessarily be put in positions of leadership. She then asked if others were as welcoming to those they disagree with.

Councilor Puello stated that he believed the line of questioning was appropriate, noting that many jobs require background checks. He then stated he would be voting to confirm Mr. Duclos.

Councilor Jourdain emphasized the importance of understanding that the incident involved taking city property without authority, exposing the city to liability by driving while drunk. He then stated that he had not needed to go digging up the information, noting that the incident had received media attention. He then stated that are plenty of other ways to contribute to the community. He then suggested that the message this appointment would send to other employees would be that this conduct is condoned.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos clarified that when the flyer had been circulated, he had spoken out publicly against it, adding that the sentiment of the flyer was not how he would want to conduct himself.

Councilor Jourdain acknowledged that Councilor Anderson-Burgos had spoken out against it.

Councilor Vacon stated she was willing to stand correct, also acknowledging that Councilor Anderson-Burgos had spoken out against it.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos noted that the City Council represents different parts of the community. He then emphasized that people with different passions were a part of it.

Councilor Maldonado Velez asked for 15 seconds of silence for the Council to briefly quiet the noise. He then offered congratulations to Mr. Duclos and his well wishes that he would do great in the position.

Councilor Givner stated that she did not have an issue with the line of questioning. She then stated that she also had been against the political, adding that nobody asked their permission to put their names on the flyer. She then stated that she had asked to be removed, adding that several of the candidates on the flyer had been appalled by it and had not wanted to be associated with it.

Councilor McGiverin reminded his colleagues that political endorsements should not be discussed during a Council meeting. He then stated that the resume and credentials of Mr. Duclos showed that he was a good fit for the position. He noted that Mr. Duclos had respectfully responded to the concerns expressed during the committee meeting. He noted that Mr. Duclos had completed a probation period. He also noted that more than 60% of people who begin the probation process do not complete it and become repeat offenders. He then stated that the most important thing was that this was Mayor Garcia's appointment and his confidence in Mr. Duclos should be respected.

Councilor Tallman noted that he had nothing to do with the flyer and his name had been added there along with many other councilors without his knowledge. He then recalled that while he had not served as a committee chair in many years, he asked Council President McGee to serve as a chair for this term understanding that many appointments would come up. He then stated that Mr. Duclos would be a great fit for the committee, noting that many people have issues. He then stated that he believed Mr. Duclos could step up and do well in the appointment. He also expressed his belief that remorse for the past incident had been expressed during the committee meeting.

President McGee stated that he knew Mr. Duclos well, understood that people make mistakes. He then stated his thinking was to question if you continue holding things against people or do you try to move forward, adding that he believes you try to move forward.

--->Report of Committee received and appointment confirmed on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays
Yeas 10--Nays 2 (Jourdain, Vacon)--Absent 1 (Bartley).

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 19C through 19I and 19K through 19Z as a package.

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Acting Mayor Terence Murphy letter nominating Willie Spradley, 8 Ross Road. to serve on the citizens advisory Committee (CAC) for the Office of Community Development for the City of Holyoke: Mr. Spradley will serve a one year term: said term will expire June 30, 2022
have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:

Peter Tallman

Will Puello

David K. Bartley

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

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Acting Mayor Terence Murphy, letter to nominate Mr. Terry Gibson 20 Oakwood Ave. to serve on the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) for the Office of Community Development for the City of Holyoke: If you approve this nomination, Mr.

Gibson will serve a one-year term: said term will expire on June 30, 2022
have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:
Peter Tallman
Will Puello
David K. Bartley

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

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Acting Mayor Todd President McGee letter appointing Marc Hickey, 16 Oakwood Ave. to serve as the Republican Member for the Board of Registrar of Voters for the City of Holyoke: Mr. Hickey will replace Mr. Preston Macy and will serve a three-year term; said term will expire on March 31, 2024
have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:
Peter Tallman
Will Puello
David K. Bartley

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

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Mayor Alex B, Morse letter appointing Mr Bellamy H. Schmidt, 10 Windpath East, West Springfield, MA to serve as a member of the Retirement Board for the City of Holyoke: Mr. Schmidt will serve a three year term; said tern will expire on January 1, 2024
have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:
Peter Tallman
Will Puello
David K. Bartley

