AGENDA FOR THE CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 3, 2024

PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC COMMENT

LAID ON THE TABLE

1. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the Police Department be allowed to hire a Crime Analyst past the Grade 10 mid-range (which is $70,407) to $78,000.
Recommended that the order be adopted.

COMMUNICATIONS

2. From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter appointing Ms. Beverlyn Blanchard of 46 St. Kolbe Dr. to serve on the Library Board of Directors. Ms. Blanchard term will expire Feb. 2025.

3. Fom Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter appointing Mr. Thomas Gilchrist of 26 Dunn Ave to serve on the Library Board of Directors. Mr. Gilchrist term will expire Feb. 2026.

4. From City Clerk Brenna Murphy Leary and Admin. Assistant Jeffery Anderson-Burgos, meeting minutes from November 7, 2024 and November 19, 2024

5. From Don Sanders, Executive Artist Director MIFA, communication regarding the project

6. From HEDIC, Meeting minutes from May 16, 2024

PETITIONS

7. Petition of Marcel Gravel of 54 Commercial St. for a Special Permit for 7.2.13 a Vehicle Repair Shop

8. Petition of Tiago Martins and Jeffrey Dias of 724 Page Blvd Springfield, zone change application from BL to DR at 736 Dwight St. Holyoke

9. Petition of Tiago Martins of 39 Grant St. Ludlow, zone change application from BL to DR at 712-718 Dwight St. Holyoke

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

10. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWENTY NINE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY TWO AND 00/100 Dollars ($29,152.00) as follows:
FROM
11751-51128 OPED-ADMIN ASST $29,152.00

TOTAL $29,152.00
TO
11751-51112 OPED- LICENSING AGENT $29,152.00
TOTAL $29,152.00
Recommended that the order be adopted.

11. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, FORTY NINE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FIFTEEN AND 00/100 Dollars ($49,915.00) as follows:

FROM
8811-10400 CAPITAL STABILIZATION $49,915.00
TOTAL $49,915.00
TO:
14222-52519 R&M PUBLIC LIBRARY $49,915.00
TOTAL $49,915.00
Recommended that the order be adopted.

12. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That the City Forester, DPW Director and Purchasing Director come in to the Finance Committee to discuss the Urban Forestry Grant.
Recommended that the order has been complied with.

MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS

13. DEVINE - ORDERED: That the City Council extend our thanks and appreciation to the Flex Squad for all they do for the city of Holyoke.

14. DEVINE- Ordered, that the City Council subsidize the revenue of the sewer enterprise budget from the tax levy in FY2025 by $927,778 (NINE HUNDRED TWENTY SEVEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY EIGHT AND 00100) and the remainder funded by sewer receipts.

15. DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, NINETEEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY FOUR AND 02/100 Dollars ($19,584.02) as follows:
FROM
12101-51105 SERGEANTS $3,567.68
12101-51107 PATROLMEN 16,016.34
TOTAL $19,584.02
TO
12201-51180 INJURED ON DUTY $19,584.02
TOTAL $19,584.02

16. DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY TWO AND 57/100 Dollars ($7,562.57) as follows:

FROM

12201-51103 CAPTAIN		$3,663.90
12201-51104 LIEUTENANTS		3,142.74
12201-51105 FIREFIGHTERS		755.93
	TOTAL	$7,562.57

TO:

12201-51180 INJURED ON DUTY		$7,562.57
	TOTAL	$7,562.57

17. DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars ($20,000) as follows:

FROM

12201-51105 FIREFIGHTERS		$20,000
	TOTAL	$20,000

TO:

12202-52410 R&M VEHICLES		$20,000
	TOTAL	$20,000

18. DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND 00/100 Dollars ($250,000) as follows:

FROM

12201-51105 FIREFIGHTERS		$250,000
	TOTAL	$250,000

TO:

12201-51300 OVERTIME		$250,000
	TOTAL	$250,000

19. DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, THIRTY THREE THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars ($33,000) as follows:

FROM

14101-51101 PAY-ENGINEER		$19,000
14101-51105 PAY-SR CIVIL ENGINEER		14,000
	TOTAL	$33,000

TO:

14102-53010 PROF ENG SERVICES		$33,000
	TOTAL	$33,000

20. MURPHY-ROMBOLETTI - ordered to amend the approved City Center Liquor License authorization for an expanded area by including a geographical description for the added eligible area in the previously approved home rule petition.

This addition is needed for final submission and approval by the Legislature.

21. BARTLEY - ORDER The DGR committee invite its state delegation to a future DGR meeting pursuant to Rule 9.C. Refer to Rep. Duffy, Sen Velis. Copy to Admin Asst. to notice public.

22. DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWENTY ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY THREE AND 57/100 Dollars ($21,843.57) as follows:

FROM

11461-51125 PAY- ADMIN ASST		$21,843.57
TAX COLLECTOR	TOTAL	$21,843.57

TO:

11461-51107 PAY-REVENUE COLLECTIONS		$21,843.57
SPECIALIST	TOTAL	$21,843.57

23. DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWO THOUSAND SIXTY SIX AND 40/100 Dollars ($2,066.40) as follows:

FROM

12402-54200 PROF OFFICE SUPPLIES		$2,066.40
	TOTAL	$2,066.40

TO:

11382-53410 TELEPHONE USAGE CHARGES		$2,066.40
	TOTAL	$2,066.40

24. DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWELVE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SIXTY FOUR AND 44/100 Dollars ($12,264.44) as follows:

FROM

11351-51106 PROF ACCOUNTANT-HPD		$12,264.44
AUDIT	TOTAL	$12,264.44

TO:

15411-51102 NUTRITION DIRECTOR		$ 913.50
15411-51104 UTILITY PERSON		1,868.76
15411-51105 SOCIAL WORK/VOL COORD		5,803.36
15411-51202 HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDER		1,413.34
15411-51203 DRIVER		2,265.48
COUNCIL ON AGING MOA	TOTAL	$12,264.44

LATE FILED ORDERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Addendum:

Per City Council rule 2B, meeting shall end by 10 PM unless an extension is approved by a two-thirds majority of those present. If any items remain, those items will be added to the beginning of the next regular meeting.

The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the chair which may be discussed at the meeting.

Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law

City Clerk

MAYOR JOSHUA A. GARCIA

CITY OF HOLYOKE

RECEIVED

NOV 20 2024

Holyoke City Clerk's
Holyoke, MA

November 19, 2024

The Honorable City Council
City of Holyoke
Holyoke, MA 01040

Dear Council Members:

Subject to your approval, I hereby appoint the following individual to serve as member on the Library Board of Directors for the City of Holyoke:

Ms. Beverlyn Blanchard
46 St. Kolbe Drive
Holyoke, MA 01040

Ms. Beverlyn will replace Ms. Joan Plummer and will serve the remainder of her term; said term will expire February 2025.

If you have any questions with regards to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (413) 561-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua A. Garcia, Mayor
JAG: nmo

Cc: Beverlyn Blanchard
Maria Pagan

536 DWIGHT STREET • MAYOR'S OFFICE • HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS 01040
PHONE: (413) 561-1600 • FAX: (413) 322-5521 • E-MAIL: garciaj@holyoke.org
Birthplace of Volleyball

MAYOR JOSHUA A. GARCIA
CITY OF HOLYOKE

RECEIVED

NOV 20 2024

Holyoke City Clerk's
Holyoke, MA

November 19, 2024

The Honorable City Council
City of Holyoke
Holyoke, MA 01040

Dear Council Members:

Subject to your approval, I hereby appoint the following individual to serve as member on the Library Board of Directors for the City of Holyoke:

Mr. Thomas Gilchrist
26 Dunn Avenue
Holyoke, MA 01040

Mr. Gilchrist will replace Ms. Tiffany B Curtis and will serve the remainder of her term; said term will expire February 2026.

