

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL****June 20, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by McGee at 7:11 PM

The Clerk called the roll. Absent members: 2 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley) Present Members in person 11 (Givner, Jourdain, Maldonado Velez, McGee, McGiverin, Murphy-Romboletti, Puello, Rivera\_I, Rivera\_J, Tallman, Vacon).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

President McGee asked for a moment of silence in memory of Councilor Bartley's father, David Bartley, Sr. He added that he would give Councilor Bartley an opportunity to recognize his father at the next meeting.

A moment of silence was observed in honor of David Bartley, Sr.

Councilor Rivera\_I invited students and staff from Transitions Academy as well as Juan Montano from Fiesta Café into the chambers. He then stated that it was staff of Transitions Academy that contacted him about honoring Mr. Montano for the work he had been doing in collaboration with Transitions Academy. He then thanked his Council colleagues for voting unanimously on the proclamation.

President McGee stated that the City Council voted to give Mr. Montano a proclamation for his service to the city and to the Academy. He then read from the proclamation, stating that he was being recognized for his dedication and work with the Holyoke Transitions Academy and recognition of Fiesta Cafe. He then offered thanks to Mr. Montano for everything he did, expressing that the Council was grateful for it.

Kelsey Brousseau, Director of Transitions Academy, introduced job coaches Diana Pagan and Olga Lopez, as well as several students from the academy. She then stated their purpose was to recognize Mr. Montano and his service. She then explained that Transitions Academy worked with students who were 18-22 years old to prepare them for adult life, helping them be ready to be active members of their community. She added that they focused on vocational programming, partnering with community members to provide the students with work-based learning experiences. She noted that those partners included Kate's Kitchen, the Print Shop, district schools, the Children's Museum, and Fiesta Café as one of their newest and most valued partners. She then recalled that one of their other job coaches suggested Fiesta Café as an opportunity to giving the students restaurant experience. She further explained that he was providing them lunch every day they were working there, and that he had recently hosted their end of the year Spring Fling. She noted that he committed to hosting that event every year. She then presented him with a gift.

J. Montano offered his thanks to everyone, especially the kids. He then emphasized that everything he did was for the kids.

**LAID ON THE TABLE**

(10:10)

Councilor Jourdain stated that they were getting close to ready on the 2 tabled items.

From Mayor Joshua A. Garcia letter of Veto for the CPA ballot question to be placed on the November 2023 local election.

---> Laid on the table.

The undersigned seek a meeting of the City council and have the question to vote for a CPA rate of 1% or 1.5% placed on the November 2023 ballot as voted by a majority of the City council on April 4, 2023. This is the first opportunity we have to vote on the tax surcharge since was approved 5 years ago. We object to any delay in our ability to vote on this tax surcharge, whether we support a reduction or support the current rate.

---> Laid on the table.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

(10:30)

Chuck Gallivan, 1732 Northampton Street, stated that renovations at the BHN Northampton Street property last December. He then explained that one of the workers informed him that it would be a medical facility for 5 residents. He then stated that the Planning Board denied that this type of inpatient facility would be done with the building in its current status. He further stated that he learned in April that they were starting a PAC facility, which was defined as a model for individuals with serious illness who had current criminal justice involvement or a history of repetitive criminal justice involvement. He then suggested that it was the responsibility of city councilors to keep families safe and that citizens should be informed and have a say over what type of residential medical facility would be located in their neighborhood. He questioned why citizens were being left in the dark without a voice when it comes to issues like this.

Steve Superba, 17 Glen Street, stated that when the police risk analysis was released in February, it confirmed that the department's problems were attributable to a lack of leadership and mismanagement of Chief Pratt. He then noted that the chief's response was to dispense disinformation. He questioned how city councilors could use words such as transparent and forthcoming during the May 16th Council meeting and then the same councilor would lament the lack of a traffic squad in response to citizen request to address unsafe conditions in neighborhoods. He also noted that city councilors requested a special meeting to review the report and recommendations, and that the request was rebuffed by the mayor. He also noted that a recently promoted police captain was accused of unethical and likely criminal conduct.

Laura O'Neil, 346 Sergeant Street, expressed her intent to speak about the 1727 Northampton Street facility. She noted there was a special hearing to install a 6 foot high, 3-sided privacy fence for the front yard to provide privacy for participants and staff, as well as neighbors. She noted that the fence did not appear to be going on the front yard and was not 3-sided. She then asked if there was an approval process to change the existing outpatient program to a residential care center, what departments were involved in approving it, and why weren't residents notified. She then asked what the city's practice of time was for getting back to people who call about concerns.

Ruth Garcia, 532 Essex Street, stated that in conversations with residents about the CPA ballot, she learned that people were unaware. She added that when the decision was made, anything that stops the residents from knowing or voting on issues like this should not be allowed.

Victor Machado, 40 Suffolk Street, spoke on the question that should be in place for the coming Election Day. He then emphasized that the question was important for citizens, adding that the City Council already authorized it and that the mayor did not have the power to veto it. He then suggested that there needed to be more explanation to the citizens about the question.

Steve Rosenbush, 1155 Northampton Street, spoke in favor of putting CPA on the ballot as quickly as possible. He then emphasized that these were tough economic times. He then explained that as he spoke with people in the neighborhood, he understood people were suffering. He suggested that nobody in the administration knew as well as individuals how best to spend their money. He noted that he spoke with a gentleman named George Jagodowski, a 77 year old resident who was shot 4 times in Vietnam, was taking medication to treat pain and other problems, and had his medication costs increased by \$100 over the last few years. He also emphasized that the city was getting 50 cents on the dollar when the CPA was first approved five years earlier and that it was now just 11 cents. He questioned how the terms of the contract could be changed on one side. He suggested that a third option should be provided to suspend the CPA.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

(20:15)

From City Clerk Brenna Murphy McGee and Admin. Assistant Jeffery Anderson-Burgos, meeting minutes from May 2, 2023.

---> Received and Adopted.

From Trulieve regarding WARN act Notice of Planned Plant Closing.

Councilor Jourdain questioned if there was any action the Council was required to do or if the city was required to hold a hearing. He also suggested that the Law Department communicate with them to ask if they were seeking a revocation of their permit.

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

Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, Final Grant Completion report.

---> Received.

## **PETITIONS**

(21:40)

Petition of Jose Almonte, requesting a zone change for 549-551 South Bridge St. from DR to BC

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

## **PRESIDENTS REPORTS**

(21:55)

President McGee stated that an announcement held at the Holyoke Media facility for the allocation of ARPA funds. He then explained that in addition to what was given out, there was a holdback in case of needing to deal with some of the other ones that were missed. He commended Alicia Zoeller and her Community Development team for their work. He emphasized that there \$19 million was given out but \$62 million in need.

He offered thoughts and prayers to Councilor Bartley and his family following the passing of his father. He noted that Councilors Bartley would return for the next Council meeting and could speak about his father at that time.

Councilor Maldonado Velez stated that after 6 months of planning for Holyoke PrideFest to take place at Veterans Park, the forecast by the day before was for lightning and thunder. He then commended city departments, including the Fire and Police Departments, Board of Health, DPW, License Board, and especially the War Memorial Commissions for helping get the event indoors. He emphasized that it was a great event for the community celebrating joy, love, acceptance, and life, showcasing the resilience of the LGBT community and the city as a whole.

President McGee commended Councilor Maldonado Velez and Councilor Anderson-Burgos for all of the work put into it. He then congratulated Councilor Rivera\_I for being named one of the 40 under 40 awardees.

Councilor Rivera\_I stated that he was just trying to be like Councilor Murphy-Romboletti as well as Councilor McGiverin's daughter who received the award in the past.