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

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Mayor Alex B. Morse 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
have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:
Peter Tallman
Will Puello
David K. Bartley

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

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Mayor Alex B. Morse letter reappointing Mr. Morris M. Partee, 127 St. Kolbe Dr. to serve as a member of the Board of Appeals for the City of Holyoke: Mr. Partee will serve a two-year term; said term will expire on July 1, 2023
have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:
Peter Tallman
Will Puello
David K. Bartley

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

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Mayor Alex B. Morse letter reappointing Ms. Miriam Panitch 134 Madison Ave. to serve as a Commissioner of the Planning Board for the City of Holyoke: Ms. Panitch will serve a five-year term; said term will expire on June 30, 2024 have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:

Peter Tallman
Will Puello
David K. Bartley

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

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Terence Murphy, Acting Mayor letter appointing Ms. Cheryl Figueroa, 223 Pine St. to serve as a Board Member for the Valley Opportunity Council for the City of Holyoke: Ms. Figueroa will replace Anthony Soto and will finish his term; said term will expire on December 31, 2022 have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:

Peter Tallman
Will Puello
David K. Bartley

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

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Terence Murphy, Acting Mayor letter appointing Ms. Jacqueline Watson, 20 Easthampton Rd. #F6 to serve as a Board Member for the Valley Opportunity Council for the City of Holyoke: Ms. Watson will replace Kate Preissler and will finish her term; said term will expire on December 31, 2023 have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:

Peter Tallman
Will Puello
David K. Bartley

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

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Terence Murphy, Acting Mayor letter to nominate Mr. Russell J. McNiff, Jr. 275 West Franklin St. to serve on the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) for the Office of Community Development for the City of Holyoke: Mr. McNiff will serve a one year term; said term will expire on June 30, 2022 have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:

Peter Tallman
Will Puello
David K. Bartley

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

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Acting Mayor Terence Murphy letter nominating Victor Machado, 40 Suffolk St. to Serve on the citizens advisory Committee (CAC) for the Office of Community Development for the City of Holyoke: Mr. Machado will serve a one year term: said term will expire June 30, 2022 have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:

Peter Tallman

Will Puello
David K. Bartley

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

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order Ordered, that Where as DOR has already recommended twice that the City of Holyoke become compliant with MGL chapter 41 Section 24 as well as City of Holyoke Ordinance 82-36.

Order that the City Council interview the only applicant that has applied for the position of third Assessor that was advertised from 9/21/15- 10/23-15 in order to be in compliance with the above mentioned laws. have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:
Peter Tallman
Will Puello
David K. Bartley

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

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order that given the recent FCC rulings on net neutrality, the City Council invite in representatives from HG&E to discuss public access to broadband, fiber, and the G&E's ability to provide free, city-wide WiFi have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:
Peter Tallman
Will Puello
David K. Bartley

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

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order that the City Council develop a public process by which councilors can submit recommendations for how the \$29 Million in COVID stimulus funding will be spent locally have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:
Peter Tallman
Will Puello
David K. Bartley

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

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order that the City Council invite in the CPAC to discuss their reflections on their first round of fund disbursement; reflections could include thoughts on their process and some of the reasoning that went to this year's award selections have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:
Peter Tallman
Will Puello
David K. Bartley

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

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order that the city council invite in the newly hired web company to address the problems the city is having with the system, time line to fixing, etc have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:
Peter Tallman

Will Puello
David K. Bartley

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

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order that the Crocker communication system/phone system address the phone issues where Verizon user constituents couldn't call into the city for services
have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:
Peter Tallman
Will Puello
David K. Bartley

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

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order that the mayors office and personnel department please provide the city council with the approval notice from the council with regard to the moving of the office
have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:
Peter Tallman
Will Puello
David K. Bartley

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

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order that the mayors office provide the contract between the city and the coffee shop located in city hall
have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:
Peter Tallman
Will Puello
David K. Bartley

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

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order that the mayors office provide the contractual agreement between the city and Mass DOT for the use of city hall space. Please send to city council in 2 weeks
have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:
Peter Tallman
Will Puello
David K. Bartley

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

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order That the public service committee conduct interviews for the new whiting reservoir committee
have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:
Peter Tallman
Will Puello
David K. Bartley

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

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order that the public service committee meet with the director of the senior center, the superintendent of the DPW, the city engineer, and the director of planning and development, to discuss the parking needs at the senior center and the potential solutions to those problems, including a discussion on the status of the Armory property have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:
Peter Tallman
Will Puello
David K. Bartley

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

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order Whereas the City of Holyoke has received The recommendation for the second time from the Massachusetts Dept of Revenue and to be in compliance with Mass General Law chapter 41 section 24 as well as City Ordinance 82-36, Order that the City Council appoint a third member to the board of Assessors have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:
Peter Tallman
Will Puello
David K. Bartley

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Tallman stated that the orders being disposed of in order to clear out the committee jacket.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation adopted.

