

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

May 2, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President McGee at 7:09 PM

The Clerk called the roll. Absent members: 1 (McGiverin) Present Members in person 12 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley, Givner, Jourdain, Maldonado Velez, McGee, 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.

LAID ON THE TABLE

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 Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that following the adoption of a resolution in support of the district, that the Ordinance Committee work with the mayor and the appropriate city and state departments to adopt an ordinance creating a Puerto Rican Cultural District within the City of Holyoke.

---> Laid on the table.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Superba, 17 Glen Street, emphasized that the mayor, as the city’s chief executive, was responsible for effective and efficient operation of each department’s delivery of services for the benefit of the community. He then suggested that the mayor’s ability to do this would be limited by the quality of information coming from each department head. He then noted that Chief Pratt refused to answer questions posed by the chair of the Public Safety Committee at their meeting on March 6th, in front of the mayor. He suggested that the refusal was reflective of the communication dynamic between the chief and the mayor. He then noted that a sexual harassment situation recently presented itself in the Police Department, adding that nothing had been heard from the mayor following an initial prepared statement. He then suggested that these situation presented peril for the city’s taxpayers through the potential of civil litigation. He also suggested that the Police Department appeared to implement strategies of silence or delay over the years, adding that he believed the mayor was also adopting these strategies.

Spencer Fox Peterson, 51 Portland Street, advocated for virtual town meetings to remain as a permanent thing. He emphasized that those who work were often not able to make it to meetings in person. He also asked that people have more time for speaking through a change of the public comment rules. He then asked that an Office of Tenant Protections be created to allow the demands of renters be heard. He noted that he was a former renter that had recently purchased a home, further acknowledging that not everyone would have a chance to do that but that everyone should be able to live under fair conditions. He then stated that as an abolitionist, he had the goal of a future without policing in oppressive and ineffective

systems. He then highlighted that the Holyoke Police Department had faced scandals, sexual misconduct allegations, suspensions for pointing firearms at other officers, and had disregarded complaints, among a longer list in the last several months. He then demanded that Holyokers and city councilors wake up and recognize that the institution could not be saved. He then suggested that funds should be invested in a Public Safety Department to address problems from the ground up.

John Rivera, 125 Cabot Street, Apt 4, offered support to Mr. Peterson's statement, reiterating that the institution could not be saved. He then stated that funding needed to be redirected to public safety departments. He added that things that actually worked needed to be funded, adding that he did not believe the Police Department lowered crime but was profiting off of it. He asked that these points be kept in mind during budget season when funds were being allocated. He suggested that much less should be budgeted toward the Police Department, that overtime needed to be fixed, and anyone in the department accused of sexual harassment should be fired.

President McGee stated that McGiverin was away for family reasons. He noted that McGiverin rarely ever missed a meeting. He then said goodnight to his kids, Myles, Mollie, and Mac.

COMMUNICATIONS

(7:55)

From Mayor Joshua A. Garcia letter of VETO regarding the following order: that the City Council retain independent legal counsel to work with the City Council and legal department to review its rules and powers under the Charter, state law, city ordinances and its rules.

President McGee stated that he spoke with the Law Department and understood they were working to hire independent counsel to work with the Council on dealing with this question.

---> Laid on the table.

From Mayor Joshua A. Garcia letter reappointing Ms. Theresa Cooper-Gordon, 52 Parker St. to serve as a Commissioner of the Holyoke Housing Authority for the City of Holyoke: Ms. Cooper-Gordon will serve a five year term; said term will expire on April 1, 2028.

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

From Brenna Murphy McGee, City Clerk, meeting minutes for April 18, 2023 meeting

---> Received and Adopted.

From Michael Bissonnette, Assistant City Solicitor, legal opinion regarding Mayors power to veto ballot question

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

From Jane Mantolesky, Assistant City Solicitor, re: Holyoke Adoption of Abutter's Notice Requirements with revised legal form

Councilor Jourdain stated that this should be going with one of the Ordinance Committee reports.

Councilor Vacon stated that she did not see it on the agenda.

Councilor Jourdain questioned if it was being sent back.

Councilor Vacon suggested that it be referred to committee.

City Clerk Murphy McGee stated that it was legal form.

Councilor Vacon stated that the legal form was there but she did not believe they had the order.

Councilor Jourdain stated that the committee had approved the legal language. He suggested it could be approved.

City Clerk Murphy McGee stated there was an attachment in the packet.

Councilor Vacon stated that she did not see the order posted on the agenda.

Motion was made and seconded to remove the relevant order from committee.

(Admin's note: the relevant order was adopted at the April 4th, 2023 City Council meeting. This item was a revised version of the legal language provided by the Law Department.)

Councilor Vacon recalled there was confusion for a public hearing regarding a vacant lot where abutters had to be renoticed. She then stated that the intent was to have the closest address used in notices when there was no address for a property.

Councilor Jourdain stated that this issue related to the proposed White Hut location where the parcel number had been put on the notice, as well as an address of 0 Pleasant Street. He emphasized that abutters would not have known what property was being discussed. He then stated that the language would require that the closest address would be used as a reference point where no address was available.