Councilor McGiverin stated that the Holyoke Merry-Go-Round would be collaborating with the Children's Museum, the Volleyball Hall of Fame, and DCR to hold their Party in the Park event that coming Saturday. He noted that there would be family tickets available for many events taking place in the city.

Councilor Maldonado Velez offered thanks to his Council colleagues for their vote to present proclamations to the PrideFest headliners. He added that one was Mary Lambert, who was a Grammy-nominated and MTV Award winning singer and songwriter. He noted that as she received proclamations from the State Rep, State Senator, Mayor, and City Council, she quipped that it was almost better than a Grammy.

President McGee stated that the budget meeting would take place on June 26th. He then commended the work put in by all of the subcommittees.

Councilor Tallman stated that the Valley Blue Sox would be holding their HG&E night that Thursday. He noted that tickets were provided in the last HG&E bills.

Councilor Jourdain noted that they had a good team this year. He then suggested using the budget meeting for any emergency items that comes up, such as the tabled items that may need to be acted on quickly.

President McGee stated that could be done if information came back in time. He noted that the budget used to be done on the same night as a regular Council meeting but the rule was changed because it often led to meetings lasting until 1 or 2 a.m.

### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

(29:40)

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order That a handicap sign be placed in front of 16 Center St. for Sylvia Robello, Placard #PL 6020201.

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

Committee Members:

Linda L. Vacon  
Jose Maldonado-Velez  
Kocayne Givner  
Kevin A Jourdain  
Israel Rivera\_I

#### **UNDER DISCUSSION:**

Councilor Vacon stated that it was taken up at the joint meeting so that it wouldn't get delayed. She noted that the Disabilities Commission recommended approving it.

---> 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 11--Nays 0--Absent 2 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

Approved by the Mayor.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 7B, 7C, and 7D as a package.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order That DPW representatives and our Auditor provide a financial review of the sewer enterprise fund for 2023 and anticipated financials for 2024, with a projected impact on the sewer fee, to a joint meeting of the Ordinance and Finance committees

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

Committee Members:

Linda L. Vacon  
Jose Maldonado-Velez

Kocayne Givner  
Kevin A Jourdain  
Israel Rivera\_I

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

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that in an effort to continue strengthening Holyoke's financial foundation, the City Council establish a system to ensure user fees associated with enterprise funds, such as Sewer, are maintained at a sustainable level. This system would automatically adjust user fees annually based on budgetary needs and prohibit the use of taxpayer's money to subsidize enterprise funds.

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

Committee Members:

Linda L. Vacon  
Jose Maldonado-Velez  
Kocayne Givner  
Kevin A Jourdain  
Israel Rivera\_I

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

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order That the Board of Public Works Commission provide an update on the new sewer rate.

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

Committee Members:

Linda L. Vacon  
Jose Maldonado-Velez  
Kocayne Givner  
Kevin A Jourdain  
Israel Rivera\_I

**UNDER DISCUSSION:**

Councilor Vacon noted that there would be a future order filed so that the committee could take this up in more detail. She then stated that a detailed summary was provided relative to recommendations around the budget and rates. She explained that one proposal looked at curing some unusual expenses as well as building forward, with a rate recommendation of \$8.58. She added that another rate of \$7.87 would address those things a little differently. She then noted that the current rate was \$7.50. She then explained that it had been an unusual year with over \$700,000 lines in need of repair, adding that there was \$7,500 budgeted. She also stated that they were proposing \$100,000 going forward and hoped that future years would not have that extraordinary amount of need.

Councilor McGiverin commended members of the Finance and Ordinance Committees, noting that the joint venture worked out successfully. He then noted that the order to review the sewer rate was filed as a late file.

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

(34:45)

Councilor McGiverin stated there was an unprecedented number of financial requests for the end of the fiscal year. He noted many while requests usually do come in for departments to cover needs and balance their budgets, this year was different due to 2022's free cash being certified so late in the year. He noted that almost every order to appropriate free cash will be for expending in the 2024 fiscal year. He then explained his plan to group the 53 committee reports into 10 votes unless there are any objections. He noted 3 orders were not passed but would be returned to the auditor, adding that there were 3 new orders on this agenda to replace them.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 8A, 8B, and 8V through 8Y as a package.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2023, EIGHT THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$8,000) as follows:

FROM:

14251-51104 HIGHWAY PAY-HMEO \$8,000

TOTAL: \$8,000

TO:

14222-52511 R&M ELMWOOD FIRE STATION \$4,000

14222-52514 R&M WEST HOLYOKE FIRE STATION 4,000

TOTAL: \$8,000

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 5 out of the 6 orders were from DPW, while the other one was from the Police Department. He then stated that the surpluses were due to vacancies in those positions. He emphasized that these requests illustrate department heads living within their budgets and balancing accounts. He added that most were invoices for things such as repairs and maintenance. He noted that Parks had some overtime to get the facilities ready for the season and for youth sports.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

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 2023, ONE HUNDRED SEVEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND 00/100 Dollars (\$107,700) as follows:

FROM:

14251-51104 HIGHWAY PAY-HMEO \$107,700

TOTAL: \$107,700

TO:

14251-51300 HIGHWAY OVERTIME \$5,000

14212-57100 ADMIN. IN STATE TRAVEL 200

12941-51300 FORESTRY OVERTIME 1,500

14302-52901 TRASH – HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION 36,000

14302-53100 TRASH-OTHER SERVICES 22,000

14222-52104 PROPERTY-ENGERY PELLISIER 22,000

14222-52504 PROPERTY R&M PELLISIER 15,000

14222-52505 PROPERTY R&M SENIOR CENTER 2,000

14222-52509 PROPERTY R&M POLICE STATION 2,000

14222-52510 PROPERTY R&M CENTRAL FIRE STATION 2,000

TOTAL: \$107,700

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

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

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 2023, FIVE THOUSAND 00/100 Dollars (\$5,000) as follows:

FROM:

14251-51105 HIGHWAY POWER SHOVEL OPERATOR \$5,000

TOTAL: \$5,000

TO:

14302-54800 REFUSE EXP MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL \$5,000

TOTAL: \$5,000

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

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
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 2023, ONE HUNDRED FORTY THREE THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars  
(\$143,000) as follows:

FROM:

14211-51101 GENERAL SUPERINTENDANT \$10,000  
14211-51103 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE MANAGER 20,000  
14251-51107 HIGHWAY LABORER 33,000  
14301-51102 REFUSE HMEO 80,000  
TOTAL: \$143,000

TO:

16501-51300 PARKS OVERTIME \$3,000  
14222-52302 WATER/SEWER CITY HALL 5,000  
14222-52304 WATER/SEWER DPW 1,000  
16932-52300 WATER/SEWER WAR MEMORIAL 1,000  
14222-552303 WATER/SEWER ANNEX 8,000  
14302-52902 REFUSE RECYCLING CONTRACT 45,000  
14302-52900 REFUSE LANDFILL DISPOSAL 80,000  
TOTAL: \$143,000

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

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
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 2023, TWELVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$12,000) as follows:

FROM:

12101-51204 PRINCIPAL CLERKS \$5,000  
12101-51201 MATRONS 7,000  
TOTAL: \$12,000

TO:

12102-53210 MEDICAL \$6,000

12102-53190 TRAINING & EDUCATION 6,000  
TOTAL: \$12,000

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 in the matrons account was due to them not being used as much this year. He added that the transfers covered some medical expenses and training needs.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

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 2023, TWENTY NINE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE AND 00/100 Dollars (\$29,975) as follows:

FROM:

14251-51105 HIGHWAYS POWER SHOVEL OPERATOR \$29,975

TOTAL: \$29,975

TO:

14222-52505 PROPERTY R&M SENIOR CENTER \$2,000

14222-52509 PROPERTY R&M POLICE STATION 3,000

14211-51300 ADMINISTRATION OVERTIME 4,000

14211-51400 ADMINISTRATIVE LONGEVITY 175

14221-51300 PROPERTY OVERTIME 5,000

14221-51400 PROPERTY LONGEVITY 50

14222-52502 PROPERTY R&M CITY HALL 5,000

14261-51300 AUTO EQUIP MAINT OVERTIME 4,000

14261-51830 AUTO EQUIP MAINT CLOTHING/TOOL ALLOW 750

14262-54800 AUTO EXP MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL 6,000

TOTAL: \$29,975

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

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
Approved by the Mayor.