If you have any questions with regards to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (413) 561-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua A. Garcia, Mayor
JAG: nmo

Cc: Thomas Gilchrist
Maria Pagan

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

November 7, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Murphy-Romboletti at 7:04 PM

The Clerk called the roll. Absent Members: 0 Present Members in person 10 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley, Devine, Givner, Greaney, Jourdain, Magrath-Smith, Murphy-Romboletti, Ocasio, Sullivan). Present Members on Zoom 3 (I. Rivera, J. Rivera, Vacon)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Councilor Devine asked for a moment of silence for Jack McCarthy. She then stated that Mr. McCarthy passes away on September 3rd. She also stated that he had been a 33 year firefighter and had won many awards during that time, included the department’s highest honor, the Walter Scott award. She added that he had been a longtime officer of the Firefighter’s Aid Association, longtime chair of the Holyoke Retirement Board, member of the Section 19 public employee insurance committee, a U.S. Air Force veteran, and had been activated in France during the Berlin crisis.

A moment of silence was observed for Jack McCarthy.

Councilor Greaney asked for a moment of silence for Frank Mooney. He added that Mr. Mooney was a highly decorated Vietnam veteran that passed away a week and a half ago. He added that Mr. Mooney had been a longtime resident of the city and had been a participant in youth sports, helping kids out.

Councilor Devine noted that the name of rank of both Mr. McCarthy as well as Mr. Mooney were displayed at the War Memorial marquee.

A moment of silence was observed for Frank Mooney.

Councilor Bartley presented a volleyball that Admin Asst Anderson-Burgos as well as Councilor Anderson-Burgos worked to have signed by the current year’s inductees into the Volleyball Hall of Fame at the Mayor’s reception. He noted that the tradition had been started 3 years earlier. He then stated that the ball would be displayed in the Council chambers for the year. He then thanked the mayor for inviting councilors to the event. He added that the previous volleyballs were displayed at the Hall of Fame and may be auctioned off for a fundraiser.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated (in jest) that as it was a long agenda and had been a long week, she offered to buy a drink for everyone and sing any karaoke song later that night if the meeting adjourns before 9:30. She then asked that everyone stick to the topics and not debate anything that would be going to a committee.

LAID ON THE TABLE

(8:45)

President Murphy-Romboletti expressed her understanding that there was nothing new on items 1 and 2, and they could remain on the table.

MAGRATH-SMITH - Ordered, that the Director of Economic Development and Planning come into the Finance Sub-Committee to discuss the use of cannabis impact fee funds and future implications for us as a city.
---> Laid on the table.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the Police Department be allowed to hire a Crime Analyst past the Grade 10 mid-range (which is $70,407) to $78,000.
Recommended that the order be adopted.
---> Laid on the table.

Motion was made and seconded to take up item 58 out of order.

Councilor Devine noted that Sarah LaRose was in the audience for the vote on item 58.

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order that a new Community Representative be chosen by City Council to be seated on the Community Preservation Act Committee (CPAC) to replace Franchesca Nunez.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be referred to the full Council.

Committee Members:

Juan Anderson-Burgos
Carmen Ocasio
Howard Greaney, Jr

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that Ms. LaRose spoke during the committee meeting, explaining that she had been a lifelong resident, spent most of her career at Holyoke Gas & Electric, sought to do what she could for the people of the city, and expressed appreciation for the things CPA focused on. He added that one of the main areas she was involved in at HG&E was permitting and had worked closely with a lot of Conservation Commission members.

Councilor Greaney stated that Ms. LaRose was an impressive candidate that he fully supported.

Motion was made and seconded to go to the first ballot for the Community Preservation Committee.

---> Sarah LaRose received 13 votes (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley, Devine, Givner, Greaney, Jourdain, Magrath-Smith, Murphy-Romboletti, Ocasio, Rivera_I, Rivera_J, Sullivan, Vacon) for Community Preservation Committee. Sarah LaRose appointed to the Community Preservation Committee. The term will expire January 31, 2026.

Councilor Bartley asked when she would be sworn in.

President Murphy-Romboletti advised Ms. LaRose to visit the City Cler's office to be sworn in the following day or the next week.

Motion was made and seconded 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, comply with items, or suspend the rules unless there is an objection.

COMMUNICATIONS

(15:05)

From Mayor Joshua Garcia, Veto of October 16, 2024 Agenda Item #54

Councilor Bartley stated that this should go back to the mayor. He then suggested the veto was not procedurally in order and there was no reason for the Council to vote on it.

Councilor Jourdain stated that while he appreciated the spirit of the motion, the mayor had the authority to veto an order. He then asked if the Council adopted the order.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that the order was still in committee.

Councilor Devine asked if item 54 on the agenda was what was being talked about.

Councilor Jourdain clarified that it was item 54 from the previous agenda.
---> Returned to the Mayor

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

From Mayor Joshua Garcia- 2023 Signed MOU HPD RollKall
---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

From Mayor Joshua Garcia- 2021 Signed MOU HPD RollKall

Councilor Jourdain asked if a copy could be circulated to councilors.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that they were already provided. She then asked if it should go to Finance, noting there was an order about RollKall.
---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

From City Councilor David Bartley, article regarding Western Mass Mayors endorsing psychedelic ballot question

Councilor Bartley stated that he believed the article about Holyoke's mayor and West Springfield's mayor supporting the ballot measure would be of interest to the public.
---> Received.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 7 through 16 as a package.

HG&E Industrial Land Project City Council Vote and Resolution December 5, 2001

Councilor Jourdain asked why something from over 20 years ago was being sent.

Admin Asst Anderson-Burgos stated that he believed it was sent as an additional item through a request for a contract.

Councilor Jourdain asked if the Council requested this.

Admin Asst Anderson-Burgos stated that it was related to a contract that was requested.

Councilor Bartley stated that he requested it, and would explain it in more detail to anyone interested offline, in keeping an interest in moving the meeting along.
---> Received.

From HEDIC, Meeting Minutes from July 25, 2024 and Executive Minutes from December 12, 2023, February 1, 2024 and February 29, 2024 Executive Meeting Minutes from February 1, 2024
---> Received.

From HEDIC, Annual Meeting Report from July 1-June 30.
---> Received.

From HEDIC- Economic Development Plan HEDIC - HG&E
---> Received.

From HPD - FY24 MUNICIPAL ROAD SAFETY PROGRAM - GRANT COMPLETION
---> Received.

From HPD - FY24 STATE 911 DEPARTMENT TRAINING PROGRAM - GRANT COMPLETION
---> Received.

From Local Historic District, Meeting Minutes from August 22, 2024 and September 26, 2024
---> Received.

From DESE- Holyoke Public Schools 2024 exit announcement Spanish
---> Received.

From DESE- Communication regarding Holyoke Public Schools 2024 exit announcement English
---> Received.

HPD - OffDutyBlue Services Agreement
---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee. (Initially voted to be received,)

Anniversary Hill Park Trail & Utility Corridor Contract Documents

Councilor Devine noted that the document was 260 pages.

President Murphy-Romboletti asked councilors to speak to the administrative assistant if they want printed copies of it, noting it would be over 3,000 pages if they were printed for everyone.
---> Received and referred to the Development and Governmental Relations Committee.

PETITIONS

(24:05)

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 18 through 20 as a package.

Petition from Erin Kelly of 123 Homestead Ave for a renewal of a Home Occupation
---> Received and Adopted.