(2:58:20)

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order That the Honorable City Council, in accordance with M.G.L. ch. 30B and the Holyoke Procurement Ordinance, vote that the City of Holyoke accept the proposal and sell 299 and 307 Walnut Street for \$10,000 to OneHolyoke CDC. 299 and 307 Walnut Street are adjacent vacant lots totaling approximately 10,976 square feet in size. The properties are identified in the Holyoke Assessor's records as Map 004, Block 06, Parcels 004 and 005, zoned Downtown Residential (DR) and have a combined assessed value of \$69,000.
have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti
David K. Bartley
Joseph McGiverin
Jenny Rivera_J
Linda L. Vacon

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Murphy-Romboletti stated that OneHolyoke CDC would be using the property to complement some of their other properties along the parcel. She then stated they had received other sources of funding through ARPA and other avenues. She then stated they were planning to create home buying opportunities for first time homebuyers, adding that the project was planned to be completed in around a year.

Councilor Puello stated while he understood OneHolyoke does great work, he had concerns about the sale. He noted that they had received funding for construction, receiving two lots for much less than their

value, and then they will make \$400,000 by building and selling two multifamily dwellings. He emphasized that it would take 55 years to earn back the city's investment through tax revenue. He suggested the need for stricter conditions through higher sale price or additional conditions.

Councilor Vacon stated that while she agreed with the points, and she had been a proponent of using ARPA funds for long term infrastructure investments, former Mayor Murphy made the decision to direct those funds toward this project.

Councilor I. Rivera emphasized that OneHolyoke was a nonprofit organization focused on community development, adding that these kinds of projects are how they bring in revenue. He then stated that while it was unfortunate that the city was giving up the properties, the alternative is empty lots with negative impacts on the community. He recalled that the Flats used to have a lot of abandoned burned buildings, adding that it had become almost homeowner owned homes, mostly Latino homeowners. He also emphasized that families owning duplexes provides continued rental income if their owners run into temporary issues.

Councilor Givner noted having learned a lot about the projects from a conversation with OneHolyoke Director, Michael Moriarty. She then stated she had been inspired by their involvement in the neighborhood and their intent to add new homes to the existing homes already built. She then stated that duplex ownership provides financial security for their owners.

Councilor Jourdain asked what OneHolyoke would do with the \$400,000 they receive from the sale of the homes they build, noting the city provides them with the funding to build.

Councilor Murphy-Romboletti expressed her understanding that they utilize the funding to start additional projects.

Councilor Jourdain emphasized the benefit to the city if the funds are used to apply to additional projects.

Councilor Givner noted her understanding that the projects total cost would be \$1.3 million, adding that they would be raising the rest of the funds on their own.

Councilor McGiverin stated that while he appreciated ARPA funding, he had concerns with the formula that the federal government placed on municipalities for appropriation of the funds. He then commended Councilor I. Rivera for highlighting the positive changes for homeownership in the Flats. He then emphasized that the city does not want to own property but has an interest in helping development of vacant lots.

Councilor I. Rivera reiterated that there is an impact to building on empty lots, adding that there is not any tax revenue from an empty lot. He added that beautifying and investing in a neighborhood has an impact on safety and will help the city grow. He also acknowledged that the neighborhood was not nearly as dangerous as when he was growing up thanks to investment like this project.

Councilor Puello acknowledged that everyone had made good points, reiterating that his concern was that OneHolyoke was receiving public funds. He then suggested that there should be host community agreements in the future to assure the community benefits when public funds are used for similar projects.

Councilor Vacon offered a reminder that councilors should fill out conflict of interest forms provided by the state if they are employed by any organizations involved with orders under consideration with the City Council and should not participate in votes or debate.