Councilor Jourdain suggested that for the future, when committee reports go beyond 26 items, they be labeled AA, BB, and so on, instead of symbols.

City Clerk Murphy McGee noted that it was a function of the Lotus software. She added that a new system would be coming in soon.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 8C through 8H as a package.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That DPW representatives and our Auditor provide a financial review of the sewer enterprise fund for 2023 and anticipated financials for 2024, with a projected impact on the sewer fee, to a joint meeting of the Ordinance and Finance committees

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 this was connected with the wastewater treatment plant. He noted that the contract was about to be up. He then stated that as there was a financial look at the plant, there was known to be a \$770 deficit at the time, with the potential that it could change following a revenue reconciliation that was about 3 1/2 months behind. He also noted that DLS was taking a firm stance that any deficit in its enterprise fund would be connected to the city budget itself and offset on the recap according to what it is on July 1st. He then offered a reminder that there was a consent decree, with most of the future issues being CSP projects. He also noted that the bond for the Jackson Street project would be hitting the debt service soon. He added that the River Terrace project was at the 60% design phase. He then stated that more information was asked for to help the Council make coming decisions. He stated that they would be looking at the rate and determining if it makes sense to adjust it to accommodate if this is a structural deficit. He noted that Councilor Vacon pointed out that if these were one time issues, that did not constitute a structural deficit. He also emphasized that he and some others did not believe the enterprise fund should be connected to the city budget.

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

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That the DPW Superintendent provide the City Council with an update on the tree list. Update should include how trees are prioritized and the obstacles the DPW faces in addressing them. This is a constituent request.

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

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

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the DPW, Suez, and city engineer develop a plan to regrade the top of West Glen Street. Due to the current grading, water in not flowing to the catch basins, resulting in dangerous road conditions. Once a plan is developed, please consult with the mayor, and city council to implement financing. The departments in this order and the residents in that area (including the south end of Martin St) are aware of the needs

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 this was work completed by Suez and DPW on West Glen Street, noting that this was just getting the orders out of the jacket.

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

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the DPW, Suez, and city engineer develop a plan to regrade the top of West Glen Street. Due to the current grading, water in not flowing to the catch basins, resulting in dangerous road conditions. Once a plan is developed, please consult with the mayor, and city council to implement financing. The departments in this order and the residents in that area (including the south end of Martin St) are aware of the needs.

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

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

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the finance committee invite in Suez representatives to discuss budget shortfall and potential cost saving measures.

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

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

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that, with the contract with SUEZ coming to a close in the next few years that a third party audit the facilities, equipment and every aspect of the contents of the contract.

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

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

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 8I, 8R, 8J, and 8t as a package.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order beginning in Fiscal Year 2024, funding for the city's OPEB Trust Fund will become a part of the operating budget and the long term goal will be to fully fund the outstanding OPEB liability by 2040.

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 OPEB trust fund was something started by many municipalities to deal with the money the municipality pays into the retirement system. He then explained that it had to be established in the year prior to funding it. He noted there would be a late file providing a declaration the body also needed to be adopt. He then deferred to Councilor Jourdain to provide more explanation.

Councilor Jourdain stated that while the city was doing its best to address its unfunded pension liability, which was currently at \$146 million. He then stated that there would be an aggressive schedule over 10-11 years to address it. He then explained that the OPEB liability had not yet been addressing, noting that Holyoke was one of the few communities that hadn't yet established the Chapter 32B, section 20 local option to begin addressing it. He also noted that the state legislature had not yet set a date for compliance. He added that OPEB was for benefits besides retiree pensions, such as health insurance and associated costs. He noted that it was around \$310 million at this point. He explained that there would be an initial payment of \$5,000 and that for now the city would only be able to chip away at it until 2033, when the pension liability becomes fully funded and those funds could then be applied to this account. He noted that one of the other requirements was that the Council form a board of trustees.

Councilor Tallman commended Councilor Jourdain for bringing this forward, emphasizing the importance of putting funds away for the future.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the City Council establish a OPEB Liability Trust Fund pursuant to Chapter 32B, Section 20 including voting on approval of local option and then forming the Board of Trustees. Holyoke has a projected liability of \$224 Million (June 2019) and is 1 of handful of cities not to have begun starting to fund their Trust Fund.

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

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

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 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$5,000) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash  
TO: OPEB Trust Fund

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

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order to adopt Chapter 32B, section 20 and to  
create a Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund

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

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
Approved by the Mayor.

Councilor McGiverin noted that late file A provided language for the ordinance. He suggested that while it  
was already in ordinance form, it likely should go to committee.

Councilor Vacon stated that Ordinance was planning to meet the following week.

Councilor McGiverin stated that while the other votes OPEB were just taken, nothing could happen until  
the language was adopted.

Councilor Vacon stated that committee members would want to read it before passing it.

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

From Kathleen Degnan, Assistant City Solicitor, OPEB Declaration of Trust Agreement  
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 8J through 8P as a package.

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 "2023 COMMUNITY PLANNING GRANT AWARD, \$200,000, 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.

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 this grant was new from the Mass Gaming Commission, noting it was mitigation funding as a result of the nearby casino. He then explained that this would help with Explore Holyoke, specifically shuttling people back and forth from the casino to Holyoke. He emphasized that it would be for bringing people from the casino to Holyoke for events.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
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 "2023 RECYCLING DIVIDENDS PROGRAM, \$7,700, 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.

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 there was a new recycling coordinator hires, adding that this would cover some of the work that person was doing.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

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 "2023 TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT, \$82,300, 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.

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 this was also coming from the Mass Gaming Commission and would be used for Main Street design.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

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 "FY23 MUNICIPAL ENERGY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM, \$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.

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 this grant would involve a study at Dean School, specifically involving a

hot water facilitator.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
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 "FY24 GREENING THE GATEWAY CITIES PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION GRANT AWARD, \$100,000, 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.

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

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
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 "FY24 GREENING THE GATEWAY CITIES PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP GRANT AWARD, 30,000, 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.

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 this grant and the previous one were explained by Conservation Director, Yoni Glogower. He then explained that these grants would be used for planting trees outside of the block grant eligibility area. He added that this would take care of the design, placement, and purchase and planting. He noted many volunteers helped to make sur bags were around the trees and that they were well watered and fed.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
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 "SEWAGE NOTIFICATION ASSISTANCE, \$64,039, 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.

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 this grant would be used for a CSO project, specifically the design phase of River Terrace.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
Approved by the Mayor.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 8Q, 8S, 8T, and 8U as a package.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the amount of FIFTY SIX THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY EIGHT AND 37/100 Dollars (\$56,998.37) be authorized from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Department's Sewer Fund Management Services Contract (60402-53012) appropriation in fiscal year 2023 for services rendered in fiscal year 2022 which were unencumbered at the 2022 fiscal year end.