Petition Daniel LiBoissonnault of 267 Southampton Rd for a renewal of a Home Occupation
---> Received and Adopted.

Petition from John McCann or 415 Ingleside St. for a renewal of a Home Occupation

Councilor Jourdain asked that these types of agenda items include the type of business in the future.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that one of the petitions was for a yoga studio, one was for a plant-based cheese business, and another was for a yoga studio.
---> Received and Adopted.

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

Petition of Daniel Laflamme, a Special Permit application to operate a Motor Vehicle Repair Garage at 41 Temple St.
---> Received and referred to the Development and Governmental Relations Committee.

Petition of 846 Grow Inc for an extension of a Marijuana Cultivation and Manufacturing Establishment at 360 Race St.
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(28:10)

President Murphy-Romboletti congratulated Admin Asst Anderson-Burgos on completing the New York City Marathon with a time of 3:39:53.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos noted that was a better time than Sebastian Yatra.

President Murphy-Romboletti thanked everyone in the Clerk's office and all of the poll workers for their work on Election Day.
She then stated that the mayor was hosting a meeting for all city committees to discuss policies and review Open Meeting Law.
She then stated that Veterans Day would be the following Monday, with the War Memorial Building hosting the ceremony at 10 AM.
She also stated that the mayor was hosting a pre-Thanksgiving potluck in City Hall on November 14th at noon.
She also stated that the Senior Citizen Christmas Party hosted by the Police Department would be on December 3rd at Wyckoff. She noted they were looking for donations to support the event.
She added that the tree lighting ceremony and Parade of Lights would be held on December 7th.
She also stated that the City Hall staff holiday party would be held at Pic's on December 20th.
She also announced that the Tourism Advisory Committee was approved to hold their November 19th meeting at 4 PM.
She also stated that she was working with the Assessor's office and Auditor's office to set the date for the tax rate vote. She suggested it would likely be before a meeting. She noted it had to be done before December 7th.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(32:45)

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 23 through 29 as a package.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order With community support and in service of our museum goers, order that Wistariahurst museum patron parking signs be added from handicap spaces on Beech to Cabot st, creating no less than 3 designated museum parking spaces in addition to existing handicap spaces.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:
President Murphy-Romboletti relayed a message from the administrative assistant that this item would need to be tabled as it was the wrong order.

Councilor Givner stated that she believed there was a communication from the Law Department with the correct wording.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that the order itself was wrong.
---> Laid on the table.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that upon constituent request, that a stop sign be placed at the corner of where Larkin and Willow St. meet.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor I. Rivera stated that the interim city engineer attended the meeting and spoke on several traffic orders filed over the last year or more, providing data and research. He then explained that items 24 through 29 were recommended to be adopted.

Councilor Bartley stated that there had been some initial confusion but noted Councilor Vacon was able to save the day on it.
---> Report of Committee received and the Ordinance passed its first reading.
The Ordinance passed its second reading.
The Ordinance was passed to be enrolled.
The Committee has considered the same and find that it is truly and properly enrolled.
Report of Enrollment received.
The Ordinance was passed to be Ordained and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 13--Nays 0--Absent 0.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order The DPW and City Engineer provide an opinion as to whether a "do not block the box" can be installed on Northampton St. at Longwood Ave. This is a multiple constituent request.

have considered the same and Recommended that the engineer's report to add striping in the northbound lane be adopted.

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Bartley commended DPW for their work on this, noting that they had already painted the

striping.
---> 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.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order With community support, that a 4 way stop be created at Oak and Essex streets due to safety issues including visibility and speeding.

have considered the same and Recommended that the engineer's report to install stop signs on Oak Street at Essex be adopted.

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

---> 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.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the DPW Engineer evaluate Upland Street and recommend the placement of no parking signs at the crest of the hill to improve safety due to line of sight limitations on the street.

have considered the same and Recommended that the engineer's report to add no parking zone be adopted.

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

---> 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.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order That speed humps be installed on Bemis Rd.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

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

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the city engineer provide the final locations for speed bumps on Bemis.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

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

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 30 and 31 as a package.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that a stop sign be placed at the corner of Maginnis Ave and Apremont Hwy.

have considered the same and Recommended that the engineer's report to not install stop sign be adopted.

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor I. Rivera stated that the interim engineer provided a document explaining why she came to her conclusions. He then explained that the crash data did not warrant a sign based on the criteria. He then stated that part of the discussion focused on the need for more studies to be done to ensure there was enough data gathered.
---> Report of Committee received and Recommendation Adopted.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the no parking signs in front of and across from 24 Sydney Ave be removed. This is a constituent request.

have considered the same and Recommended that the engineer's report to not remove signs be adopted.

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor I. Rivera stated these signs were established by ordinance in the past due to the road being a narrow, dead end street and removing the signs would made it difficult for emergency vehicles.
---> Report of Committee received and Recommendation Adopted.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 32 through 44 as a package.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order to request the installation of a three-way stop at the intersection of Chestnut and Suffolk Street, or offer a safety recommendation. Recent incidents of accidents and near-misses in the vicinity highlight the urgent need for enhanced traffic control measures in this area.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order has been complied with, and be referred to the Mayor to budget for traffic engineering studies when warranted, and refer to the DPW to implement striping and move stop sign.

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera

Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor I. Rivera stated that the interim engineer's document outlined their work and that they had been complied with or were in the process of getting done.

Councilor Bartley noted that a lot of these orders had to do with speeding or trucks in neighborhoods as a chronic problem.
---> Report of Committee received and Recommendation Adopted.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that Kennedy Circle be added to Ordinance Sec. 86-325. - Schedule IV: Stop streets so that a permanent stop sign can be placed. This is a request from the interim engineer indicating that a stop sign is warranted.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

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

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order That DPW purchase six to ten of the rubber/portable speed bumps and put them in trouble spots temporarily around the city and move them randomly. DPW Director and/or City Engineer will decide safe placement.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

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

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that a stop sign be added on the left side of Pine Street when approaching Cabot.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

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

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order With community support, order that No truck signs be placed at beginning, end, and along Beacon street as needed to avoid tractor trailers from using this neighborhood as a pass through for deliveries. Residents complain of noise and difficulty navigating on Beacon St. while tractor trailers are attempting to pass through.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

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

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order The City of Holyoke adopt an ordinance where "no truck" signs and other informational signage can be legally posted to help the motoring public. The impetus of the proposed ordinance is to alert truckers not to enter into thickly settled neighborhoods which is currently happening in Elmwood Heights due to GPS directions. The purpose of the ordinance is not to violate any federal or state traffic laws or standards but to simply inform truck drivers not to turn down the posted street. There may well be other informational needs. Just for background: The city management currently not allow such signage.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

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

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order That a "don't block the box" be painted in front of 403 Main Street to help prevent peaking in front of and blocking of fire hydrant.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

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

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order That a no parking zone be created
Location Waldo St.
Side Westerly
From Beacon Ave.
To A point 64 feet further north
Type Parking No parking Mondays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

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

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order That the City Engineer come to a Public Safety Committee meeting to discuss the possibility of making Corser St one way traffic.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith

David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

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

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that we make Samosett Street a one way heading east.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor I. Rivera stated that an order would need to be filed to get a study done to get this work done.
---> Report of Committee received and Recommendation Adopted.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order Collaborative order to create “don’t block the box” painting and signage to accommodate traffic flow on Beech St at CVS entrance/exit.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor I. Rivera stated that they were working on getting this one done.

Councilor Bartley stated while the order was fine, he had concerns about the recommendation for a possible rotary. He noted it would require chopping off part of the park. He then suggested that MassDOT was rotary-crazy and was installing them everywhere.