Councilor J. Rivera stated that she and Councilor Puello would be visiting a project that would be split between wards 1 and 2, helping to show that city funds are benefiting the city.

Councilor Tallman noted that one of the properties developed by OneHolyoke had been on the Property Preservation Group list. He then emphasized that while many of the projects receive city funding, the projects help neighborhoods, provide homes for people, and make the community safer.

---> Report of Committee received and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays --Yeas 11-- Nays 1 (Puello)--Absent 1 (Bartley).

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

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order That the Honorable City Council, in accordance with M.G.L. ch. 30B and the Holyoke Procurement Ordinance, vote that the City of Holyoke accept the proposal and sell 394 High Street for \$15,000 to WF Real Estate Holdings LLC (affiliated with Way Finders, Inc.). 394 High Street is a vacant lot approximately 4,095 square feet in size. The property is identified in the Holyoke Assessor's records as Map 011, Block 04, Parcel 014, zoned Downtown Business (BC) and has an assessed value of \$21,900. Recommended that the order be adopted.

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

Committee Members:

Tessa Murphy-Romboletti
David K. Bartley
Joseph McGiverin
Jenny Rivera_J
Linda L. Vacon

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

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order That the Honorable City Council, in accordance with M.G.L. ch. 30B and the Holyoke Procurement Ordinance, vote that the City of Holyoke accept the proposal and sell 400 High Street for \$15,000 to WF Real Estate Holdings LLC (affiliated with Way Finders, Inc.). 400 High Street is a vacant lot approximately 3,833 square feet in size. The property is identified in the Holyoke Assessor's records as Map 011, Block 04, Parcel 013, zoned Downtown Business (BC) and has an assessed value of \$24,300.

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

Committee Members:

Tessa Murphy-Romboletti
David K. Bartley
Joseph McGiverin
Jenny Rivera_J
Linda L. Vacon

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Murphy-Romboletti stated that the properties would be for a 5 story building with rental units for mixed income between low income and market rate apartments, as well as a commercial space on the

first floor of the property.

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

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order That the Hon John Velis and the Hon Patricia Duffy be invited to a DGR meeting. Copy their respective offices and refer to committee.
have considered the same and Recommended that the order has been complied with.

Committee Members:

Tessa Murphy-Romboletti
David K. Bartley
Joseph McGiverin
Jenny Rivera_J
Linda L. Vacon

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Murphy-Romboletti stated that the Senator Velis and Representative Duffy providing information on local aide, home rule petitions, and additional ARPS funding coming from the state. She then expressed her intent to bring them back in to discuss priorities as the state legislature begins their budget process in a few months.

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

President McGee stated that there were no reports from the Charter and Rules Committee or the Joint Committee of the City Council and School Committee.

ORDERS AND TRANSFERS

(3:22:15)

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 23, 24, 25, and Late File C as a package.

MCGIVERIN -- that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2022, THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED TWENTY NINE AND 38/100 Dollars (\$3,229.38) as follows:

FROM:

12201-51103 CAPTAIN \$3,229.38

TOTAL: \$3,229.38

TO:

12201-51180 INJURED ON DUTY \$3,229.38

TOTAL: \$3,229.38

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

MCGIVERIN -- that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2022, TWENTY SIX THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY NINE AND 55/100 Dollars (\$26,729.55) as follows:

FROM:

12101-51104 LIEUTENANT \$5,048.19

12101-51105 SERGEANT 10,085.70

12101-51107 PATROLMEN 11,595.66

TOTAL: \$26,729.55

TO:

12101-51180 INJURED ON DUTY \$26,729.55

TOTAL: \$26,729.55

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

UNDER DISCUSSION:

President McGee stated that item 23 covered one employee, item 24 covered ten employees. He noted that Late File C would replace item 25 to correct the label of the account name.

Councilor McGiverin stated that the transfers were an accounting measure to account for public safety employees receiving their salary while out of work due to being injured on duty.

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

MCGIVERIN -- that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2022, TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINETY SEVEN AND 98/100 Dollars (\$24,597.98) as follows:

FROM:

12101-51104 LIEUTENANT \$3,883.22

12101-51105 SERGEANT 6,723.80

12101-51107 PATROLMEN 13,990.96

TOTAL: \$24,597.98

TO:

12101-51107 PATROLMEN \$24,597.98

TOTAL: \$24,597.98

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

---> Refer back to the Auditor.