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 DPW Director, Carl Rossi, and BPW Chair, Mary Mnahan, were in on discussing the issue of sewers. He then explained that this and the nest order would allow an invoice that

went unpaid at the of the year to be paid out of funds from the next fiscal year.  
---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
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 2023 from the fiscal year 2023 sewer enterprise retained earnings a sum of FIFTY SIX THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY EIGHT AND 37/100 DOLLARS (\$56,998.37) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Sewer Retained Earnings  
TO: 60402-53012 Sewer Fund Management Services Contract: Previous Years Invoice for FY2022

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

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
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 2023 from the fiscal year 2023 sewer enterprise retained earnings a sum of SIXTY ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED TWENTY SEVEN AND 63/100 DOLLARS (\$61,127.63) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Sewer Retained Earnings  
TO: 60402- 53012 Sewer Fund Management Services Contract: Deficit

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 this and the following order would cover part of offsetting the deficit. He then noted that Ms. Monahan pointed out that some of the stabilization funds needed to be used for the study of the upcoming contract. He added that she also believed several things in the sewer budget should not be paid through the user rate, and that there was a better way to offset the deficit, such as

through city funds or stabilization. He then suggested that the enterprise fund should be paid for through operator use, adding that he believed it was unfair for property tax dollars to be used for operations.

Councilor Jourdain stated that he agreed but for slightly different reasons. He then stated that much of the reason for extra funds was due to them finally implementing a shutoff authority for those who weren't paying their sewer bill. He then suggested that the rate would not have needed to be as high as it was if those funds had been collected before. He also suggested that only expenses directly related to the sewer should be paid for out of that enterprise fund. He noted that street sweeping had been paid for out of the DPW until it was changed to coming out of the sewer budget. He also expressed a need to understand if the deficit was due to structural issues or one time expenses.

Councilor Givner asked why street sweeping costs was shifted from DPW to the sewer budget.

Councilor McGiverin stated that he suggested it when it was changed. He recalled that at the time, there was not enough in the DPW budget for them to put the sweeper out on a regular basis. He then explained that it was suggested because dirt and solid materials kept out of sewers was also materials not making it to the wastewater treatment plant, making it easier to treat the sewage and led to some savings in fewer chemicals being needed to treating the wastewater. He recognized that the city should now be paying for it, suggesting that he believed it was already returned to the city budget.

Councilor Vacon stated that in following up with DPW on why never broke out the street sweeper, she learned that it was problematic because they were only billed in one number, so they were not seeing individual line items.

Councilor Rivera\_I asked who was doing the catch basic work.

Councilor Tallman stated that Veolia was.

Councilor Rivera\_I asked to clarify that Veolia worked for the city.

Councilor Jourdain stated that residents were paying for it either way.

President McGee stated it was in their contract.

Councilor Rivera\_I asked who was paying for it.

Councilor Jourdain stated the ratepayers were.

Councilor Rivera\_I asked if improvements in those areas would also come from ratepayers.

President McGee stated that was correct.

Councilor Rivera\_I suggested that it may not be fair if some people who were not ratepayers were getting those same services such as street sweeping and catch basin maintenance.

Councilor Jourdain stated that he agreed about those kinds of costs being put inside the fund. He noted that even if there was no wastewater treatment plant, the city would still need sewers and catch basins for water runoff. He also suggested there be some diligence in being careful that enterprise funds were only paying for things that had to be paid for out of them. He suggested that adding additional costs to enterprise funds and then raising the rates to cover those costs could act as a way around increasing the tax levy.

Councilor Givner asked if the enterprise fund was accumulated through ratepayer payments.

Councilor Jourdain confirmed that was correct.

Councilor Givner suggested that it should, by default, only be used for sewage costs and not for other things such as street cleaning or catch basins which were already going through the city.

Councilor Jourdain clarified that those things were still going through the sewer.

Councilor Vacon expressed support for the orders but noted that while there was a conversation of taking things that were citywide, there was also a discussion that the city should be charging the enterprise for administrative costs.

Councilor Tallman stated that he supported the orders and found it helpful to have the discussion with the DPW. He noted that he often sees the Veolia trucks out cleaning the catch basins. He also emphasized that many of the catch basins were dipping down because the sewers were failing. He also stated that it was a big deal they could now shut the service off for nonpayment. He then recalled being contacted about an apartment building where their water had been shut off for 1 day and a half, adding that the landlord living in New York City had not paid the bill. He noted there was an order on the agenda that evening to require out of city landlords have local management available.

Councilor McGiverin noted that the mayor was in support of the funds being used to analyze the contract and pay some legal fees. He then suggested taking up Late Files E, F, and I as an alternative to the following order, emphasizing that the Council could pick one or the other.

---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--  
Yeas 10--Nays 1 (Givner)--Absent 2 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

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 2023 from the fiscal year 2023 sewer enterprise retained earnings a sum of TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$276,500) as follows:

FROM: 8812-10400 Sewer Stabilization

TO: 60402- 53012 Sewer Fund Management Services Contract: Deficit

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:

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up Late Files E, F, and I as a package.

Councilor McGiverin stated that the proposal would be to either adopt this order or adopt the following 3 late files which would allow for the comprehensive financial analysis of the Professional Services of the sewer as well as reducing the deficit.

Councilor Jourdain clarified that the same amount of funds from this order to pay down the deficit and splitting those funds into 3 orders, part of which would go to the deficit while the rest would go for contract analysis and legal counsel. He then suggested that the Council stick with the original plan of rare relief through paying for the deficit. He suggested that there were other ways of covering the other expenses, such as removing some expenses out of the sewer budget. He also emphasized that the final revenue figure was not yet known, and that capital expenses should be covered out of the city budget.

Councilor Vacon agreed that the decision should be to go with the original recommendation coming out of committee. She noted that revenues had been consistently coming in for 10 months and expected that the final 2 would also be consistent.

Councilor McGiverin stated that he agreed, but that there other options were worth discussing. He then suggested hearing from the Auditor to address any questions.

Motion was made and seconded to allow Tanya Wdowiak to address the Council.

T. Wdowiak stated that all of the items were covered accurately by Councilor Jourdain. She then stated for clarity that either the order for paying down the deficit with \$276,500 could be approved, or the 3 late files could be approved, one of the other.

Councilor Rivera\_I noted that the 3 late files had itemized purposes for splitting up the \$276,500 while the original order was just being spent out into the general fund for the sewer fund.

Councilor Jourdain clarified that the there was a \$720,000 deficit in that fund and the question was how to address it. He then suggested that it could be through raising rates or using surpluses such as with this order.

Councilor Rivera\_I asked to clarify that it was using extra funds to cover the deficit.

Councilor Jourdain stated that was correct, that it was extra funds previously taken in to go towards the deficit.

Councilor Rivera\_I asked if that was best practice.

Councilor Jourdain stated that it wasn't, noting that the amount of revenue taken in each year was an imperfect science where forecasts could expect one thing and something different happens.

Councilor Rivera\_I stated that while he did not feel this was best practice, he would vote for it as he felt it was important to mitigate the deficit. He expressed a hope that funding could be found to address the specific things they're looking to fund.

Councilor Murphy-Romboletti stated that while she understood why this was being proposed, she questioned if it was the best thing in the long term. She then suggested asking the Auditor what DLS might have said.

T. Wdowiak stated that they were saying it was up to the City Council to vote on how they would like to see the deficit covered. She further stated that either way, the deficit would have to be covered before setting the tax rate.