Councilor Givner pointed out that while she did not agree with going rotary-crazy, they were low maintenance, no lights, and could calm traffic in some instances because drivers could not run through them.
---> Report of Committee received and Recommendation Adopted.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the city engineer & DPW explore converting Samoset! St. into a one way, bus lines for Kelly school be painted, and that parking be for one side of the street being that other is comprised of driveways.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

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

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the Ordinance Committee discuss alternatives to address vehicles parking in front of driveways. Although there is a city wide ordinance addressing the matter, it is often ignored and creates inconvenience to residents when enforcement takes time.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

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

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order With community support, that all one way streets include a stop sign on both even and odd sides of the street's corner on approach to a stop.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor I. Rivera stated that they concluded it was not cost effective to have another sign in all these places and was not customary. He added that the DPW could do, but it was not normally seen.

Councilor Givner stated that there were 60 intersections that would need it if it was to be done consistently everywhere.
---> Report of Committee received and Recommendation Adopted.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order At the request of the Lyman Terrace, the Resident Association requested that Front Street be made into a one-way street.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor I. Rivera stated the engineer explained they would need more data to explore this. He added that if there was a problem around traffic and parking, they could ask the police to monitor it more.

Councilor Magrath-Smith recalled that the conversation also focused on issues with people parking too close to the end of the street, and there was a suggestion with moving stop lines closer to the end versus being farther back. She added they also discussed relining no parking areas at the end of streets to make it easier for drivers to see oncoming traffic.

Councilor I. Rivera noted that went along with gathering more data and having studies done.
---> Report of Committee received and Recommendation Adopted.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that a stop sign be considered on Suffolk at the intersection with Chestnut. Cancers have been reported about accidents and near accidents due to parked cars preventing drivers on Chestnut from seeing vehicles traveling on Suffolk until they are already pulling into the intersection.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor I. Rivera stated that this was part of the DPW attempting to repaint lines closer to corners to try to reduce accidents, before attempting other traffic calming measures.
---> Report of Committee received and Recommendation Adopted.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order That speed humps be placed on South Summer St. Petition attached.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor I. Rivera stated the engineer cited the data showing there were not enough accidents and traffic to warrant it. He then stated that Councilor Ocasio reported there was a significant amount of traffic traveling on that street speeding from stop sign to stop sign. He noted that the engineer suggested people would speed from speed hump to speed hump as well. He then stated the committee decided they could try to find another way to address the issue.
---> Report of Committee received and Recommendation Adopted.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order Petition for Speed hump at Argyle Ave.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be referred to the Board of Public Works.

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor I. Rivera stated that the engineer explained data would need to be collected to determine the 85th percentile of speeds to determine the traffic going 30 mph or under. He added that they would need to obtain funding to collect the data as well as for covering the cost of speed humps.
---> Report of Committee received and Recommendation Adopted.

(1:01:30)

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, THIRTY THREE THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars ($33,000) as follows:
FROM:
14101-51101 PAY-ENGINEER $19,000
14101-51105 PAY-SR CIVIL ENGINEER 14,000
TOTAL: $33,000
TO:
14102-53010 PROF ENGINEERING SERVICES $33,000
TOTAL: $33,000

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

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Kocayne Givner
Michael Sullivan
Kevin A. Jourdain
Carmen Ocasio

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Devine stated that this was the usual 2 month payment for the interim engineer.
---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 1 (Bartley)--Absent 0.

Councilor Devine made a motion to reconsider the previous action on item 16, noting it should go to Finance. Councilor Anderson-Burgos seconded the motion. Motion adopted.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 51 and 104 as a package.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, THIRTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars ($30,000) as follows:
FROM:
11211-51104 MAYOR - CAFO $30,000
TOTAL: $30,000
TO:
11611-51210 ELECTIONS OFFICERS $30,000
TOTAL: $30,000

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

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Kocayne Givner
Michael Sullivan

Kevin A. Jourdain
Carmen Ocasio

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Devine stated that this would cover the cost of the special election, including poll workers, ballots, and electronic machines.
---> 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.

Murphy-Romboletti- That the city council approve and take final action on the attached amended act establishing an appointed treasurer for the City of Holyoke. The amended petition provides that while the provision of the special act regarding an appointed treasurer would not go into effect until approved by the voters, the provision of the special act allowing the City to hold a special election would go into effect upon the Governor's signature.

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to allow the president to address the item.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that she was informed by the state representative that the House counsel advised that the Council would need to add in language allowing the ballot question to go into effect as soon as the governor signed it. She added that it was more of a logistical matter and would not change anything else about what the Council already passed.

Councilor Jourdain stated that he had one question but was already able to get the Law Department to address it and was in support of the order.
---> Received and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 0--Abstain 1 (Anderson-Burgos).

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 "FY2025 STATE 911 DEPARTMENT SUPPORT & INCENTIVE GRANT, $306,443, NO MATCH" grant and authorizes the establishment of a Fund or other method appropriate for the accounting of the receipts and expenditures of all resources associated with the administration of said grant.
Sec 2-509 - Grant Reporting
Any city department, of which has received grant funding by approval of the city council pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, or any other authorizing criteria, shall within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 60 days from the conclusion of said grant, generate a detailed report which outlines the planned outcomes with the documented actual results. Said report shall be submitted to the city clerk for addition to the city council's next agenda.

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

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Kocayne Givner
Michael Sullivan

Kevin A. Jourdain
Carmen Ocasio

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Devine stated the grant for the Police Department would be used to improve and support the dispatch center to make it more efficient and effective. She added that it would go for enhanced 9-1-1, telecommunications, personnel costs, as well as mobile behavioral crisis response.
---> 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.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the DPW Director and Conservation Director provide an update either in writing or in person as to the progress made in implementing the Urban Forestry Grant monies for 24-25.

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

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Kocayne Givner
Michael Sullivan
Kevin A. Jourdain
Carmen Ocasio

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Devine stated that the grant was to lease a stump grinder, but they had since learned the stump grinder could not be leased but had to be purchased. She then explained the Procurement office would be investigating shared purchasing agreements. She added that the order was filed to have a discussion with everyone connected to the contract.

Councilor Magrath-Smith stated that the contract had been bandied around since it was approved 8 months earlier, and there had not been progress. She emphasized that she, as well as many other councilors, had received calls about getting trees removed, but they could not yet be until this was taken care of. She then stated that another order would be filed to figure out a way to move forward.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 13--Nays 0--Absent 0.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order the Treasurer along with key people, please provide an update on progress and next steps for converting to self-insurance to provide health insurance for city employees. Please also review with the City Council the calculations on how the FY 25 insurance budget was calculated. Refer to Finance Committee

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

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Kocayne Givner

Michael Sullivan
Kevin A. Jourdain
Carmen Ocasio

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Devine stated that City Treasurer, Rory Casey, as well as the brokers, Steve Corbin and Maureen O'Connell, joined for this discussion. She then explained that the Council adopted the acts that allowed for a health insurance and dental trust. She then stated that a document was provided that provides a lot of great, detailed information about the trust agreement. She also commended Councilor Jourdain and Councilor Sullivan for asking a lot of great questions.

Councilor Vacon stated that the update was complete, and she was happy to hear about the progress on the endeavor.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

(1:17:05)

The Committee on Public Safety to whom was referred an order that the Building department come to the Public Safety committee to discuss the new inspection initiative for 3+ family homes and the implications for owners. A general notice to owners should be published on Building dept and City Council website inviting them to attend the meeting if they wish to give feedback.