Councilor Rivera_I asked to clarify that it would be clear the address referred to in the notice letters would not be what the notice was about.

Councilor Vacon suggested that the notices would use language such as "the undeveloped lot next to an number..."

---> Received and the Ordinance passed its first reading.

The Ordinance passed its second reading.

The Ordinance was passed to be enrolled.

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

Report of Enrollment received.

The Ordinance was passed to be Ordained and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--

Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (McGiverin).

Approved by the Mayor

From Fire Chief John Kadlewicz Vehicle Maintenance report for Holyoke Fire Department for the calendar year ending December 31, 2022.

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

From Board of Fire Commission, meeting minutes from March 16, 2023

---> Received.

From Holyoke Redevelopment Authority, meeting minutes from November 30, 2022, February 15, 2023 and March 15, 2023

---> Received.

PETITIONS

(16:25)

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 11 and 12 as a package.

Petition for acceptance of Lynn Ann Drive

---> Received and referred to the Department of Public Works.

Petition of Petition for acceptance of Richard Eger Dr.

Councilor Vacon stated that these were petitions from residents to go along with previously filed orders. She then noted that in the early 60's, there was paperwork from the Planning Board that was never officially accepted by the Board of Alderman.

Councilor Rivera_I asked to clarify that these were currently not existing city streets.

Councilor Vacon stated that they were city streets. She then explained that the Planning Board sent the layout to the Board of Alderman to accept them but somewhere in the process, it was never documented that they were accepted. She added that when the City Engineer went to file for Chapter 90 funds for a project in the neighborhood, the streets were missing from the rest of the neighborhood.

Councilor Rivera_I asked if it would be the same petition process for the side street going up the hill to the Sav-a-Lot plaza.

Councilor Vacon stated that it could be if it was not an accepted city street. She then emphasized that this situation was due to paperwork not being completed.

President McGee stated that Mayor Garcia contacted him about the streets. He added that he and Councilor Jourdain had been working on addressing West Cherry Street. He further stated that the City Engineer found there to be 8 streets in a similar situation. He also stated that the Engineer estimated it would be a little over \$1 million to repave them. He noted a late file would come up later to address these streets.

---> Received and referred to the Department of Public Works.

Petition of Kim Silva of 624 S. Bridge St, renewal of 1 pool table and 6 bowling alleys

President McGee stated that the taxes were current and that any original conditions would remain.

Councilor Rivera_I asked who the vendor was, noting the item just provided a name.

Councilor Bartley stated that it was Turn Hall.

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

Petition of Katherine Sanchez of 15-12 Dwight St, for a Street Vendor License

Councilor Vacon stated that the item would be placed on the May 23rd agenda.

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

Councilor Bartley, referring to items 11 and 12, asked if Old Bassett Road would also be addressed.

President McGee stated that was on the list in the late file he referred to.

Councilor Bartley asked if Parenteau Drive was also on that list, the street driving up to the Sav-a-Lot.

President McGee stated that the list included streets that needed to be paved.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos questioned why the reappointment for Theresa Gordon-Cooper was referred to Public Service when reappointments have usually been voted on right away.

Motion was made and seconded to reconsider the previous action on item 4.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that he knew Ms. Gordon-Cooper as a hard worker who was very involved in the community. He added that he found it odd for her reappointment to be referred to Public Service.

President McGee stated that there had been times in the past when councilors asked for reappointments to go to committee for many reasons.

Councilor Tallman stated that as chair of that committee, he noted that sometimes councilors had not had the chance to talk to people on some of the boards, especially with newer councilors. He suggested that there may be questions about their role or their vision for the board, questions about the running of the Housing Authority, or changes that they're involved in. He emphasized that it was nothing new for a reappointment to be taken up by the committee.

Councilor Givner stated that she would usually just reach out to someone if they have questions. She suggested just voting on the reappointment that evening unless there was a reason for Ms. Gordon-Cooper to public answer questions.

Councilor Jourdain stated that he was familiar with Ms. Gordon-Cooper and found her to be very competent. He then stated that the general rule was that if there were questions, it should be sent to committee. He then disagreed with the idea of calling people as some people prefer to have more transparency. He noted that members of the public may have an interest in the questions being asked.

Councilor Bartley stated that it had been the tradition to refer to committee if at least one councilor wanted it. He then questioned the goal of collegiality while suggesting there was ulterior motive to the request. He noted that he had voted for Ms. Gordon-Cooper when she was initially appointed. He also emphasized that she would remain on the committee until replaced. He also suggested that the councilor making the motion had never attended a Public Service meeting.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that it should be consistent rather than cherry-picking which ones get sent to committee and which ones get approved right away.

Councilor Rivera_I expressed his understanding that the process was that if a councilor wanted to ask questions for a reappointment, it was respected. He then stated that while it made sense, there were times when some reappointments were just voted on. He then asked what the rule was, if there was one. He suggested that if there was no rule, one should be created so that it was an equitable process for everyone.

Councilor Jourdain stated that it was simple matter: if nobody had questions, they get voted on right away. He questioned sending everyone to committee even if there were no questions to ask.

Councilor Givner suggested that even if a councilor did not have a question, the public may have questions.

