

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL****November 9, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair McGiverin at 6:04 PM

The Clerk called the roll. Present Members in person 10: (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley, Givner, Jourdain, McGiverin, Murphy-Romboletti, Puello, Rivera\_J, Tallman, Vacon). Present Members on Zoom 3: (Maldonado Velez, McGee, Rivera\_I)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take a roll call vote that for the purposes of this meeting would be applicable to all motions to receive, refer items to committee, remove items from the table, place items on the table, package items together, or suspend the rules unless there is an objection.

Acting Chair McGiverin emphasized that because it was a special meeting call by the Council President, only items on the agenda could be taken up and discussed. He then explained that he was filling in as chair as President McGee was on Zoom.

Motion made and seconded to allow Acting Chair McGiverin to chair the meeting.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 1 through 3 as a package.

From Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, supplemental budget.  
---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

From Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, executive summary for supplemental budget.  
---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

From Mayor Joshua A Garcia, Proposal for Ezekiel's Plan: Operation Safe Streets  
---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee. Copy to Public Safety.

Acting Chair McGiverin stated that the Finance Committee would be meeting on November 15th and the review of the supplemental budget could take 2-3 hours. He noted that the mayor informed all department heads impacted by the supplemental budget that they should be ready to attend the Finance meeting. He added that there were important conceptual things to understand. He also stated that the assessors were working on addressing a Munis glitch and were expecting to have numbers certified, allowing the final tax rate to be set in December.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 4 through 6 as a package.

From Atty Michael Bissonnette, Asst City Solicitor, Memo on Optional Municipal Administration Act (MGL Chapter 43C).

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

MCGEE -- Ordered, that the City of Holyoke accepts and adopt the provisions of MGL Chapter 43C entitled "Optional Forms of Municipal Administration."

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

MCGIVERIN -- Ordered, that pursuant to Section 12 of MGL Chapter 43C, the City of Holyoke, acting by and through its City Council and Mayor, creates a Finance Department as provided for in the statute subject to implementation by city ordinance approved with an effective date no later than December 31, 2025.

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

From Community Preservation Committee, Revised scope of work for FY23 CPA Wistariahurst restoration of damaged porch structures project.

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

Councilor Jourdain asked if the rules could be suspended to allow for public comment.

Acting Chair McGiverin stated that for special meetings, only the Mayor or Council President can set the agenda.

Councilor Bartley stated that special meetings do not usually have public comment.

Councilor Jourdain noted that some citizens attended in the hope they'd be allowed to speak.

Acting Chair McGiverin stated that a ruling could be sought but understood that it could not be done for special meetings. He noted that the special meeting was only needed because the regular meeting could not be done due to the election.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order Petition of Amie Matos, street vendor application, 363 Main St

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

Committee Members:

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

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Vacon stated that the petitioner was no longer seeking a different location as listed.

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

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order Special permit application of Blossom Flower LLC at 1 Cabot Street (048-01-010) for a cannabis third party transporter license.

have considered the same and Recommended that the special permit be granted.

Committee Members:

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

**UNDER DISCUSSION:**

Councilor Vacon stated that Ms. Aponte had come before the committee for other permits and that this was to amend to add a transport component to save money and build efficiency at the site.

Councilor Bartley offered a reminder of the important work done to get a genuine investor at 1 Cabot Street, leading to a lot of businesses opening up and bringing in commercial taxes to the city.

---> Report of Committee received and recommendation adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 0--Abstain 1 (Murphy-Romboletti). Councilor Murphy-Romboletti did not vote or participate in discussion of this item.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order That a handicap sign be placed in front of 541/2 Davis St, for Angel Luis Vazquez Natal, Placard # PL5800106.

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 request was revised by the Disabilities Commission and recommended it being adopted.

Councilor Bartley thanked the committee, noting it was pending for a little time and was much needed.

---> 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 13--Nays 0--Absent 0.

Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order That a handicap sign be placed in front of 584 So. Summer St. for Wilfredo Lorenzi, Placard #PL2230484.

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 this was a route request reviewed by the Disabilities Commission.

---> 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 13--Nays 0--Absent 0.

Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that two handicap parking spots be installed at the new park at Kennedy field.

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 this was to provide handicapped parking at the park, and that the Engineer provided measurements for the best spots.

---> 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 13--Nays 0--Absent 0.

Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order to remove a handicap sign from the front of 60 North East St. the person has moved.

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 self-explanatory.

---> 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 13--Nays 0--Absent 0.

Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order to establish a Holyoke Food Coalition by city ordinance.

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 went back and forth on figuring out if the ordinance was needed, and it was determined to be the best idea to put this into ordinance.

Councilor Maldonado Velez stated that he filed this order early in the term and was glad to see it was finally being passed. He emphasized that the city needed a committee like this to work on food justice in the city.

---> 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 13--Nays 0--Absent 0. .  
Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred Zone change application from DR to BC for Jose Almonte at 549-551 South Bridge St (029-08-002) to rebuild convenience store following a recent fire.

have considered the same and Recommended that the zone change be granted.

Committee Members:

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

**UNDER DISCUSSION:**

Councilor Vacon stated that the public hearing was held jointly with the Planning Board, with a fairly large attendance by neighboring abutters. She noted that while it was pointed out this would be a spot zone, it did make sense in certain circumstances. She added that the committee voted unanimously following the testimony provided.

Acting Chair McGiverin commended the committee for a well-run public hearing, working with the Planning Board and the public.

---> 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 13--Nays 0--Absent 0. .  
Approved by the Mayor.

Acting Chair McGiverin invited Councilor Tallman to briefly chair for the purpose of him giving the Finance Committee reports.

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 "FY2023 BJA COMPREHENSIVE OPIOID, STIMULANT, AND OTHER SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM, \$1,000,000, 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 Chief Pratt explained that the 3 year grant that would be split among partners in the city. He then explained that \$217,000 would be used by the Police Department for their Race Street office for the opioid task force, working with those who have substance abuse issues and referring them to needed services. He then stated that the remainder would be split between CHD using it for 3 employees located at Race Street, Gandara using it for recovery coaches at Holyoke Hospital, and UMass using it for analysis of statistics. He added that they would have to submit invoices and document how the funding is spent.

Councilor Bartley expressed a hope that annual reports would come in for this, referencing the ordinance requiring it.

Councilor Rivera\_I expressed a hope that reports would include how many people are served by this funding and be able to discuss it in Public Safety.

Councilor Bartley suggested that was a wise idea to have a follow up discussion in Public Safety.  
---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--  
Yeas 13--Nays 0--Absent 0.  
Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the "FY2023 BJA EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM, \$40,949, 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 the city had been receiving these grants for two decades. He then stated that Chief Pratt explained it would be used for purchasing equipment for the Police Department, including 18 vests. He noted they have a life span of around years. He also stated that two computers would be purchased for the IT Department, and a label printer for some of the analysis the department does  
---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--  
Yeas 13--Nays 0--Absent 0.  
Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That the City appropriate the amount of twelve million, seven hundred eight thousand, seven hundred seventy-five dollars (\$12,708,775) for the purpose of paying costs of the construction at the H.B. Lawrence School for a potential window and door replacement project, at the Lt. Elmer J. McMahon Elementary School for a window and door replacement project, at the Maurice A. Donahue Elementary School for a partial window and door replacement project and at the William J. Dean Vocational Technical High School for a boiler replacement project, (The invitation for the partial window and door replacement project at the Maurice A. Donahue Elementary School is limited to the window section from the original 1973 building.) including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, and for which the City may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of the School Committee. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapters 44, 70B, 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 and the amount of any ESSER reimbursement payments received by the City. FURTHER ORDERED: That the Mayor is authorized to contract for and expend any state aid available for the project; and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project. FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes. Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council

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 Superintendent Anthony Soto and well as their business manager Sean Mangano attended to discuss this, as well as Mayor Garcia and Treasurer, Rory Casey. He then explained that this was like a grant, in that the city would get up to 80% reimbursement for eligible costs. He added that the School Department would use some of their ESSER funds, \$2 million, for this purpose, with the city's share being about \$3.2 million. He then emphasized that these were worthy projects. He noted there was a possibility that this may be able to be funded without borrowing.