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

Committee Members:

Jenny Rivera
Israel Rivera
Patricia Devine

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Devine stated that the order was filed because of the confusion about 3+ family homes. She then stated that they acknowledged some mistakes were made, some people didn't get letters while others did, and others ignored the letters. She added that Atty Mantolesky, interim Building Commissioner, Leslie Ward, as well as Mayor Garcia participated in the discussion. She then commended the members of the public representing the concerns of the homeowners for knowing their stuff, asking great questions, and illustrating controlled anger in the interest of getting to the bottom of what was going on. She then explained that if everything was in order, people should reach out to the Building Department for an inspection, but if they had questions about fines, they should reach out to the Law Department. She then suggested that everyone appeared to have gotten their questions answered.

Councilor Jourdain commended Councilor Devine and Councilor Bartley for their leadership on this issue, steering the Council's response and supporting the property owners. He then acknowledged that there was a balance between carrot and stick when enforcing rules and regulations, fining when it was necessary but not having it be a money grab that buries people. He then expressed concern about horror stories he heard from people such as someone being hit with a $91,000 fine. He then expressed support for ideas being discussed, such as waiving and reducing of fines, or placing moratoriums on them. He added that the focus should be placed on real slumlords. He also expressed a need to correct the record, noting that misinformation going around was throwing the Council under the bus. He then explained that the Council adopted the state building code in 2012, which had been recommended by the Building Department. He added that the ordinance stated that if people were not complying with the order of the Building Commissioner, they were subject to a fine, but it was in the discretion of the Building Commissioner to determine who was not complying. He also stated that the ordinance also stated that the fine was not to exceed $300 a day, but it did not require it to be $300 a day. He then refuted claims that the Council created rules requiring people to be hit with these fines.

Councilor Givner stated that the meeting led to more clarity about what people should do when they were receiving fines or if they had questions about what they needed to repair and what they were responsible for. She noted that the original letters weren't really clear. She then encouraged people with questions to contact Leslie Ward directly.

Councilor Devine commended Ms. Ward for the information she provided. She then explained that the committee agreed to review this again in 3 months to see where things were at. She added that they emphasized to people that they should not ignore their mail.

Councilor Bartley expressed disbelief that the mayor would issue a veto about an order in committee. He then recalled that the mayor suggested this was all about Neighbor2Neighbor and had also alluded to something about the Flex Squad, both of which were not true. He added that it was also claimed that the former Building Commissioner approved the $300 a day fines, adding that he had asked for that to be provided in writing. He then expressed frustration that the former Building Commissioner would be thrown under the bus like that and expressed doubt that would have happened. He then noted he had a couple orders in Ordinance to try to address this in a more efficient and collaborative way. He then reiterated Councilor Jourdain's point that the fines were discretionary. He also noted that the mayor had already put on the city website that the city had a receivable for $27 million in fines. He added that he beloved the administration rolled it out in a disastrous way and was not trying to backpedal. He then emphasized that everyone wanted to ensure people had safe and decent housing, but that could be achieved without dropping the hammer on people.
---> Report of Committee received and Recommendation Adopted.

(1:32:40)

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Mayor Joshua Garcia, appointment of Vanessa Santiago to the Parks and Recreation Commission

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

Committee Members:

Juan Anderson-Burgos
Carmen Ocasio
Howard Greaney, Jr

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that Ms. Santiago graduated from Holyoke Public Schools and participated in youth softball leagues and other school events. He then stated that she was interested in

serving on the Commission to help give kids the same opportunities she had growing up in Holyoke.
---> Report of Committee received and appointment confirmed.

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter appointing Mr. Jose L. Maldonado Velez of 75 Linden St to serve as a Commissioner on the Holyoke Housing Authority. Mr. Maldonado Velez will finish out the term of Ms. Gladys Lebron-Martinez which will expire on April 1, 2029.

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

Committee Members:

Juan Anderson-Burgos
Carmen Ocasio
Howard Greaney, Jr

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that Mr. Maldonado Velez had a lot of people helping people who were having issues with housing. He added that he believed Mr. Maldonado Velez was a strong fit for this role.

Councilor Devine stated that she was happy to see Mr. Maldonado Velez appointed to this role, emphasizing that was where his passion lied. She added that she believed he would be terrific and was glad this door opened for him.

Councilor Greaney stated that Ms. Maldonado Velez was a good candidate for this.

Councilor I. Rivera stated as someone who grew up in Holyoke Housing, he appreciated seeing someone he knew from the community as good representation.
---> Report of Committee received and appointment confirmed.

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order The Veterans Services department head look to expanding the number of signs on Holyoke's Purple Heart Trail. Refer to Veterans Services Dept, War Memorial Commission and refer to Public Service for a follow-up.

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

Committee Members:

Juan Anderson-Burgos
Carmen Ocasio
Howard Greaney, Jr

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that Veterans Services Director, Jorge Santiago, as well as War Memorial Commissioner, Laddy Rua, attended the meeting for this item. He then stated that Mr. Santiago's predecessor, Jesus Perreira, worked on the Purple Heart Trail, which went into South Hadley

and all the way to Southampton along Route 202. He added that they were looking to expand the signage and have more opportunities to have sponsor members from veterans in the city to sponsor and put up new signage. He also stated that the War Memorial Commission believed they should display what veterans had done for the benefit of families and to preserve the history. He emphasized that veterans could not be thanked enough and this was just scratching the surface.

Councilor Greaney stated that the committee was fully in support.

Councilor Bartley stated that it was suggested that the city website include information about the veterans featured on the Purple Heart Trail.

Councilor Greaney stated that the beauty was giving a personal touch for the families.
---> Report of Committee received and Recommendation Adopted.

(1:39:10)

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order to declare Holyoke Assessors Parcel 030-08-004, 285 Main Street, Holyoke, MA as surplus property and sell to abutter, Johnna Caizan-Torres with an address of 10215 Jamaica Avenue, Apartment 2L, Richmond Hill, NY 11418, for $15,000.00. This property is valued under $35,000.00 and therefore exempt from procurement requirements.

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

Committee Members:

Kocayne Givner
Michael Sullivan
Carmen Ocasio
Juan Anderson-Burgos
Patricia Devine

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Givner stated that Ms. Caizan-Torres intended to fence off the lot and use it for parking, noting that she also owned the building next door. She added that Ms. Caizan-Torres was planning to renovate the building next door and either live in it or renting it out. She added that the plan was for a 2 year turnaround on developing both the building and the lot.

Councilor Bartley stated that he was impressed with Ms. Caizan-Torres, noting she paid cash for the building as well as for the lot. He added that this would be a win for the lot and for the city.

Councilor I. Rivera asked if she talked about her experience in development.

Councilor Givner stated that Ms. Caizan-Torres had not but was hiring contractors to do the work.

Councilor I. Rivera asked if a lot of the stuff was already in motion.

Councilor Givner stated that interior work was already being worked on, including having already worked on the roof and were working on safety things.

Councilor I. Rivera stated that he wanted to make sure they had plans to do something with it in the foreseeable future.

Councilor Givner stated that it did not sound like the plan was to be a real estate mogul but turn it into a lot for the building next door. She added that it was too small to build on according to the Planning Department.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (J. Rivera).

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 61 and 62 as a package.

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order DPW and the HFD Alarm Division come into city council to provide a status update on the X-walk improvement plan and Traffic signal improvement at Elmwood Towers on South St. I recently heard from an HPD Sgt. – who has been tremendously helpful in mitigating the problems – who advises the parts are in and work should soon commence. Refer to DGR and/or send a communication to the CC Admin. Asst. asap.