Councilor Vacon made a point of order, suggesting that an order would need to be filed if someone wanted to make a rule about this.

Councilor Murphy-Romboletti questioned hearing that it was a rule but it was not really in the rules.

President McGee asked for clarification of what the Council wanted.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos suggested it go to committee.

PRESIDENTS REPORTS

(35:45)

President McGee stated that Holyoke Water Works made an announcements that councilors should had received.

He then stated that interpreters could be hired to interpret subcommittee meeting. He then explained that Admin Asst Anderson-Burgos had worked with Holyoke Media on discussing funding. He emphasized that it would need Council approval. He then stated that there was funding with Holyoke Media for subcommittee meetings but if there was not sufficient funds sometime in the future, it would come back on the city to pay for it. He added that the company interpreting meetings did confirm they would have the

capacity to cover subcommittee meetings. He added that the mayor had signed off on the use of funds from Holyoke Media.

Councilor Vacon suggested picking and choosing which meetings to interpret, such as those that include a public hearing.

President McGee suggested discussing it in committee.

Councilor Givner asked what the time frame would be on the funding being available.

President McGee stated that it was good for the foreseeable future, but it could run out years in the future. He then stated that he would file an order to discuss it in Finance. He then noted that there had been questions coming in regarding a building nearby on High Street that had pieces falling off of its roof. He stated that the mayor assured him that the City Engineer was working with the owner to address the issue. He then stated that West Cherry Street was a part of an order that included several non-accepted city streets so that it could be discussed how to deal with them going forward.

Councilor Tallman asked if West Cherry Street had been where concerns had been raised about the roadway and water being rushed out. He noted that several councilors had received emails about it.

Councilor Jourdain stated that the immediate goal was to get the road to a useable, safe condition without massive potholes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(40:15)

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order add to the “no parking” signs on Cherry Street, “vehicles will be towed at owner’s expense”

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 the Engineer evaluated the area following repeated noncompliance issues and complaints from residents. She added that he recommended amending the language on the signage. ---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and

nays--Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (McGiverin).
Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order That a handicap sign be placed in front of 400 Maple St. for Elliot Sierra, Placard #2290051.

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 the sign was vetted by the Disabilities Commission. She noted that the placard number would not be on the sign because the city was advised that anyone with a placard can use the spaces.

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

The Ordinance passed its second reading.

The Ordinance was passed to be enrolled.

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

Report of Enrollment received.

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

Approved by the Mayor

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order That Sec. 86-321. – Schedule I: Parking remove both of these entries. Reviewed with city Engineer. To ordinance.
– South Summer St/ Westerly/ A point 78 feet north of Adams St/ A point 18 feet further North/ No parking
– South Summer St/ Westerly/ A point 96 feet northerly of Adams St/ A point 42 feet further northerly/
Handicapped Parking Only

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 the order was to remove the no parking sign and a handicap sign. She noted

that neither may have even been put into the ordinances. She then asked to confirm there was legal form provided.

President McGee confirmed there was legal form attached.

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

The Ordinance passed its second reading.

The Ordinance was passed to be enrolled.

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

Report of Enrollment received.

The Ordinance was passed to be Ordained and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--

Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (McGiverin).

Approved by the Mayor

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the "no parking" sign be removed on one side of the curve at O'Connor Ave bend to add parking while keeping the corner safe and passable for service and emergency vehicles.

have considered the same and Recommended that the Engineer's recommendation to keep the signs be accepted.

Committee Members:

Linda L. Vacon
Jose Maldonado-Velez
Kocayne Givner
Kevin A Jourdain
Israel Rivera_I

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Vacon stated that the Engineer recommended that the signage remain after looking at the area and having concern that safety apparatuses such as fire trucks would not be able to get through safely.

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

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order With community support: That the city post a snow parking restriction on its website at least twelve hours before towing begins. In other words, towing will not begin until the restriction has been up on the website at least twelve hours.

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 stated that the intent was to ensure citizens has as much notice as possible. She then stated that the Board of Public Works coordinated with the Police Department to set up a procedure. She noted it would always be dependent on the weather but that they were committed to trying to provide early notice.

Councilor Givner stated that they work on it as best they could, recognizing they may not be able to fully accommodate the request.

Councilor Bartley asked if Jeff Trask from Emergency Management was asked to provide input on this.

Councilor Vacon stated that she was unsure but that it was reviewed by the Board of Public Works.

Councilor Givner stated that they only spoke to the Board of Public Works who provided their feedback.

Councilor Bartley stated that Mr. Trask was looking to get more involved in these matters. He then expressed his intent to forward this to Mr. Trask and work with him on it.

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

(47:35)

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 THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$1,000) as follows:

FROM:

15102-54200 SUPPLIES \$1,000

TOTAL: \$1,000

TO:

15101-51300 OVERTIME \$1,000

TOTAL: \$1,000

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 Jourdain stated that the committee reviewed this, and then deferred to Councilor Tallman.

Councilor Tallman stated that the funding for painting the striping of crosswalks.

Councilor Jourdain clarified that those notes were for the next item. He then stated that this was for the Board of Health. He added that the mayor had cut overtime from the budget, leaving the department short.