MCGIVERIN -- Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2022, TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINETY SEVEN AND 98/100 Dollars (\$24,597.98) as follows:

FROM:

12101-51104	LIEUTENANT	\$3,883.22
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12101-51105	SERGEANT	6,723.80
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12101-51107	PATROLMEN	13,990.96
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TOTAL: \$24,597.98
TO:
12101-51180 INJURED ON DUTY \$24,597.98
TOTAL: \$24,597.98

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

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

Councilor Tallman noted that ten was a high number of employees to be injured on duty.

MCGIVERIN -- that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2022, TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 Dollars (\$2,000.00) as follows:

FROM:

11381-51104 HEAD ADMIN. CLERK \$2,000.00

TOTAL: \$2,000.00

TO:

11381-51300 OVERTIME \$2,000.00

TOTAL: \$2,000.00

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

Councilor McGiverin asked what department the transfer was for.

President McGee stated it was for the Purchasing Department.

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

PUELLO -- That a "No Turn On Red" sign be installed, taking effect when northbound on Resnic Blvd and merging on to Pine St. This will restrict when merges to Pine St can occur to green lights only.

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

RIVERA_I -- CPA Projects - 2 Year Extension request to city council (See attached document)

Councilor I. Rivera stated that the CPA had requested an immediate vote in order to get the projects moving forward. He then stated that the deadlines needed to be extended for a variety of reasons.

President McGee read from the request:

"Due to the extraordinary nature of the pandemic and the resulting supply chain issues in addition to a variety of other reasons, many CPA projects have experienced delays and have needed to adjust their

timelines.”

He added that the projects included \$40,000 to Pulaski Park, \$100,000 to Chestnut St/VOC, \$60,000 to the War Memorial, \$90,000 to Armour and Company, \$250,000 to Wayfinders, and \$210,000 to Mayer Field. He added that the City Council already approved the projects.

Councilor Jourdain asked if they can wait two weeks in order to be heard by the Finance Committee.

Councilor I. Rivera stated that he had no issue with that, clarifying that it had been the request of the CPA.

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

RIVERA_I -- Order that the city council work on developing a system similar to how CPA funds are collected and disbursed with Host Community Agreement monies related to the cannabis industry. Ideally composed of residents, service providers and businesses located within wards 1 & 2.

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

RIVERA_I -- Order that the city council invite the superintendent Soto, Mayor Garcia, President Royal (HCC) to chat about the possibility of collaborating to offer the trade certifications to adult residents of Holyoke at Dean Tech.

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

RIVERA_I -- Order that the DPW put up warning signs informing drivers of upcoming raised sidewalks.

Councilor I. Rivera noted that signs already exist but were too close to the raised sidewalks. He then suggested having the signs further back to provide enough warning.

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

RIVERA_I -- Order that OPED, City Engineer & DPW explore improving (replace fencing, cut back tall grass and brush) the canal side of the street as well as what it would cost to install a walk, bike, run lane stretching from Canal St. and N.Bridge St. to Canal St. and Appleton St. --->Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

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

RIVERA_I -- order that the dpw work on putting up signs welcoming people to Holyoke at every highway entrance in 7 different languages.]

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

TALLMAN -- That the City Council invite the Law department to discuss pending cases.

Councilor Tallman stated that an executive session should be planned to get an update on cases.

President McGee suggested scheduling it before a full City Council meeting. He stated they would shut the Chamber doors and meet privately.

Councilor I. Rivera asked for clarification of what was being talked about.

President McGee stated that the Law Department provides information of ongoing cases that are not discussed openly.

--->Received and Adopted. Referred to the Law Department.

TALLMAN -- That speed humps be installed on Bemis Rd.

Councilor Tallman noted that the order had been the result of a call from a resident after seeing an order disposed of from the Ordinance jacket. He noted that the plan was to install them after a planned repaving of the road was complete.

Councilor Vacon clarified that the removal of the order did not remove the request for the speed humps.