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

Committee Members:

Kocayne Givner
Michael Sullivan
Carmen Ocasio
Juan Anderson-Burgos
Patricia Devine

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Givner stated that this was complied with because the work was done.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order DPW and the HFD Alarm Division come to the city council to provide a status update on the X-walk improvement plan at the main gate of Holyoke C.C. on Homestead Ave. Please also invite a representative from the College. (I'll figure that part out with the CC President, DGR Chair and Admin. Asst.) I've lost count of the number of times I've filed an order relative to this. I can find emails going back to 2017 (at a minimum).

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

Committee Members:

Kocayne Givner

Michael Sullivan
Carmen Ocasio
Juan Anderson-Burgos
Patricia Devine

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Givner stated that this had been in the works for some time. She added that plans had been submitted and approved around 7 years earlier, but the funding was unclear. She added that the bids were coming in too high, so the city pumped the brakes on it. She also stated that as this was a state road, the city may qualify for state funding for this.

Councilor Bartley stated that nobody was happy with this. He then stated the money had been in place. He added that the Alarm Division had the equipment. He then explained that this would add a massive safety component to the area, but MassDOT needed to approve it, and funding needed to be found to construct the crosswalk. He noted that while there had been funding, it never got done. He then stated that he would work with Rep Duffy and Councilor Anderson-Burgos, as Rep Duffy's aide, along with State Senator Velis on next steps. He noted that item 88 later on the agenda would seek to ordain the crosswalk.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

(1:51:05)

The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order Under City Council rules, please add the following: New Rule: Every 2 years after being sworn in, the City Council President shall set the seating arrangements of the City Council. Consideration shall be taken for any legitimate handicap preference.

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

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith
Linda L. Vacon
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Magrath-Smith stated that this was an attempt to come up with a way to avoid the conflict that came up at the beginning of the term. She added that they sought to find ways to make it fair and avoid the appearance of the assigning of seats being weaponized or heavy-handed. She then explained that the rule would be that seats would be drawn by random lot.

Councilor Jourdain commended the committee for their thoughtful approach to this and being sensitive to everyone's consideration.

Councilor Vacon stated that good dialogue and frank discussion allowed the committee to come up with a win-win for the Council.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order that City Council Rule 9H be amended and re-worded in order to make the process of changing or updating an ordinance a smoother process.

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

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith
Linda L. Vacon
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Magrath-Smith stated there were several discussions that informed her effort to rewrite in in a way that kept language that needed to remain while addressing parts that were causing issues or lacked clarity of process. She noted that while it was not shorter as had been one of her goals, it was clearer on who drafted ordinances and who was approving on certain timeframes. She noted there was an order to address another rule that was impacted by this change.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 65 and 76 as a package.

The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order that the City Council adopt a rule to establish a two-year legislative term. Any orders pending in committee or not acted on by the end of the legislative term must be re-filed at the start of the subsequent legislative term.

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

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith
Linda L. Vacon
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Magrath-Smith stated that this would create a two year legislative term. She emphasized that terms were often starting with several orders in committee, noting Ordinance had over 80 orders in the jacket, for example. She then explained that this was to make committees more effective and streamline the process to sunset items between terms. She noted there would be exceptions for legal requirements such as statutory timelines. She added that there would also be an exception for requests by reelected councilors to continue orders to the subsequent terms. She noted that this change triggered a need to change Rule 4D to avoid a conflict of rules.

Councilor Devine recalled that prior to her returning to the Council, there was a rule that matters could be taken up in Finance or Ordinance, but nothing else. She then asked if that would change so that the full Council could take up items from other committees.

Councilor Jourdain clarified that was a separate issue, noting that there was a rule that an Ordinance or a Finance meeting could be held in the middle of a meeting, but none of the other committees. He then explained that this would create a process where anything left in the jackets would be wiped out at the end of a term other than when there was a legal requirement to keep items or if a reelected councilor made the request to the committee or the administrative assistant.

Councilor Greaney asked if a councilor that was not reelected could request an order be kept alive.

Councilor Jourdain stated they would need to have another councilor refile it.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

Magrath-Smith, Vacon, Murphy-Romboletti,- Ordered, that Rule 4D be changed from "All items previously tabled in Committee shall be included on each subsequent Committee Agenda until voted out of Committee by a majority thereof or until removed from Committee by a 2/3 vote of the full Council" to "All items previously tabled in Committee shall be included on each subsequent Committee Agenda until voted out of Committee by a majority thereof, until removed from Committee by a 2/3 vote of the full Council, or until the end of the two year legislative term subject to the process named in Rule 4G."
---> Received and Adopted.

The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order that Rule 9P be amended so that items not acted on in committee jackets become deemed tabled after 45 "business" days.

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

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith
Linda L. Vacon
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Magrath-Smith stated that a legal opinion was provided that the change was fine to make it 45 business days. She noted that part of the conversation focused on asking if this rule was working and was it needed. She suggested someone could file an order to explore that question more. She added that the summer recess also made this a little tricky.

Councilor Devine made a motion to amend the rule change so clarify that the rule was emphasizing “business” days on two parts of the rule.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order From Assistant City Solicitor Jane Mantolesky- legal opinion rule 9P

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

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith
Linda L. Vacon
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti

---> Received.

ORDERS AND TRANSFERS

(2:06:20)

Givner- Ordered he DPW install a Handicap sign for Estela Acosta 171 Beech St.
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

Jourdain- Ordered, that following boards and commissions under the jurisdiction of the Planning & Economic Development appear to have very tardy minutes reporting on-line that need to be updated by November 14, 2024. HEDIC has no minutes since February 29, 2024. HRA last reported minutes on October 18, 2023. Historical Commission missing back to November 13, 2023. License Commission no minutes or packets filed for prior 2 years. Board of Appeals no minutes reported for 2021-2024. No agendas filed for 2022 and Jan-July 2023. Were BOA meetings held in conformance with open meeting law during this time period? Planning Board has only one set of minutes published in 2023-2024. Historical District Commission last reported minutes were on October 12, 2023. Biking and Pedestrian Committee last reported on December 5, 2022. The Open Meeting Law requires public bodies to create and approve minutes in a timely manner. A "timely manner" is considered to be within the next three public body meetings or 30 days from the date of the meeting, whichever is later, unless the public body can show good cause for further delay. If they can please update these online records and report back to the Council when order has been complied with.
---> Received and Adopted. Copy to OPED.

Magrath-Smith, Anderson-Burgos-Ordered, that the City Engineer and DPW address additional signage that could be added to Parker Street in order to clarify the speed limit and encourage safe driving.
---> Received and Adopted.

Magrath-Smith, Jourdain - Ordered that the City Solicitor, Auditor, and Treasurer develop and present a clear policy regarding the use of the remaining collected cannabis fees, outlining a process for billing hours to the cannabis fund for work done by city employees connected to cannabis-related activities, such as:
1. Inspections of cannabis businesses
2. Processing of licensing and excise payments for cannabis businesses
3. Cannabis-related educational programming in schools
4. Safe driving and DUI prevention campaigns related to cannabis use also develop and present guidance on the use of cannabis fees for capital improvements or equipment (including related labor costs to support those projects and purchases) that is consistent with offsetting the impact of cannabis-related activities.

---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee. Copy to Solicitor, Auditor, Treasurer.

Magrath-Smith, Jourdain - Ordered that the City Solicitor develop and present a clear policy regarding acceptable fees that can be levied against future cannabis businesses related to concrete, specific

impacts of cannabis businesses where they exist.
---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

Magrath-Smith, Jourdain - Ordered that the HR Director come into Finance to present which HR functions are being completed by which Departments, Commissions, or Boards with a goal of seeking out areas where we can become more consistent or streamline processes and positions in the future with the goal of enhancing a more centralized HR function in our city.
---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

Magrath-Smith, Jourdain - Ordered that the HR Director and Interim Police Chief come into Council to discuss the positive and negative impacts of our policy of swearing in police officers prior to their finishing the Police Academy. We request that the HR Director provide a regional comparison to other towns and cities to see if we are following best practice.
---> Received and referred to the Public Safety Committee.