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

Councilor Bartley made a point of order, noting that there may have been an ordinance about the Council not needing to approve de minimis transfers. He then asked if the \$250 rule was an ordinance or a Charter rule.

Councilor Jourdain stated that the \$250 rule was Section 22 of the Charter.

Councilor Bartley suggested that a charter change would be required to adjust it.

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

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, THIRTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$30,000) as follows:

FROM:

14251-51104 HEAVY MOTOR EQUIPMENT OPERATOR \$30,000

TOTAL: \$30,000

TO:

14252-54221 SUPPLIES- TRAFFIC LINES \$30,000

TOTAL: \$30,000

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 Tallman stated that the surplus in the Heavy Motor Equipment Operator line was due to having 9 unfilled positions.

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

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, EIGHTY TWO THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND 00/100 Dollars (\$82,800) as follows:

FROM:

12101-51510 SICK BUYBACK \$35,000
12101-51500 VACATION BUYBACK 12,800
12101-51505 TIME OWED 35,000
TOTAL: \$82,800
TO:
12102-54220 SUPPLIES-OTHER \$1,000
12102-52100 ENERGY 35,000
12102-57301 LEGAL DEFENSE 3,000
12102-53210 MEDICAL 8,800
12102-57100 IN STATE TRAVEL 2,000
12102-52410 R&M MOTOR VEHICLE 16,000
12102-54830 MOTOR VEHICLE SUPPLIES 17,000
TOTAL: \$82,800

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 Jourdain stated that the surpluses in the from lines in the Police Department budget resulted from best estimates of how much they think they would need for paying retirees for time owed. He then stated that the energy request was due to a higher request being trimmed in the budget. He added that legal defense was a contractual requirement, noting they weren't sure how many officers would decide to sign up for a plan where the officer and the city would split the cost. He also stated that new officers had come in, impacting what was needed in this line. He further stated that the medical line was to pay for medical for new recruits coming in. He emphasized that there were 17 new recruits coming in. He also stated that in state travel was due to conferences attended. He added that the repair and maintenance lines were needed for supplies and time to repair vehicles. He then stated that the supplies may have been for ammunition.

Councilor Tallman stated that the supplies request was also for ID badges, cable, and other in house expenses.

Councilor Jourdain reiterated that the surpluses were from personnel lines going into expenses lines.

Councilor Vacon stated that as long as all the potential recruits pass out of the academy, the Police Department would be as close to fully staffed as they had been in many years.

Councilor Rivera_I asked to clarify that the full complement was 92 officers.

Councilor Jourdain stated that was correct.

Councilor Rivera_I noted that the last count was 84, adding that graduating 17 would make it more than 92.

President McGee stated that they were filling in.

Councilor Jourdain stated that the plan was to have 92.

Councilor Rivera_I suggested that the numbers did not appear to add up.

---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--

Yeas 11--Nays 1 (Rivera_I)--Absent 1 (McGiverin).

Approved by the Mayor.

(55:30)

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 17A through 17G as a package.

The Committee on Public Safety to whom was referred an order at Section 34 of the Holyoke City Charter be amended to establish a Police Commission by virtue of Special Act in Accordance with the provisions of Articles of Amendment, Article II, Section 8 of the Massachusetts Constitution.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera_I
Kocayne Givner
Todd A. McGee

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

The Committee on Public Safety to whom was referred an order From Chief Pratt, update on order filed by Councilor Puello regarding Mayor Garcia Accident on city Vehicle, Vehicle Summary and Crash report.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera_I
Kocayne Givner
Todd A. McGee

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

The Committee on Public Safety to whom was referred an order that Chapter 50, Article II of the Holyoke City Ordinances be amended to add Section 50-56 establishing a Police Commission.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera_I
Kocayne Givner
Todd A. McGee

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Rivera_I stated that the discussion focused on the process of getting this started, whether through ordinance, charter, or both. He then stated that they would prefer the approach of both, if possible, but the priority was to go through charter. He expressed a hope that the Charter and Rules Committee as well as the Ordinance Committee could discuss it soon.

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

The Committee on Public Safety to whom was referred an order that Chief Pratt come in to discuss a possible gun drop off program.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera_I
Kocayne Givner
Todd A. McGee

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Rivera_I stated that the Police Department would be collaborating with the D.A. (District Attorney) to run a larger drop off program.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that while they spoke on hosting a drive, he was interested in something more constant and always available for those who may not know what to do with firearms. He suggested that he may file another order to pursue that idea.

Councilor Bartley stated that they would plan to collaborate with the Sheriff's Department and the D.A. to hold an annual gun drop off. He then asked if there was a process for people to just drop off weapons at the police station. He suggested that there may already be that process in place. He suggested that the Police Department could place a secured box inside the building and in view of cameras. He also suggested checking in with the police chief and the mayor to implement that, as well as looking into similar processes in other communities.

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

The Committee on Public Safety to whom was referred an order that public cameras throughout the City be updated, replaced and added as needed to ensure safety and compliance with laws and needed funding transfers be approved when necessary.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera_I
Kocayne Givner
Todd A. McGee

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Rivera_I stated that the mayor explained that they were working on this.