Councilor Tallman noted the speeding issues continued.
--->Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

GIVNER -- That the City Council consider changing rule 44A to reflect the following:
-All Council and Sub Committee agendas, and legal forms shall be distributed to Council Members by 1:00 pm 7 calendar days prior to the scheduled meeting or by Monday the previous business day at 1:00 pm in the event that 7 days prior falls on a legal holiday. AND that late files are in fact necessary.
--->Received and referred to the Charter and Rules Committee.

GIVNER -- That City counselors receive all documents electronically unless a paper copy is requested. All paper copies received shall be printed double sided for conservation. This action will create fiscal and environmental savings.
--->Received and Adopted.

GIVNER -- That the Holyoke Board of Health publicizes an email/ phone number to receive health related complaints ie. odor nuisance complaints generally in regard to manufacturing and commercial businesses.
--->Received and referred to the Public Safety Committee.

GIVNER -- That the city revisit previous legal language to create an ordinance allowing backyard chickens in residential areas in an effort to enhance food equity.
--->Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

GIVNER -- That the City Council limit debate of items covered in committee to 60 second clarifications, in the form of question/inquiry only, with a limit of 3 questions/inquiries per counselor. AND that responses be no more than 60 seconds each as well.

Councilor Vacon expressed an objection, suggesting the order would limit debate in a public forum.
--->Received and referred to the Charter and Rules Committee.

GIVNER -- That the city takes serious steps to create methods of enforcement. There are many ordinances and laws in place to protect citizens and support businesses. What good are all these laws and ordinances without enforcement? Ongoing city wide enforcement issues include; parking in no parking zones created specifically to aid in visibility for drivers and pedestrians, parking in reserved parking zones created for businesses to receive deliveries and or include customer parking, well over the 25mph speed limit violations especially throughout our more populated neighborhoods, traffic light violations, stop sign violations, trash violations, snow removal violations, etc, etc.
--->Received and referred to the Public Safety Committee.

JOURDAIN, McGee, Vacon -- That the School Receiver Anthony Soto please provide the City Council with the specific plan and goals the City of Holyoke Public Schools needs to achieve in order to regain

local control. Please provide a checklist. Please also provide which items on the plan were accomplished and which remain undone. Need this action plan back to us asap.

Councilor Vacon asked to be added to the order.

President McGee asked to be added to the order.

--->Received and Adopted. Copied to the Joint Committee of the City Council and School Committee and Superintendent Anthony Soto

JOURDAIN -- That the City Council adopt an ordinance that requires all department heads and employees to electronically track (i.e. Munis or other such system as determined by the Personnel Department) all time off accrued and used on a monthly basis. They are also required to report all time off requests, approvals, denials and usage tracking centrally to the Personnel department on a monthly basis. The personnel department shall ensure compliance with city time off policies. Any employee or department head who knowingly provides false information on the reporting of time shall be subject to discipline up to and including termination. They shall also be subject to restitution and/or other civil fine as may be established by ordinance.

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

JOURDAIN, Rivera_I -- That the Council on Aging Director provide the City Council with a report for the period FY 2017 – FY 2022 (the current year) on the senior tax work off program established in Ordinance 82-4. Specifically, I would like to know how many seniors have signed up each year for the lottery?, how many were selected each yr?, what date annually is the lottery held and where and how conducted?, what departments did they work?, is a report made of their work?, how much in taxes were worked off in total?, is the program properly advertised?, is it functioning as intended?, should there be any modifications to the program (such as means testing the applicants, changing the \$750 annual limit, increasing/decreasing number of slots, etc)?

Councilor I. Rivera asked to be added to the order.

--->Received and referred to the Finance Committee. Copied to Navae Fenwick-Rodriguez. Copied to the Finance Committee.

MCGEE -- That a “no trucks or tractor trailers local traffic allowed sign” at the bottom of Michelle Lane.....Currently, the sign says “No Exit”.

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

MCGEE -- Order that the public safety committee invite in the new Chair and Vice Chair for the Bike Ped Advisory Committee to discuss the Bike Ped committee, projects, etc.

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

LATE FILED ORDERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

(3:38:30)

JOURDAIN -- The Board of Assessors are reminded that they are required to comply with Ordinance 2-421 along with all other boards and commissions. Board meetings of the Board of Assessors should comply with the open meeting law and be held after 5pm. Any questions, please see the maker of this order.

--->Received and Adopted. Copied to the Assessors.

Adjourned at 10:42 PM.