Magrath-Smith- Ordered, that Rule 9J be edited to remove the first two sentences, so that it reads, "If legal form is not provided 48 hours prior to the meeting, upon objection of any member of the City Council, the matter will be tabled until the next meeting."
---> Received and referred to the Charter and Rules Committee.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 77 and 78 as a package.

Murphy-Romboletti- Ordered that the law department provide a legal opinion on the number of votes required to make transfers from a special stabilization fund.
---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

Murphy-Romboletti- In an effort to provide clarity for all councilors and the public, ordered that the law department provide guidance or a memo that outlines the number of votes required for different items related to finance, ordinances, real estate and other relevant voting topics.
---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

Ocasio- the DPW install a handicap sign for Hector Torres at 184 Sargeant St.
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

Vacon, Givner, Ocasio- ORDER: that the city engineer provide draft language for a formal program to prioritize and schedule placement of speed humps and recommend other traffic calming/safety interventions based on data collected from speed data collection via tubes or radar. That additional traffic speed data collection units be purchased as needed for the program.
Establish a method for seeking traffic safety/calming recommendations so that citizens can request measures for improvements to neighborhood traffic issues before completing a petition for a speed hump or raised crosswalk.
Please include police department input for the enforcement component.
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

Vacon- ORDER: that consideration be made to adopt the changes available under the HERO Act for Veteran Property tax exemptions: whether to adopt Clause I or Clause J or both clauses simultaneously.
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

Vacon- ORDER: that we add Clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, 22F, and 22H of the Hero's Act to expand benefits for veterans.
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 83, 84, and 87 as a package.

Anderson-Burgos- The DPW install a handicap sign for Yolanda Gonzalez at 50 Arthur St.
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee. Copy to Disabilities Commission.

Anderson-Burgos- Order the DPW install a Handicap sign for Rebecca Ganieary of 322 Linden St.
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee. Copy to Disabilities Commission.

Bartley- The DPW install a handicap sign for Yulitza Diaz Garcia of 45 Congress Ave
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee. Copy to Disabilities Commission.

Anderson-Burgos - Resolution that the Holyoke City Council, which represents the greatest number of Puerto Ricans per capita than any other community in the country outside the island, votes to condemn the "floating island of garbage" statement made at the political rally of a candidate seeking to represent every American - including those who live in and come from Puerto Rico. This statement was insulting, ignorant, and dismissive of the culture and contributions of Puerto Ricans.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that as this was his resolution, he was seeking advice of others. He then asked if the resolution needed to be attached to the order before sending it to committee.

President Murphy-Romboletti suggested that a resolution could be presented when it gets taken up in committee.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up Late File 105 with 85 as a package.

Councilor Jourdain noted that the mayor’s communication regarding the election and civil discourse was on the same topic.
---> Received and referred to the Development and Governmental Relations Committee.

Communication from Mayor Garcia
---> Received and referred to the Development and Governmental Relations Committee.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 86 and 88 as a package.

Anderson-Burgos - Ordered that the fine for violating the ordinance on parking in front of driveways be increased. The amount of increase can be discussed based on what is reasonable and what is allowable.
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

BARTLEY, VACON- The city council ordain a new crosswalk near the main gate to Holyoke Community College. Refer to ordinance.
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

Bartley- Holyoke's city boards do a great job in posting an Agenda but are many board and commissions are lacking in posting meeting minutes. Per G.L. c. 30A, § 22(c), upon request meeting minutes must be provided to the petitioner no later than 10 days from the date of the request. Please forward this Order to all municipal boards from me as a request to make meeting minutes for CY24 available on the city website prior to the next scheduled regular meeting of the City Council. Refer to all city board, commissions, etc. Refer to our Admin. Asst, the Public Service committee for a follow-up.

Councilor Jourdain asked that department heads advise boards and commissions to put minutes on the website, noting that he had been hearing from members of the public looking for them.
---> Received and Adopted. Refer to Boards, Copy to Public Service Committee.

Bartley, Ocasio - DPW post 'no left turn' and 'no U-turn' signs at the traffic light near Brightside Ave and the jug handle. Motorists are consistently making illegal (and very dangerous) turns. Refer to Ordinance, DPW.
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee. Copy to Law Department, DPW.

Bartley- Order the city council amend its rules to incorporate under our section 3 or some other section, the following state law: The public body, or its chair or designee, shall, at reasonable intervals, review the minutes of executive sessions to determine if the provisions of this subsection warrant continued non-disclosure. Such determination shall be announced at the body's next meeting and such announcement shall be included in the minutes of that meeting. See M.G.L. chapter 30A, §22(g)(1). Refer to Charter & Rules, Law Dept.
---> Received and referred to the Charter and Rules Committee. Copy to Law Department.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 92, 93, 95, 96 as a package.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWENTY SEVEN THOUSAND SIXTY SIX AND 89/100 Dollars ($27,066.89) as follows:

FROM:

12101-51105	SERGEANTS	$7,135.36
12101-51107	PATROLMEN	19,931.53
TOTAL:	$27,066.89	

TO:

12101-51180	INJURED ON DUTY	$27,066.89
TOTAL:	$27,066.89	

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Thursday, November 7, 2024.

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 (I. Rivera).

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWENTY THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SIXTY SEVEN AND 33/100 Dollars ($20,167.33) as follows:

FROM:			
12101-51105	SERGEANTS		$7,135.36
12101-51107	PATROLMEN		13,031.97
TOTAL:		$20,167.33	
TO:			
12101-51180	INJURED ON DUTY		$20,167.33
TOTAL:		$20,167.33	

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Thursday, November 7, 2024.

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 (I. Rivera).

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, ELEVEN THOUSAND SIXTY EIGHT AND 78/100 Dollars ($11,068.78) as follows:

FROM:			
12201-51103	CAPTAIN		$3,663.90
12201-51104	LIEUTENANTS		3,142.74
12201-51105	FIREFIGHTERS		4,262.14
TOTAL:		$11,068.78	
TO:			
12201-51180	INJURED ON DUTY		$11,068.78
TOTAL:		$11,068.78	

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Thursday, November 7, 2024.

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 (I. Rivera).

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, EIGHT THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FORTY ONE AND 58/100 Dollars ($8,441.58) as follows:
FROM:

12201-51103	CAPTAIN		$3,663.90
12201-51104	LIEUTENANTS		3,142.74
12201-51105	FIREFIGHTERS		1,634.94
TOTAL:		$8,441.58	
TO:			
12201-51180	INJURED ON DUTY		$8,441.58
TOTAL:		$8,441.58	

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Thursday, November 7, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

UNDER DISCUSSION:
President Murphy-Romboletti stated that item 92 was for 11 officers, item 93 was for 9 officers, item 95 was for 4 firefighters, and item 96 was for 3 firefighters.
---> Passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 0-Absent 1 (I. Rivera).