Councilor Vacon stated that this was a companion order to an earlier order filed to get a camera on Homestead Avenue. She then stated that as cameras had been used for public safety in various parts of the city, she filed this order to acknowledge that they do get used to enforce laws and create safe environments, as well as to see if it could be utilized in various areas. She noted an order was coming up on the agenda later the evening. She emphasized that they were for use only in the public space.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

The Committee on Public Safety to whom was referred an order That the Chief of Police please provide a narrative describing what happened to the previous, gray Ford Taurus mayoral issued vehicle. Please include any cost/insurance payouts to other parties and a current city vehicle use policy.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera_I
Kocayne Givner
Todd A. McGee

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Rivera_I deferred to Councilor Puello as the filer of the order.

Councilor Puello stated that the police report provided a lot of information, including learning there were others in the car. He then stated that there were still open questions on insurance payouts, particularly if there are passengers who are not city employees. He noted that the total payout was around \$16,000, including \$7,352 returned to the city as well as \$9,036.19 paid out to the owner of the other damaged vehicle. He noted that they also learned another accident occurred in December, adding that he would be filing an order to learn more about that.

Councilor Bartley commended Councilor Puello for filing the order. He then stated that the questions were reasonable and that the Council would not have known about it without the order being filed. He then

expressed concern about a statement from one councilor who questioned why the Council should be concerned about a fender bender. He emphasized that the vehicle was totaled.

Councilor Rivera_I stated that the vehicle was totaled because it was old and would cost too much to fix it.

Councilor Bartley stated that the questions were fair and were not accusatory, even while they were characterized that way. He also stated that the mayor was up front and honest. He then stated that while the mayor stated that he was all about transparency, they only learned about the second accident after a request was made for information on the insurance claim. He noted that while it was understood the mayor was not at fault, no information was given to the Council about a city vehicle being in a crash. He emphasized that this would not be relevant if it were not about city property. He then emphasized that a chair running any meeting had a duty to not allow speakers to be interrupted when they have the floor.

Councilor Maldonado Velez stated that over the year and a half he had been on the Council, he had often heard snickers from councilors to his left anytime others had something to say. He questioned acting as though some councilors have zero faults. He also suggested that councilors had a right to express concern about questions being asked if they found them to be accusatory.

Councilor Rivera_I clarified that as a chair, he will allow people to speak until the point that he believes someone is being offensive or accusatory. He added that he believes he, as a chair, has a duty to protect people who are attending a meeting. He then noted that if the concern is about transparency, there was a lot of issues in the Police Department not going out to the public, including accidents, guns being lost, and officers driving while intoxicated.

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

The Committee on Public Safety to whom was referred an order that the license board is invited to discuss the process of ensuring that all businesses operating within our city are licensed, what happens when the city is notified of an unlicensed business, and how businesses with seasonal licenses are tracked and held to compliance.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera_I
Kocayne Givner
Todd A. McGee

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Rivera_I stated that this was about understanding what happens to businesses operating illegally or when they get ticked or cited.

Councilor Maldonado Velez stated that Anthony Luciano and Alex Maysonet explained their processes. He noted that they were working as a one person operation. He emphasized that rules had not really been enforced for a long time, but now with a mayor focused on enforcement, there was a balance to assure things are being done in a fair way across the board. He then stated that they had an enforcement officers working regular hours but there was a question of what happens outside of those hours.

Councilor Bartley stated that they were working with the Board of Health. He added that the rest of uniformed officers were enforcing laws every day. He suggested that over 90% of entities were in compliance, but that there would always be outliers. He also suggested that anyone aware of those not in compliance, HPD should be advised so that officers can enforce city ordinances.

Councilor Maldonado Velez clarified that there was no insinuation that officers were not doing a good job but that there was one officer doing the enforcement for multiple departments. He emphasized that there was a need for more resources.

Councilor Givner noted that according to an article published in February, 22 businesses in Holyoke had not been in compliance with their licenses and permits. She emphasized that many of them were big names. She suggested that that it related to understaffing in departments, adding that one person could not hold the whole city in compliance. She also suggested that it was not the job of residents to call the police if they think a business may not be in compliance.

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

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

(1:20:45)

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order Special permit application of Jesus Candelario for non-conforming use per section 4.7.2 to increase occupancy to host large groups for indoor and outdoor events at 1109 Dwight St

have considered the same and Recommended that the special permit be given a leave to withdraw at the request of the petitioner.

Committee Members:

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

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Murphy-Romboletti stated that many neighbors attended to participate in public comment. She then explained that the result of the process was that the Law Department suggested giving the special permit a leave to withdraw because there was no permit that could be used for nonconforming for this purpose. She then stated the issue at hand with neighbors was that the initial special permit issued for the bed and breakfast was to be for breakfast for guests staying overnight only. She noted that many zoning definitions needed to be looked at and that additional conversations needed to happen around that focus, as well as the many types of special permits the City Council issued. She noted that it had since been put out on social media that the bed and breakfast had been sold.

Councilor Maldonado Velez stated that it was sad to hear the bed and breakfast would be closing after 10 years. He then emphasized that the community clearly spoke on the night of the hearing, specifically noting that they were not against the bed and breakfast but did not want the extension to outdoor events.