Councilor Jourdain emphasized that this was a wonderful opportunity to make these improvements with an effective 90% reimbursement from the state, with local responsibility of only \$1.2 million. He added that this goes along with good news on greater reimbursement for the new middle school building project. He also stated that some of the funding for this could come from savings and help reduce interest costs to the city.

Councilor Bartley noted that the sign at Maurice A. Donahue school was in poor condition with the paint peeling off. He suggested something more appropriate could be put up to honor one of Holyoke's greatest legends, using some of the savings for that.

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

Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2024, THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$300,000) as follows:

FROM:

12101-51107 PATROLMEN \$300,000

TOTAL: \$300,000

TO:

12101-51300 OVERTIME \$300,000

TOTAL: \$300,000

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 Chief Pratt explained that the overtime was primarily for operations, allowing the department to get through the first couple pay periods in the next calendar year. He also stated that of the new officers coming in, two officers coming out of the academy went to other departments while four of them failed academically. He noted they could attempt to get back in. He also stated that four additional officers were in the academy. He also stated that overtime was running at around \$55,000 per pay period, an increase from the previous year but a recent homicide investigation resulted in an extra \$10,000 in overtime.

Councilor Rivera\_I asked if officers receive training before they're put on the streets. He noted that the audit showed there was no training happening.

Councilor McGiverin stated that oftentimes, officers join as a reserve officer and go through ongoing training until space opens up in the academy, where they receive academic and PT training. He suggested reaching out to the chief for more elaborate answers.

Councilor Rivera\_I stated that it would be ideal if that process was taking place but he understood that was not always the case.

---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--  
Yeas 11--Nays 1 (Maldonado Velez)--Absent 1 (McGee).

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, TWO HUNDRED FIFTY SIX THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$256,000) as follows:

FROM:

8811-10400 CAPITAL STABILIZATION \$256,000

TOTAL: \$256,000

TO:

12103-58002 CAPITAL OUTLAY – HPD OTHER EQUIPMENT \$256,000

...-... SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT ...

TOTAL: \$256,000

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 stabilization account was established by Mayor Garcia and had been a great asset to cover capital outlay equipment throughout the year. He then explained that the request would be earmarked to increase the number of cameras in the street, emphasizing that only four of twenty-eight cameras were operating. He also stated that there would be a total of thirty-eight cameras and able to monitor at random times but would be recording at all times for investigation purposes. He then explained that the cameras had a cost of \$6,300 each and would come with waterproof boxes to protect them at about \$400 each. He added that the setup of the new cameras would cost around \$6,700 for the ten new cameras. He also stated that the cost for HG&E to install the fiber would be \$56,700.

Councilor Jourdain expressed strong support of this, emphasizing that the city had a crime problem. He emphatically stated that everything needed to be done to run the criminals out of Holyoke and bring them to justice. He then stated that this would help provide evidence to prosecute them and put them in prison where they belong. He then emphasized that the community expected to be able to walk the streets in safety as the number one priority. He then expressed disappointment that there were twenty-four non-functioning cameras that were only now being addressed. He also expressed a hope that additional cameras could be installed in areas where people were peddling drugs and engaging in other nefarious activities, forcing them to leave Holyoke and go elsewhere. He also noted that this could go hand-in-hand with the ShotSpotter program.

Councilor Bartley noted that getting these kinds of amenities for the city has been through capital stabilization was being talked about for long time, noting that former councilor, Rebecca Lisi, had been a huge advocate for that.

Councilor Vacon asked if the cameras would eventually be moveable with HG&E installing the fiber cables. She also expressed a hope that this could put a stop to illegal guns on the streets.

Councilor Rivera\_I suggested that this was a replay and a road the city has been down before. He noted that he grew up in the neighborhoods where all of this stuff was happening, including partaking in some of the situations back in the day. He noted that when the cameras were initially installed in the Flats, there

was impact in the community. He also stated that while it brought a sense of security, it did not bring safety. He also stated that they in that community knew years ago that the cameras were not working. He also expressed frustration that the city kept going down the same road it had in the past while the same problems had to be dealt with. He then expressed a hope that the city could take a more holistic and preventative approach, emphasizing that this was a way on poverty more than a war on drugs and crime. He also expressed that there was more need for investment in youth programming.