Councilor Tallman expressed agreement that it was important to bring the deficit down and find another way to fund the legal counsel request as well as funding the analysis.

Councilor Givner noted that during the Finance meeting, she found herself stuck on the request to study how the city was funding things. She noted there appeared to be confusion about how different studies were being paid for. She questioned how voting for this now was going to fix things long term.

Councilor Vacon stated that this was in two parts, noting an order was coming to do a rate review as recommended by the group in the Finance meeting. She then emphasized that this was about looking at the immediate circumstance where the state was telling the city the deficit needed to be paid down or it would be taken off of the recap sheet down the road.

Councilor McGiverin asked how much was left in the sewer stabilization fund.

T. Wdowiak stated that there was \$293,000.

Councilor McGiverin stated that option A would be to address the immediate short term problem of offsetting the projected \$770,000 deficit and avoiding having as much coming out of the general fund.

Councilor Givner asked if the sewer stabilization fund had another purpose beyond what was being proposed.

Councilor Jourdain stated that it was money left over from prior years for the sewer fund.

Councilor Givner what the penalty or downside of going with option A would be.

Councilor Jourdain stated there was not.

Councilor McGiverin clarified that option A, using \$276,500, would offset more of the projected deficit, adding that without it, there would be more of a deficit at the end of the year. He noted that option B would only put \$126,000 toward the deficit.

Councilor Givner asked to clarify that it meant either half would come out of the general fund or all of it.

Councilor McGiverin stated that DLS would calculate the deficit as of July 1st regardless of what may come in for the last quarter.

President McGee then asked to clarify which orders were being voted on.

Councilor McGiverin emphasized that if 8T and 8U were adopted, the late files could not also be adopted as there would not be any more funds in the account.

President McGee asked how they should be voted on.

Councilor Jourdain suggested voting on the 8Q and 8S first as they were just paying last year's bill and were not remotely controversial.

---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--  
Yeas 10--Nays 1 (Givner)--Absent 2 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
Approved by the Mayor.

MCGIVERIN — Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2023, FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$50,000) as follows:

FROM:

8812-10400 SEWER STABILIZATION \$50,000

TOTAL: \$50,000

TO:

60402-53011 SEWER PROF SERV: LEGAL COUNSEL \$50,000

TOTAL: \$50,000

---> Returned to the Auditor

MCGIVERIN — Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2023, ONE HUNDRED TWENTY SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 Dollars (\$126,500) as follows:

FROM:

8812-10400 SEWER STABILIZATION \$126,500

TOTAL: \$126,500

TO:

60402-53012 SEWER MANAGEMENT SERV CONTRACT \$126,500

... DEFICIT ..

TOTAL: \$126,500

---> Returned to the Auditor

MCGIVERIN — Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$100,000) as follows:

FROM:

8812-10400 SEWER STABILIZATION \$100,000

TOTAL: \$100,000

TO:  
60402-53011 SEWER PROF SERVICES: \$100,000  
... DPW/SEWER COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS ..  
TOTAL: \$100,000  
---> Returned to the Auditor

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$50,000) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 11212-53009 Mayor Contracted Services: Local Ambulance Study

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 ambulance service had been discussed for years, where that it would come under the umbrella of the Fire Department and that the city would own an ambulance, or more, and provide the service to the city. He further stated that it would have to be connected to the hospitals and make sense. He then explained that this transfer would be to study the possibility and find out if it would be feasible.

Councilor Jourdain stated that this had been important to the Fire Department for many years. He then emphasized that if their leadership felt this could help them provide better service to the city, they were owed the opportunity to study it. He noted that a study was done in 1997 on this, adding that he provided what he had on that to the mayor.

Councilor Tallman stated that this was important. He noted that the city had hired consultants to look at a lot of things and this was worth pursuing.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

Approved by the Mayor.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 8[, 8\, 8\_, 8', 8a, 8b, 8d, 8e, 8g, 8h, 8j, 8k, 8m, 8n, 8o, 8p, 8q, 8r, and 8s as a package.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of FIFTY TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$52,500) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 12103-58002 Police Capital Outlay Other Equipment: Portable Radios Replacement

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 each of the items were coming out of free cash that was recently certified. He added that the mayor was proposing them and the Auditor agreed with them. He added that DLS said it was something the city can do. He emphasized that the if the free was not used, it would remain free cash and could end up offsetting deficits instead. He also emphasized that they were not going to operating costs for the most part. He then explained that this transfer would go to purchasing 15 radios to replace 6 year old radios that were beyond their life expectancy.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
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 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$560,000) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 14253-58002 DPW Highways & Bridges Capital Outlay Vehicle- Plow Truck Replacement (2 )

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 this would purchase 2 vehicles to replace a 1994 vehicle with 170,000 miles and a 1996 vehicle with 134,000 miles. He added they were dump trucks with a plow.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
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 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of FORTY FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$45,000) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 12443-58001 Weights and Measures Capital Outlay Vehicle: Sealer of Weights & Measures

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 this would provide a vehicle to the newly hired Sealer of Weights and Measures. He noted it would store all of the tools he would need to check the calibration of scales at businesses around the city.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

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 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of FORTY TWO THOUSAND THREE AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$42,003) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 14223-58002 DPW Property Capital Outlay Vehicle: Building Maintenance Pickup Truck Replacement

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 this would be the replacement of a 2002 Expedition with a lot of miles.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

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 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of FOUR THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED TWENTY SEVEN AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$4,627) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 12202-53011 Fire Information Technologies: Replace Dispatch Computers

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 this would be for 4 dispatch computers in the Fire Department.  
---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
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 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$150,000) as follows:  
FROM: FY2023 Free Cash  
TO: 12942-53010 Contract Forestry Services: Trees

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 this would supplement the Forestry Department and their work on the trees.  
---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
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 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$100,000) as follows:  
FROM: FY2023 Free Cash  
TO: 16933-58001 War Memorial Commission Capital Outlay Building Improvements: Repair Elevator

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 this would be for needed repairs on the elevator at the War Memorial, specifically replacing the joint piston that was beneath ground.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

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 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$100,000) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 14253-58000 DPW Highways & Bridges Capital Outlay City Infrastructure: Sidewalk Improvement

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 this would go to improving sidewalks in areas that were not CDBG eligible.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

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 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$75,000) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 19412-57630 Legal Claims & Damages

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 this would go to the City Solicitor's department, noting that the mayor's budget of \$25,000 would not be providing enough for the expected annual amount which was never below \$100,000.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
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 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of SEVENTY THREE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$73,000) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 14222-53009 DPW Property Contracted Services: Implementation of DLS Hazard Control  
Recommendations

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 this would be for the Pellissier Building with the DPW offices. He then explained that serious worker safety issues were noted by a state agency.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
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 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of SIXTY TWO THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$62,000) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 12203-58000 Fire Capital Outlay Vehicles: Deputy Chief Replacement Vehicle

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 this would replace a 2006 vehicle with 96,000 miles which had started to rot out on its underside.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

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 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of THIRTY FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$35,000) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 11752-53166 OPED Historic Programs Costs

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 this would be for technical support through the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

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 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$25,000) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 11512-53010 Legal Special Counsel

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 this would be for paying a bill to an outside attorney that had helped with contract negotiations. He noted that this was much less than they had needed in the past since the department was fully staffed.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

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 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$25,000) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 14223-58003 DPW Property Capital Outlay Equipment: Environmentally Controlled Radio Repeater Enclosure at Clock Tower

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 this would cover the cost of enclosing and repairing the repeater in the clock tower that was a part of public safety officials communicating through their radios.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