Councilor Givner noted that as one of the neighbors of the bed and breakfast, she noted there was a lot of support for the bed and breakfast, but she heard many complaints about noise, parking, and lighting. She stated that the neighborhood had many multifamily dwellings with limited driveway parking, resulting in many residents needing to park on the street. She noted that parking from his events would often spill over into the neighborhood and lighting would often shine into peoples' homes.

Councilor Vacon stated that this example tied well into the earlier discussion regarding issuing special permits and licenses in that what people were doing at their locations needed to stay within the confines of the allowed uses of their permits and licenses. She suggested that the whole situation could have been avoided if he had been held to the permit he had been given for a bed and breakfast.

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

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

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order Letter from a Citizen of Holyoke, requesting a crosswalk be placed at the Whiting Street Reservoir.

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

Committee Members:

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

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

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order That Dr. Alberto Vazquez Matos, HPS' Receiver, appear before the DGR committee.

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

Committee Members:

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

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

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order that the city council DGR committee invite in and meeting with Roca member.

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

Committee Members:

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

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

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order that the City Council invite in Jennifer Howard and other members of DCR to discuss Mt. Tom.

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

Committee Members:

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

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

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order That the city council thru the appropriate committee invite Dr. Vazquez Matos current superintendent to give us an update about the status of the schools during this pandemic and the future plans for students of HPS. \

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

Committee Members:

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

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

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order that the Committee on Development and Governmental Relations invite representatives from the Worcester Red Sox to learn more about its "Town Takeover" initiative in the 2023 season.

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

Committee Members:

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

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

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order that the DG&R committee invite in the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke Leadership team to discuss their two ARPA proposals: child care expansion project and proposal to serve homeless/DCF involved youth.

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

Committee Members:

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

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

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order That the Office of Planning and Economic Development be invited to discuss the reasons behind the absence of medical marijuana providers in the city, the original intended reason for cannabis legalization. The goal of this discussion is to come up with a viable pathway to provide this service for residents so they may enjoy their tax benefits and have their medical needs fulfilled. If a plan is already underway this discussion will inform residents of their upcoming benefits.

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

Committee Members:

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

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Murphy-Romboletti stated that the orders were no longer applicable or relevant. She added that some had been discussed in other committees.

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

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order The City Clerk please sent a communication to City Council in time for its 2nd meeting in October 2021 on the following (based upon the preliminary election of 09/21/2012):

- A. turnout-did Holyoke meet expectations? How did Holyoke do compared to our neighbors?;
- B. the new voting machines-any issues?
- C. Satisfaction (or not) with the current polling locations
- D. General impressions on Holyoke elections.

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

Committee Members:

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

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Vacon stated that it really could be considered complied with as the Clerk had done it.

Councilor Murphy-Romboletti stated that a communication was provided and the questions had been answered.

---> Report of Committee received and complied with.

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order Special permit application of Eloy Arocho for an auto body repair shop at 41 N Summer Street (038-01-004).

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

1. That all requirements and open questions from the Planning Department review letter, dated March 21, 2023, be addressed and abided by.
2. That the applicant will abide by all codes and ordinances of the city and the state.
3. That there will be no more than six vehicles being worked on at one time.
4. That the hours of operation be set as 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Committee Members:

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

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Motion was made and seconded to amend the 4th condition to make it Monday through Saturday.

Councilor Murphy-Romboletti stated that the applicants were the new owners of Supreme Body Works. She then stated that they reviewed a letter from the Planning Department, which was referenced in the conditions. She added that they did not plan any major changes to the building or premises, noting it had previously been used for the same purpose with the prior owner. She also stated that they emphasized the condition regarding no more than 6 vehicles being worked on at one time. She added that had been their plan. She noted that parking would not be seen from the street but would be located behind the building. She also explained that they discussed landscaping, and also making sure that all codes and ordinances would be followed. She also stated that the Fire Department weighed in. She also noted that they made it clear to the applicants that they should make sure permits and licenses with other city departments are also taken care of.

Councilor Vacon noted that the point was made during the meeting that this was a great example of business continuing that was well founded in the city. She added that the two business owners would be good role models, adding that it could tie in to exciting programs at Dean Tech.

Councilor Rivera_I offered congratulations to Mr. Morales for going through the process as a recent graduate of the auto body program at Dean Tech. He emphasized that it had been a pivotal business in that area of the community with the previous owner, Juan Pedrosa, when it was Holyoke Auto Body. He stated that he looked forward to it providing opportunities to future graduates of Dean Tech.

Councilor Jourdain offered recognition to Mr. Pedrosa who had recently passed away. He suggested that Mr. Pedrosa would be pleased to see the business continue in this way. He noted that he had also been very involved in the community, including as a member of the Holyoke Housing Authority.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that Mr. Pedrosa had been grandfather to his nieces and nephews. He expressed that he was happy to see the business being brought back after so many years of effort that had been put into it.

Councilor Bartley noted that he represented Mr. Pedrosa and thought of him as a friend. He added that he found it exciting to see his name continue on after his passing. He also noted that one of the applicants expressed that opening this business was a lifetime dream.

Councilor Murphy-Romboletti asked who follows up to ensure conditions on special permits would be complied with.