Councilor McGiverin stated that while the cameras could be mobile, the wiring was not mobile. He then stated that he understood the reality of what Councilor Rivera\_I was saying but emphasized that cameras were one tool. He also noted that many of the dealers were coming in from outside of the city and the cameras were a tool to catch them. He then stated that the cameras would be spread out, including covering the gateways coming into the city.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that he had lost a lot of friends to gun violence while being born and raised in the city. He then expressed shock that it took the loss of an unborn child to get this passionate about the issue. He then stated that while he was glad that the mayor had come up with his proposal, he was concerned about the money being spent, adding that he believed it needed to be thought about strategically to ensure the city benefits from the investment without negative impacts. He noted that when the police audit was done, there was alarming stuff. He then stated that the safety plan needed to come with training of officers. He then stated that some people wearing a uniform sometimes take an attitude of feeling superior, emphasizing that it didn't matter what community it was. He also emphasized that he was not calling out any specific officers in Holyoke but stating it as a fact. He also stated that orders proposing a Police Commission needed to be discussed. He suggested that all of these things need to be addressed together to avoid wasting money.

Councilor Maldonado Velez emphasized the importance of Councilor Rivera\_I continuing on the Council for the next two years, providing a lens that many other councilors do not have. He reiterated the previous point that this was a war on poverty. He also suggested that many of the dealers grew up in the community and that the city had failed them at some point.

Councilor Jourdain expressed an expectation that the Ezekiel's Plan safety proposal would receive plenty of scrutiny when discussed in the next Finance meeting.

Councilor McGiverin clarified that while he did bring up Ezekiel's Plan, this order was about invoices for cameras going back to June. He also suggested that the number of non-working cameras was likely not broadcast since cameras can serve a purpose. He also noted that there was no revenue source before to address the cameras.

Councilor Rivera\_I suggested looking into other communities with lower crime rates to see what they were doing, rather than just shooting from the hip. He also reiterated that this solution of cameras had been done before, but questioned how it got the city to the overall end goal.

---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--  
Yeas 10--Nays 2 (Maldonado Velez, Rivera\_I)--Absent 1 (McGee).

Approved by the Mayor.

Acting Chair McGiverin returned to chairing the meeting.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 21 and 22 as a package.

From Atty Crystal Barnes, Meara Law LLC, Proof of Insurance and redline license agreement for Canal Row LLC.  
---> Received.

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order that the City Council approve a license agreement between the City of Holyoke and Canal Row, LLC for the use of a portion of the sidewalk located at the intersection of Race and Middle Streets for the construction of an ADA compliant ramp.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted, contingent on proof of insurance being provided.

Committee Members:

Tessa Murphy-Romboletti  
David K. Bartley  
Joseph McGiverin  
Jenny Rivera\_J  
Linda L. Vacon

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Murphy-Romboletti stated that co-owner, Marco Luzuriaga, as well as his attorney, Crystal Barnes, were in attendance for a lease that would allow the construction of an ADA compliant ramp. He noted that they initially requested an easement, but the Law Department suggested a longer term lease instead. She then explained that their plan for the space was to create coworking office spaces for small businesses, noting the huge demand in the area. She noted that the adoption was contingent on proof of insurance that had since been provided.

Councilor Bartley clarified that it was a license for the ramp, noting that the City Council had the authority to approve anything having to do with real property relative to the city. He also emphasized that the proof of insurance was important in that it indemnified the city as an additional named insured party. He also stated that it sounded like a positive development for that area of the city.

Councilor Jourdain noted that he had been asking multiple times that the ordinance on the website be updated, emphasizing that this ordinance adopted many years earlier had not yet been updated. He then explained that the ordinance should be referenced in the license agreement, expressed concern that the ordinance was reviewed in drafting the license agreement. He also noted that the original license was for two years while the redlined agreement showed it was changed to ten.

Councilor Murphy-Romboletti stated that this was about streamlining the process as they did not believe much would change in two years and it made more sense to go to ten years.