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 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of TWENTY SEVEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$27,000) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 14253-58001 DPW Highways & Bridges Capital Outlay City Equipment: Line Painter Replacement

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 this would cover two new line painters, one for roads and one for parks and fields.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

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 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of TWENTY TWO THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$22,000) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 12103- 58000 Police Capital Outlay Vehicle: Cruiser MDT and Mounts

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 this would pay for 3 mobile data terminals, a computer, and related small items. He noted that this was the equipment that was installed in Police Department cruisers.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

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 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$250,000) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 14223-58000 DPW Property Capital Outlay Building Improvements: Council Chambers Renovations

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 this would go to important improvements in the Council chambers. He noted

the discussion focused on many visible issues, such as murals, furniture, and fixtures. He emphasized that there was a discussion of things that were historic in the room. He noted that the mural trim going around the top would have to be pulled off and duplicated. He added that they were committed to trying to save the bigger murals and restoring them.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

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 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY FOUR AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$250,574) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 12103-58000 Police Capital Outlay Vehicle – Installment Payment 6 Cruisers

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 this would go to installment payments for 6 Police Department cruisers. He noted the point was made that if 6 vehicles were being purchased, the vehicles going offline should not be kept. He noted that they sometimes use older vehicles for parts.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

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 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of TWO HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$225,000) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 12102-53010 Police Data Management Equipment/Services: Records Management System Replacement

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 this would replace a 30 year old IMC unit with the Police Department. He added that the replacement would be a new RMS unit.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

Approved by the Mayor.

Councilor Tallman noted that during the discussion of the repeater in the clock tower, he spoke to Sean Sheedy about touring the clock tower.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 8^, 8i, 8l, 39, 40 and late files G and H as a package.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$5,000) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 12992-54200 Office of Public Safety: Office & Professional Supplies

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

Committee Members:

Joseph McGiverin

Kevin A Jourdain

Will Puello

Juan Anderson-Burgos

Peter Tallman

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGiverin stated that items 39 and 40, as well as Late Files G and H, were replacement orders for what was being suggested. He then stated that as there was not yet a Public Safety officer position, it did not make sense to spend free cash on this or the next order. He then explained that the same amount of funds would be put into a stabilization fund instead so that if the Council agreed to create the position, the mayor could then propose to use the funds out of stabilization but it would be protected for the next year.

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

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of SIXTY FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$65,000) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 12991-51102 Office of Public Safety: Housing Navigator / Homeless Liaison

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

Committee Members:

Joseph McGiverin  
Kevin A Jourdain  
Will Puello  
Juan Anderson-Burgos  
Peter Tallman

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGiverin

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

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$300,000) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 11212-53009 Mayor Contracted Services: Ongoing catchup work for Treasurer's Office

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

Committee Members:

Joseph McGiverin  
Kevin A Jourdain  
Will Puello  
Juan Anderson-Burgos  
Peter Tallman

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGiverin stated that there was a lengthy discussion of this request, which would be used to pay for ongoing work of an outside contractor. He then stated that a team had been coming in for some time to work with the Treasurer's office. He then explained that the committee was looking for more information on what happened in the last year while the contractor was working with them. He added they also sought more information on what this \$300,000 would get them. He noted that they were scheduled to keep working with them as the new fiscal year begins but the committee asked that the funding be split into two parts, allowing them to be paid for the summer work while transferring the majority to stabilization in order to give time to get more information and explanation.

Councilor Jourdain questioned if anyone had been informed that the city was signing up for a \$900,000 bill to clean up the Treasurer's office. He noted they came in with a proposal to spend \$275,000 to help address and clean up some issues and concerns, and then get the department back on its feet. He then expressed concern that there were two additional rounds planned, at \$300,000 each of those two additional years. He emphasized that more was being spent on the cleanup than running the department. He added that there needed accountability on a cleanup that was funded 10 years earlier. He suggested it was a fair compromise to approve \$50,000 while they do the work to convince the Council that the additional request was worth it.

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

MCGIVERIN — That there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$5,000) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: Fund 8810 City Stabilization for Office of Public Safety: Office & Professional Supplies Appropriation

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

---> Passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays-- Yeas 11--Nays 0-- Absent 2 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

Approved by the Mayor.

MCGIVERIN — That there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of SIXTY FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$65,000) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: Fund 8810 City Stabilization for Office of Public Safety: Housing Navigator/Homeless Liaison Appropriation

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Maldonado Velez asked if appropriating this to stabilization dd not necessarily mean that it would specifically go to the proposals being discussed.

Councilor Vacon stated that was correct.

Councilor Maldonado Velez asked if money in the stabilization fund just stays there until it gets used in the future.

President McGee stated that was correct.

Councilor Jourdain stated that was a point he intended to make about money going into stabilization. He emphasized that it did not have to be appropriated for any specific purpose in the future once it was in the stabilization fund.

Councilor McGiverin stated that if the Council disagreed with creating the position, the funds would not be needed for this purpose, so they needed flexibility. He emphasized that it would require a two-thirds vote to appropriate it out of stabilization.

---> Passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays-- Yeas 11--Nays 0-- Absent 2 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
Approved by the Mayor.

MCGIVERIN — Ordered, That there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$50,000) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 11212-53009 Mayor's Contracted Services: Ongoing Support for Treasurer's Office- 2 months

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

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 11--Nays 0-- Absent 2 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
Approved by the Mayor.

MCGIVERIN — Ordered, That there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$250,000) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 8810-10400 City Stabilization: Anticipated Appropriation for Mayor's Contracted Services-Ongoing Support for Treasurer's Office

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGiverin clarified that these two late files were replacement orders for the \$300,000 request in order to allow for time to keep the work going through September while the remaining would go into stabilization with no guarantee it would be used. He emphasized that it would protect the free cash from being used to offset the deficit.

Councilor Tallman stated that he was not sold on using the entire \$300,000 for this work, adding that they needed more information on what was done last year. He questioned if they were just calling in a couple times a week or were they in the office every day working with the department.

Councilor Jourdain asked if he had received any reports.

Councilor Tallman stated that he had not.

Councilor Vacon stated that they needed to know what the consultants had taught the employees of the department. She questioned why, after a year, the employees could not yet carry the work forward.

Councilor Maldonado Velez asked if an appropriation to stabilization went to the deficit, did that mean the city was in a deficit. He suggested that a surplus should go toward the city's deficit.

President McGee clarified that the \$250,000 would go to stabilization to potentially be used for these purposes instead of staying in free cash and possibly being used to offset a deficit.

Councilor Givner stated that the city wouldn't be able to access it.

Councilor Jourdain added that would be for a year.

Councilor Maldonado Velez asked if that meant it couldn't be appropriated until the next year.

Councilor McGiverin clarified that the city's known deficit wasn't available yet because that final recap sheet wasn't done until around September or October prior to setting the tax rate. He added that before then, the mayor can file supplemental budgets because there would be room within the ceiling. He noted that the current year actually had around \$7 million in free cash but DLS only allowed \$4 million to be used because the rest was used to offset issues that were out of whack. He noted that the state had not yet set their final budget so the city didn't know how much would be coming from them.

Councilor Murphy-Romboletti questioned the points about not receiving any reports from the Treasurer. She then suggested that this had been talked about in Finance and found some of these points to be disingenuous and condescending.

---> Passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas-- Yeas 11--Nays 0--  
Absent 2 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
Approved by the Mayor.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 8c and 8f as a package.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$100,000) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash

TO: 8810-10400 Stabilization

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 both orders should speak for themselves, noting that the Council had regularly asked that the mayor put funds away into stabilization. He noted it was the second year in a row the mayor had done so.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
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 2024 from fiscal year 2023 free cash a sum of ONE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY THREE AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$1,481,473) as follows:

FROM: FY2023 Free Cash  
TO: 8811-10400 Capital Stabilization

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

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order To create an Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund to receive and manage all funds received from settlements of national opioid litigation.