Councilor Vacon stated that in the case of an auto body, there would be requirements of the Fire Department that would be separate from the City Council issuing the special permit for the use. She

suggested that would be the path. She noted that with marijuana businesses, it would usually be the Building Department.

Councilor Bartley noted a previous councilor filed an order that led to a requirement that a sign be posted on the building for items such as the third condition regarding the number of vehicles. He added that the Police Department would be given notice regarding the hours of operation. He suggested that those departments and the City Clerk would be on top of those things. He added that this would come back to the City Council for renewal in a year, and was a part of why special permits were effective.

City Clerk Murphy McGee clarified that special permits do not have to come back for renewal.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (McGiverin).

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

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order that the Honorable City Council, in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 30B and the Holyoke Code of Ordinances procurement ordinance, declare 94 Newton Street (Assessors Map 011, Block 03, Parcel 010) as surplus property available for disposition. The property was acquired via a corrective judgement in a tax lien case in 2007. It is approximately 4,620 square feet in size, zoned Downtown Business and has an assessed value of \$22,900.

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

Committee Members:

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

UNDER DISCUSSION:

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

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order that the Honorable City Council, in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 30B and the Holyoke Code of Ordinances procurement ordinance, declare Newton Street Parcel 011-03-009 (Assessors Map 011, Block 03, Parcel 009) as surplus property available for disposition. The property was granted to the City in 1969 by the Holyoke Community Development Corporation. It is approximately 9,680 square feet in size, zoned Downtown Business and has an assessed value of \$25,900.

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

Committee Members:

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

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Murphy-Romboletti explained that the way it works for selling city property is that they need to be declared surplus property first to make them available for disposition. She noted that these two properties were a part of 3 contiguous lots on Newton Street, adding that there were various development efforts happening in the neighborhood.

Councilor Bartley offered a reminder that declaring properties as surplus required a 2/3rd vote while disposition only required a simple majority. He then expressed his understanding that more of these would be coming from OPED soon.

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

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

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order Zone change application from R-2 to BG of Jesus Candelario at 1109 Dwight St (074-00-012).

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be referred back to the City Council

Committee Members:

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

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Murphy-Romboletti stated that it had been sent to committee with the special permit but was not actually discussed as zone changes do not go through DGR. She then stated that it was referred back to the full Council to figure out what to do with it.

Motion was made and seconded to give the application a leave to withdraw.

Councilor Vacon suggested that zone change would be stale by that point and it would a moot point as the property was sold. She questioned if it could be given a leave to withdraw without the petitioner making that request.

President McGee noted that the petitioner wanted this to be disposed of when he filed for the special permit.

---> Report of Committee received and given a leave to withdraw at the request of the petitioner.

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

ORDERS AND TRANSFERS

(1:46:35)

MCGIVERIN — That the City appropriate the amount of eighty five million, five hundred four thousand, five hundred ninety-two (\$85,504,592) Dollars for the Purpose and Introductions of paying costs for the construction of the new Peck Middle School, 1916 Northampton Street, Holyoke, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which school facility shall have an anticipated useful life as an educational facility for the instruction of school children for at least 50 years, and for which the City may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The City acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the City incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City; provided further that any grant that City may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) eighty percent (80%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; provided that any appropriation hereunder shall be subject to and contingent upon the City being awarded a grant from the MSBA for the Project; and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City and the MSBA. FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application with the appropriate officials of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts (the "Commonwealth") to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all bonds of the City authorized as of the date hereof, and to provide such information and execute such documents as such officials of the Commonwealth may require in connection therewith.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 23 and 26 as a package.

MCGIVERIN — that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2023, TWENTY THREE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FORTY TWO AND 71/100 Dollars (\$23,642.71) as follows:

FROM:

12101-51105 SERGEANT \$10,973.25

12101-51107 PATROLMEN 12,669.46

TOTAL: \$23,642.71

TO:

12101-51180 INJURED ON DUTY \$23,642.71

TOTAL: \$23,642.71

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

Councilor Vacon noted that as the sergeant had been on the list for 2 years, she was seeking an update on the status.

Councilor Jourdain suggested it could be sent to committee to ask.

Councilor Tallman expressed concern about sending it to Finance, noting that the officers needed to get their pay. He emphasized that injured on duty transfers had not usually gone to committee.

President McGee stated that it had been protocol to pass them as it was just an accounting procedure but that it had been a reoccurring question as to updates that had not come in after multiple questions being asked. He emphasized that it would still be paid.

Councilor Vacon stated that this would not hold up anyone's pay.

Councilor Jourdain noted that road jobs were often paid without having the funds and they could go 2 weeks on this.

Councilor Tallman asked for assurance that this could be handled quickly, and they could learn why the 2 sergeants had been on line duty for a long period of time.

Councilor Vacon expressed her understanding that they were not on duty at all. She added that there was no update that they were on light duty.

Councilor Jourdain stated that he had also asked questions about the status of those on paid and administrative leave. He expressed concern about something not working and being paid for years and then the city not being able to recoup backpay. He added that he would like to understand what the policy was on determining paid and unpaid leave.