Councilor Jourdain stated that he had a copy of the ordinance at home. He then made a motion that adoption of the license be contingent on the ordinance being reviewed. He then stated that he was unsure if there was a max cap on licenses, noting that there was a 30 day minimum.

Councilor Bartley seconded the motion. He emphasized that the ordinance should be referenced in the agreement. He also noted that Councilor Jourdain had brought up the issues with municode multiple times.

Acting Chair McGiverin asked to clarify the text of the amendment.

Councilor Jourdain stated that the agreement, where it says that the license is being granted subject to Chapter 83, Section 25, that it should also say consistent with an ordinance number that had not yet been recorded in municode. He noted that the ordinance was created because licenses were being granted without a vote of the City Council.

Councilor Bartley asked license could be granted contingent on that or if it had to be tabled.

Acting Chair McGiverin stated that he believed it could be granted but suggested that the Law Department address it.

Councilor Bartley clarified that it should first be ensured that this was in municode. and that the ordinance passed eight years earlier was referenced in the license agreement. He then asked if the Council could take a vote and make it contingent upon the language being specified in the document.

Atty Bissonnette confirmed that he also did not see Chapter 83 listed in the ordinances. He noted that this was the third license he had worked on but was the first time he was hearing that the ordinance existed. He asked if a copy could be made available in order to include the reference in the final agreement.

Councilor Bartley emphasized that the ordinance did exist even though it was not in municode, specifically that it said that licenses, just like any transfers of real property, first must be approved by a majority vote of the City Council.

Atty Bissonnette confirmed that was his understanding as well.

Councilor Bartley reiterated his question on if this could be passed that night contingent on the language being inserted into the agreement.

Atty Bissonnette stated that the Council had the option of either passing it or tabling it.

Councilor Bartley made a motion that it be adopted, with the amended language. Councilor Vacon seconded the motion.

Acting Chair McGiverin expressed his understanding that a planned update of agenda and meeting software would also come with quicker updates of municode.

Councilor Jourdain stated that he had a copy of the ordinance in his archives and would provide it to the Law Department.

Acting Chair McGiverin stated that approving this was a no-brainer as it was approved an ADA ramp.

Motion to amend passed.

---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 11--Nays 0--Absent 2 (McGee, Rivera\_I).

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 City ordinance for property disposition, vote that the City of Holyoke accept the proposal and sell 107 Clemente Street for \$34,700.00 to Housing Innovations and Programming, Inc. (a division of Holyoke Housing Authority). The property is described in the City Assessor Records as Map 028, Block 03, Parcel 002, consisting of approximately 6,534 square feet of vacant land. The property is zoned as Downtown Residential (DR) and has an assessed value of \$34,700.00.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted, contingent on proof of insurance being provided.

Committee Members:

Tessa Murphy-Romboletti  
David K. Bartley  
Joseph McGiverin  
Jenny Rivera\_J  
Linda L. Vacon

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Murphy-Romboletti stated that Matt Mainville, Executive Director of Holyoke Housing Authority, described the proposal for the project would be that they would purchase the parcel for \$34,700 for parking, green space, and amenities for the Beaudry-Boucher Apartments abutting this property. She added that construction was expected to begin in earlier 2024 and would be completed in four months, with a cost of \$105,000. She also stated that the proposal was submitted by a division of HHA called the Housing, Innovations, and Programming, Inc, which was established to allow them to apply for and receive grants through this and other sources of funding.

Councilor Bartley stated that the division would be paying property taxes on the parcel. He also commended Jaime Morrow in Procurement for the way the bid was done. He expressed some disappointment in the lot being used for this purpose when it could have been used for housing such as a duplex, but he recognized the need for this use of the property.

---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 11--Nays 0--Absent 2 (McGee, Rivera\_I).

Acting Chair McGiverin offered a reminder that the Veterans Day ceremony would take place at the War Memorial Building that coming Saturday at 10 a.m. He noted that there would be proclamations for award winners. He also stated that there would be a city employee pot luck would take place at City Hall the following Thursday, November 16th at noon.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM

*Brenna Murphy McLee*

City Clerk