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 there was a settlement of over \$3 million coming into the city over the next 15 years. He then stated that the fund would be set up for the purpose of many different things that would allow the city to work with entities on the opioid crisis within the city.

---> 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 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).  
Approved by the Mayor.

Councilor McGiverin stated that a bond for CSO projects was kept on the table in committee. He noted that as the city was under a consent decree, the city could start getting fined any day. He added that the city agreed to work with DEP going forward. He then questioned how the Council could vote on a \$10 million bond when the rate doesn't complement how to pay it and it wasn't needed for another couple years. He also commended members of the Finance Committee and all councilors for the work over the last couple of weeks.

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

Councilor Tallman made a motion to remove an item from the Public Service Committee regarding the appointment of Lauren Niles to the Planning Board. He noted she was interviewed last year, adding that it was an associate, non-voting member. Councilor Jourdain seconded the motion.

From Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, letter appointing Ms. Lauren Niles, 40 Lexington Ave. to serve as an associate of the Planning Board for the City of Holyoke: Ms. Niles will serve a five-year term; said term will expire on July 1, 2028.

Councilor Tallman stated that the administrative assistant reminded him that she had just been interviewed the previous year. He noted that while she was previously listed as an alternate, the position was technically an associate member of the Planning Board. He noted that she was not a voting member unless they needed her for a quorum.

---> Received and Appointment confirmed.

Councilor Tallman stated that Public Service would be meeting the following week to hold interviews for two people.

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

**ORDERS AND TRANSFERS**

(2:35:05)

VACON — the two dead (almost) trees at Ashley & Sunset be removed before they fall (if on city property).

---> Received and Adopted. Copy to DPW, Forester.

VACON — that the petition sent to Ordinance on June 6th be transferred to DGR as a meeting/public hearings will be taking place on July 12th so the petition can be taken up earlier.  
Petition of Andre Gamble for a special permit for a third floor dwelling (7.2.9) at 39-41 Portland St.  
---> Received and Adopted. Referred item to DGR.

VACON — that our city engineer evaluate the area at Sullivan School for the addition of a crosswalk. This is a constituent request.  
---> Received and Adopted. Copy to Engineer. Copy to Public Safety.

VACON — that a stop sign be placed at the corner of Maginnis Ave and Apremont Hwy.  
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

BARTLEY — The DPW install signage proximate to 33 Edbert Dr alerting motorists of an Autistic person in the area. Receive, adopt, refer to the DPW.

Councilor Rivera\_I asked why this item wouldn't go to Public Safety.

Councilor Jourdain stated that it was just an informational sign.

Councilor Rivera\_I suggested that there should be a conversation around that particular sign. He noted that 60 to 70 percent of students in the district were on IEPs. He suggested they could end up being posted everywhere if residents wanted them. He noted his own daughter was autistic. He suggested there could be a deeper conversation.

Councilor Vacon suggested that it could be adopted and then copied to Public Safety.  
---> Received and Adopted. Copy to DPW, Public Safety.

JOURDAIN — Ordered, that the DPW fix the raised sidewalk on West Franklin Street near Sycamore Street. Going in both directions the raised sidewalk needs to be more effectively repaved and highlighted for drivers so they slow down but does not cause excessive banging especially by heavy trucks going over them that are causing very disturbing sounds for the surrounding neighbors. After installation, the road had to be dug out for water or sewer and that has contributed to the problem.

President McGee noted that the work was already being done.  
---> Received and Adopted. Copy to DPW, Water Works.

JOURDAIN, PUELLO, Rivera\_I, Maldonado Velez, Tallman, Rivera\_J — DPW install a crosswalk on Cabot Street at South Summer Street on the Westerly corner in front of Capri Pizza so people can safely walk across the street in this heavy traffic area. There are no nearby crosswalks. Ideally this would be a raised sidewalk with appropriate signage but at a minimum a crosswalk with appropriate signage including in the median.

Councilor Rivera\_I asked to be added to the order.

Councilor Maldonado Velez asked to be added to the order.

Councilor Tallman asked to be added to the order.

Councilor Rivera\_J asked to be added to the order.  
---> Received and Adopted. Copy to DPW, Public Safety

JOURDAIN, PUELLO — DPW repaint the crosswalk at Clemente Street and Cabot Street.

Councilor Jourdain noted a crosswalk was already there but just needed to be repainted. He expressed hope that it could be done since the city was getting a new painting truck.

Councilor Tallman stated that he would be filing an order to get a crosswalk at Howard and Hampden.  
---> Received and Adopted. Copy to DPW.

JOURDAIN, PUELLO — DPW Parks Division replace the 3 park tables/chairs that were removed from Valley Arena Park. That they also remove the large tree branch resting on the basketball court.  
---> Received and Adopted. Copy to DPW Parks Division

JOURDAIN, PUELLO, Rivera\_I, Rivera\_J — DPW Forestry Division trim the following trees in South Holyoke that are out of control or dangerous or touching peoples' homes: 1) tree between 21-23 Hamilton Street; 2) tree between 531-533 South Summer Street; 3) tree next to 527 South Summer Street; 4) trees near 6 and 7 Adams Street.

Councilor Rivera\_I asked to be added to the order.

Councilor Rivera\_J asked to be added to the order.  
---> Received and Adopted. Copy to DPW, Forestry.

JOURDAIN, PUELLO — Building and Codes & Board of Health send notice to the owner of record of large lot (PARCEL ID 029-08-006) located at 569 South Bridge Street to properly mow their grass which is many feet high, remove all trash and debris (as large as a car bumper) all the way out to the sidewalk and street. In the absence of an immediate clean-up and bringing this to code, owner should be immediately fined and/or city should clean up and lien the property owner. It is in outrageous condition and there are no excuses for this. Please note City of Holyoke owns the lot next door at Parcel ID 029-08-007 and it is equally as bad a condition and city should immediately go over there and clean that up and mow.

Councilor Jourdain stated that in looking at the lot, he questioned how anyone would allow this to happen to their property. He added that he learned the city owned half of it.  
---> Received and Adopted. Copy to Code Enforcement.

JOURDAIN, PUELLO — DPW Parks Division please place signage in parks in South Holyoke that people need to pick up after their animals or making them aware of our fines for failing to do so.

Councilor Rivera\_I made a motion to amend the order to add dog waste bags. He noted there was a receptacle for bags at Laurel Street Park.

Councilor Jourdain asked if the DPW filled the bags.

Councilor Rivera\_I stated they do, as well as emptying the trash barrels.

---> Received and Adopted. Copy to DPW.

JOURDAIN, PUELLO — DPW repair with patching the sidewalks in front of 582 and 586 South Summer Street for safety of residents.

---> Received and Adopted. Copy to DPW.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 27 and 32 as a package.

JOURDAIN, PUELLO — Mayor and Building Dept/Board of Health/Law Dept please provide the City Council with a status report on the demolition and resolution of the dangerous abandoned building at 27-29 Cabot Street and 510 South Bridge Street (Parcel ID 031-01-014 owned by Next Realty Inc. with Corporate President of Shakeel Ahmed Butt of 10 Patriot Parkway in Weymouth, MA). Fencing is no longer safely enclosing the property and it has a dangerous debris field and is an attractive nuisance for children. According to my records, there was a fire there in September 2021 and another fire in April 2022. It has been vacant from even before these fires. Please report if the owner is paying the vacant building fee and when this building is going to be demolished since it seems inconceivable that it will be restored. This has gone on for too long and is a danger to residents.