Councilor Rivera_I noted that the MRI report showed that a lot of the decisions were arbitrary.
---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

MCGIVERIN — that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2023, TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SIXTY TWO AND 72/100 Dollars (\$2,362.72) as follows:

FROM:

12201-51105 FIREFIGHTER \$2,362.72

TOTAL: \$2,362.72

TO:

12201-51180 INJURED ON DUTY \$2,362.72

TOTAL: \$2,362.72

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

Approved by the Mayor.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 24 and 25 as a package.

MCGIVERIN — that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2023, FORTY SEVEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$47,000) as follows:

FROM:

16501-51106 PAY-HEAVY MOTOR EQUIP. OPERATOR \$47,000

TOTAL: \$47,000

TO:

16502-52518 R&M POOLS \$7,000

16502-52500 R&M FIELDS 30,000

16502-52410 R&M VEHICLES 10,000

TOTAL: \$47,000

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

MCGIVERIN — that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2023, ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FORTY ONE AND 56/100 Dollars (\$117,541.56) as follows:

FROM:

8811-10400 CAPITAL STABILIZATION \$117,541.56

TOTAL: \$117,541.56

TO:

16503-58002 CAPITAL OUTLAY-MOTOR VEHICLES \$117,541.56

TOTAL: \$117,541.56

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

MURPHY-ROMBOLETTI — That Schedule C of 2-35 be updated to reflect a new title and salary for police matrons

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

MURPHY-ROMBOLETTI — That the Schedule C of 2-35 be updated to reflect competing salaries for police reserves

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

MURPHY-ROMBOLETTI — That schedules B and C of ordinance 2-35 be updated as appropriate with competitive salaries to attract and retain employees

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

VACON — that DPW/Veolia resolve the storm water problem at 467 Rock Valley Rd near pole #15 by repairs to the catch basin/ storm drain or by diverting storm water to the existing underground pipe. This is a safety hazard as the road becomes flooded with rainstorms and there is a limited line of sight on that portion of the road.

Councilor Vacon noted that the water had been so deep after a recent rain that it was higher than the boots of the DPW workers visiting the area.

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

VACON — that in the police department, the rate for Matrons be set at 18.00/hr and the rate for Reserve/special officers be set at \$22.00/hr. per ordinance.

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

VACON — ORDER: the overgrown trees in the island of the cul de sac on Sequoia be trimmed back-refer to Forester

Councilor Bartley made a motion to amend the order to add Woodmar Glen.

President McGee stated that was already on the list.

---> Received and Adopted. Copy to City Forester.

VACON — ORDER: to add Sequoia Drive for curb repair for broken areas.

Motion was made and seconded to add Lawler Street.

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

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 34 and 37 as a package.

ANDERSON-BURGOS — Order that the City Engineer investigate the installation of pedestrian safety measures at the crosswalk located on Northampton Street at Winthrop Street. This may include installations of curb extensions (aka “bump outs”) and a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB). Send to Public Safety copy to the City Engineer.

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

ANDERSON-BURGOS — Order that the City Engineer investigate safety measures at the intersection of West Franklin and St Jerome. Residents are expressing concern about vehicles speeding around the bend, which is especially concerning considering the poor line of sight around it.

Send to Public Safety, Copy to City Engineer.

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

ANDERSON-BURGOS — Order that we look into having security cameras installed at Rohan Park. Constituents that live near the park have reported illegal activities after dusk, including vandalism of private property. Send to public safety copy HPD and Parks and Rec.

---> Received and referred to the Public Safety Committee. Copy to HPD, Parks & Rec.

ANDERSON-BURGOS — Order that the no parking signs in front of and across from 24 Sydney Ave be removed. This is a constituent request. Send to Ordinance copy to DPW and City Engineer.

---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee. Copy to DPW, City Engineer.

JOURDAIN, PUELLO, Tallman — Ordered, that the DPW/Alarm Division please replace the traffic light at Main and Vernon Streets that was previously damaged. The residents are requesting the traffic light be replaced not eliminated. It is getting very dangerous to also exit Vernon Street because of the poor line of sights due to parked cars on Main Street coupled with no traffic light to stop the traffic. It is also shifting traffic from Vernon Street to other Springdale streets due to this intersection now becoming more dangerous.

Councilor Rivera_I suggested painting do not block the box lines on the left due to line of sight concerns.

Councilor Jourdain suggested an order be filed to make that change.

Councilor Tallman asked to be added to the order.

---> Received and Adopted. Copy to DPW, Alarm Division, Mayor.

LATE FILED ORDERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

(2:00:15)

VACON — ORDER: the City Council issue a proclamation to Hair Changes and owner Kathleen Seidel in honor of 45 years of continuous service to residents of Holyoke. Anniversary date is May 19th.

Councilor Vacon stated that the business was founded by a woman that Ms. Seidel worked with for years before then buying the business continuing it. She emphasized that it had become a mainstay on Westfield Road and Homestead Avenue. She added that it would be great to recognize 45 years of service.

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

---> Received and Adopted.

MCGEE — Ordered, that the city engineer provide a list/layout of non-accepted roads and come in to discuss options to fixing the roads.

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

Adjourned at 9:11 PM