---> Received and Adopted. Mayor, Building, Board of Health, Law Dept., Public Safety.

MALDONADO-VELEZ — that a communication is sent to the Council as to when the rubbish at 27 Cabot Street will be cleaned up.

Councilor Tallman noted that in a late file from the Law Department, it showed that a bid for demolition had just gone out the week before.

Councilor Maldonado Velez stated that the conversation should still happen in committee, noting the unsafe conditions.

---> Received and Adopted. Mayor, Building, Board of Health, Law Dept., Public Safety.

JOURDAIN, VACON — That the Auditor and if needed relevant dept heads and Mayor please review the Free Cash certification with the Finance Committee and City Council.

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

MALDONADO-VELEZ, ANDERSON-BURGOS — that the City Council adopt a Resolution of strong support and solidarity for the LGBTQIA+ community. Members of the LGBTQIA+ community — especially people of color and trans people — continue to face discrimination and cruel, persistent efforts to undermine their human rights. An onslaught of dangerous anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation has been introduced and passed in States across the country, targeting transgender children and their parents and interfering with their access to health care. As Councilors, we are elected to represent all of our residents, and that includes those within the LGBTQIA+ community. We believe everyone should be able to live without fear of prejudice, discrimination, violence, and hatred based on race, religion, gender identity, and sexual orientations. We believe this Resolution of strong support and solidarity also reflects the strong support shared by the vast majority of our residents.

Motion was made, seconded, and thirded to take a roll call vote.

President McGee asked if there was an attached resolution.

Councilor Maldonado Velez stated that it was simple language in support of the LGBTQIA+ community, similar to a resolution adopted in support of the police last year. He added that it was just a statement to this community that the City Council supports them. He then made a motion for a roll call vote.

President McGee stated that 3 members had to call for a roll call.

Councilor Murphy-Romboletti seconded the motion. Councilor Tallman thirded the motion.

---> Received and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 9--Nays 1 (Puello)--Absent 2 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley)--Abstain 1 (Vacon).

MALDONADO-VELEZ, Givner — that we create an ordinance that if the owner of a rental property does not live in Holyoke, they are required to hire a local property management company that is accessible to our residents. There have been too many issues with rental property regarding rodents, water, and electrical problems where residents have been unable to get in contact with the owner in order to remedy the situation.

Councilor Givner asked to be added to the order.

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

MALDONADO-VELEZ, Givner — that if someone is putting in an RFP through the city for a property that is up for sale and the applicant has outstanding issues with the Board of Health, Building Department, or any other city department having to do with other properties they own, that they are not eligible to win the bid for the RFP.

Councilor Givner asked to be added to the order.

---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee. Copy to Community Development, Law Department.

MALDONADO-VELEZ, RIVERA\_J — ORDER that Sec 38-73 (6) of our ordinances be amended for the hours to read 10pm instead of 11pm and 8am instead of 7am.

Councilor Vacon asked what ordinance this referred to.

Councilor Jourdain stated that it was the noise ordinance.

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

MCGEE — Order that the joint committee of school and council invite in the receiver to discuss and provide information on the Financial literacy program for both high school campuses.

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

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 35, 36, 37, and 41 as a package.

MCGIVERIN — that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the “FFY19 PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS (PSN), \$20,069, 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.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

MCGIVERIN — that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the “FY2024 SUPPORT & INCENTIVE GRANT, \$306,443, 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.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

MCGIVERIN — that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the “FY 2024 STATE 911 DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH, \$24,500, 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.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

MCGIVERIN — that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the “PVPC FY24 CT RIVER CLEANUP FUNDING, \$210,000, 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.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

Councilor McGiverin stated that each year, departments are informed that the Council does not meet in July so if grants have a time constraint, they should notify the Council. He then noted that nobody expressed any urgency for these grants.

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

MCGIVERIN — that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the “ARSON WATCH REWARD PROGRAM, \$1,000, 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.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGiverin stated that the Fire Department was notified they’d be receiving this grant from the program because a student from Blessed Sacrament won third place in a statewide poster contest. He noted the previous year’s winners from Holyoke were brought in to a Council meeting and their posters were displayed in Chambers.

---> Passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 11--Nays 0--Absent 2 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley).

MURPHY-ROMBOLETTI — Ordered, that the Honorable City Council, in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 30B and the Holyoke Code of Ordinances procurement ordinance, declare 118 Newton Street (Assessors Map 011, Block 03, Parcel 008) as surplus property available for disposition. The property was acquired via a judgment in tax lien foreclosure in 2023. It is approximately 4,270 square feet in size, zoned Downtown Residential (DR) and has an assessed value of \$34,300.

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

MURPHY-ROMBOLETTI — Ordered, that the Honorable City Council, in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 30B and the Holyoke Code of Ordinances procurement ordinance, declare 138 Cabot Street (Assessors Map 010, Block 01, Parcel 009) as surplus property available for disposition. The property was acquired via a judgment in tax lien foreclosure in 2023. It is approximately 2,761 square feet in size, zoned General Industry (IG) and has an assessed value of \$17,400.

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

PUELLO, Vacon, Jourdain, Rivera\_I — That the police department please provide an update on all traffic citations issued since January 2023

Councilor Vacon asked to be added to the order.

Councilor Jourdain asked to be added to the order.

Councilor Rivera\_I asked to be added to the order.

---> Received and Adopted. Copy to Public Safety, HPD.

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

(2:54:55)

RIVERA\_J — Ordered, That the city review and recommend 3-way or 4-way stop signs at all these intersections Samosett & Bower Streets, Samosett & West Streets, Samosett & Center Streets, Samosett & North East Streets, Bower & East Dwight Streets, Bower & Mosher Streets, Bower & Lyman Streets, Lyman & Grover Streets, Lyman & Center Streets, Lyman & Northeast Streets due to the ongoing traffic issues.

Holyoke Police Department do a review of all the intersections for all ongoing traffic issues.

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

MCGIVERIN — Ordered, that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the “MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY FFY2022 EMPG, \$20,150, 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.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

MCGIVERIN, TALLMAN, VACON — Ordered, That the City Council adjust the Sewer Rate ordinance.

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

RIVERA\_I, Jourdain — Ordered, Order for the city engineer to install 2 raised crosswalks on Samosett St., neighbors are complaining about speeding up and down Samosett St.

Councilor Jourdain asked to be added to the order.

---> Received and referred to the Public Safety Committee. Copy to Mayor, Engineer, DPW

From the Law Department, Update on Properties

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

Street Vendor License Application, Aime Matos at 363 Main St for food truck  
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

JOURDAIN — Ordered, DPW please remove some of the tree branches on Rte 5 south at the crossroad with Main Street. One of the traffic lights on the right hand side is not visible until the last second.

Motion was made and seconded to take final action.  
---> Received and Adopted. Copy to DPW.

JOURDAIN — Ordered, DPW please remove the shrubs at the traffic island at the intersection of Rte 5 and Ingleside St it is affecting driver visibility at this intersection.

Motion was made to take final action.  
---> Received and Adopted. Copy to DPW.

JOURDAIN — Ordered, DPW please repair the very deep dangerous potholes on Route 5 Southbound in front of MiraVista.

Motion was made to take final action.  
---> Received and Adopted. Copy to DPW.

Councilor Rivera\_I asked if an order could be filed to fix the potholes at the Kmart plaza,

President McGee noted it was private property.

*Brenna Murphy McLee*  
Adjourned at 10:11 PM