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 94, 97, 98, and 99 as a package.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars ($300,000) as follows:

FROM:			
12101-51117	DISPATCH		$150,000
12101-51107	PATROLMEN		150,000
TOTAL:		$300,000	
TO:			
12101-51300	OVERTIME		$300,000
TOTAL:		$300,000	

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Thursday, November 7, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, THIRTY TWO THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars ($32,000) as follows:

FROM:		
11351-51106	AUDIT – PROF ACCT HPD	$15,000

11381-51102	PROCUREMENT – ASST CPO	12,000
11451-51125	TREASURER – ADMIN ASST	5,000
TOTAL:	$32,000	
TO:		
11552-53100	IT – SOFTWARE LICENSE	$32,000
TOTAL:	$32,000	

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Thursday, November 7, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

Devine-Ordered, that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the "FY2025 STATE 911 DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH GRANT PROGRAM, $24,500, NO MATCH" grant and authorizes the establishment of a Fund or other method appropriate for the accounting of the receipts and expenditures of all resources associated with the administration of said grant.
Sec 2-509 - Grant Reporting
Any city department, of which has received grant funding by approval of the city council pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, or any other authorizing criteria, shall within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 60 days from the conclusion of said grant, generate a detailed report which outlines the planned outcomes with the documented actual results. Said report shall be submitted to the city clerk for addition to the city council's next agenda.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Thursday, November 7, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

Devine-Ordered, that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the "FY2025 STATE 911 DEPARTMENT TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM, $12,555.20, 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.
Sec 2-509 - Grant Reporting
ny city department, of which has received grant funding by approval of the city council pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, or any other authorizing criteria, shall within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 60 days from the conclusion of said grant, generate a detailed report which outlines the

planned outcomes with the documented actual results. Said report shall be submitted to the city clerk for addition to the city council's next agenda.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Thursday, November 7, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

Devine-Ordered, that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the "EEA DAM AND SEAWALL REPAIR OR REMOVAL PROGRAM: CITY OF HOLYOKE'S LEVEE CONTROL SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS-PUMP STATION REPAIRS PROJECT, $187,500, 25% IN KIND 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.
Sec 2-509 - Grant Reporting
Any city department, of which has received grant funding by approval of the city council pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, or any other authorizing criteria, shall within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 60 days from the conclusion of said grant, generate a detailed report which outlines the planned outcomes with the documented actual results. Said report shall be submitted to the city clerk for addition to the city council's next agenda.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Thursday, November 7, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Sullivan stated that he was seeking to have this adopted right away as it was for design work on the floodwalls along the Connecticut River, but particularly with the pump stations. He then explained that the pump stations were Army Corps projects in 1938, and nothing had been upgraded in the stations since then. He added that they were dangerous and had to be tested every year. He added that DPW could not test them, and it had to be done by Holyoke Gas & Electric. He also stated that there was a federal mandate to update the stations. He further explained that the grant would cover the design work on the installation of the equipment as well as the possibility of discontinuing some of the stations. He noted it came with a 25% in kind match, through documenting of time of work being done by the DPW and HG&E. He then stated that speeding up the process would allow the grant writer to begin the work of seeking additional grant funding to get the work done.

Councilor Greaney asked to confirm that the match of 25% would be around $45,000.

Councilor Sullivan stated that was correct.
---> Passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 13--Nays 0-Absent 0.

Devine-Ordered, that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the "EEA DAM AND SEAWALL REPAIR OR REMOVAL PROGRAM: CITY OF HOLYOKE'S LEVEE CONTROL SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS-PUMP STATION REPAIRS PROJECT, $187,500, 25% IN KIND 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.
Sec 2-509 - Grant Reporting
Any city department, of which has received grant funding by approval of the city council pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, or any other authorizing criteria, shall within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 60 days from the conclusion of said grant, generate a detailed report which outlines the planned outcomes with the documented actual results. Said report shall be submitted to the city clerk for addition to the city council's next agenda.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Thursday, November 7, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

Councilor Devine stated that this was a duplicate item.
---> Given a leave to withdraw

LATE FILED ORDERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

(2:29:10)

GREANEY - Ordered that DPW install a 15-minute parking sign in front of the Stop and Go variety store at the corner of Hillside Avenue and Cherry Street.

Councilor Greaney asked if final action could be taken on this.

Councilor Bartley stated that it had to go through the Ordinance Committee.

Councilor Greaney stated that the man's business was hurting.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that it would likely be able to get handled soon.
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

From Councilor Bartley, HPD Letter on supporting Holyoke Police Senior Citizen Christmas Event
---> Received.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 106, 107, and 108 as a package.

Communication from Mayor Garcia regarding Holyoke Public Schools
---> Received.

Communication from Mayor Garcia regarding Police Chief search process
---> Received.

November 5, 2024 unofficial election results
---> Received.

DEVINE - Ordered, that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the "FY2025 MUNICIPAL ROAD SAFETY PROGRAM GRANT, $39,600, 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.
Sec 2-509 - Grant Reporting
Any city department, of which has received grant funding by approval of the city council pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, or any other authorizing criteria, shall within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 60 days from the conclusion of said grant, generate a detailed report which outlines the planned outcomes with the documented actual results. Said report shall be submitted to the city clerk for addition to the city council's next agenda.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Thursday, November 7, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

Adjourned at 9:35 PM

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

November 19, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Murphy-Romboletti at 7:01 PM

The Clerk called the roll. Absent Members: 0 Present Members in person 12 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley, Devine, Givner, Greaney, Jourdain, Magrath-Smith, Murphy-Romboletti, Ocasio, I. Rivera, J. Rivera, Sullivan). Present Members on Zoom 1 (Vacon)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Sanders, 8189 Suffolk Street, representing the Victory Theater project, stated that he looked forward to telling everyone how well the project was going. He then suggested that David Weinberg attended a meeting on October 1st and gave misrepresentations of what was happening with the project, adding that those concerns had been answered in a report that would be submitted. He then encouraged anyone with questions to address them to MiFA (Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts) to allow them to explain the complications of the project. He also stated that tremendous news would be coming out about a donor’s challenge.

Richard Peck, 269 Rogers Avenue, West Springfield, spoke in support of continuing to honor the contributions of Dr. Peck by renaming the new middle school after him following its construction. He noted that the previous building had been named after him for many years. He emphasized that Dr. Peck was a towering figure in the history of Holyoke Public Schools, had served the city for 43 years as superintendent, was a progressive leader for his day, and was a wonderful example for the future students of the city to emulate.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up item 32 out of order.

DEVINE - ORDERED: That the School Receiver send the survey results from the naming of the new Middle School to the City Council.

Councilor I. Rivera asked if this was just perfunctory.

President Murphy-Romboletti clarified that it was just asking the superintendent to share the information.
---> Received and Adopted.

LAID ON THE TABLE

(8:30)

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

MAGRATH-SMITH - Ordered, that the Director of Economic Development and Planning come into the Finance Sub-Committee to discuss the use of cannabis impact fee funds and future implications for us as a city.

Councilor Magrath-Smith stated that this item could be complied with, noting there was a series of other items coming up that would invite more detailed conversation.
---> Complied with.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the Police Department be allowed to hire a Crime Analyst past the Grade 10 mid-range (which is $70,407) to $78,000.
Recommended that the order be adopted.
---> Laid on the table.

Motion was made and seconded to remove item 3 from the table.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order With community support and in service of our museum goers, order to move handicap space from the corner of Beech and Cabot to abutt the paved driveway of Wistariahurst. -Ordinance / DPW
Recommended that the order be adopted.

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor I. Rivera stated that this was tabled at the last meeting because the wrong order was on the agenda, and it had since been corrected, and this would allow them to move the space.

Councilor Bartley asked Councilor Givner, as the filer of the order, was good to go with this.

Councilor Givner stated that she was.
---> 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.

COMMUNICATIONS

(12:35)

From Mayor Joshua A Garcia, letter appointing Ms. Jacqueline Glasheen of 30 Mount Tom Avenue to serve as a member on the Library Board of Directors. Ms. Glasheen will replace Mr. Mettey and will serve the remainder of his term; said term will expire February 2026.

Councilor Greaney stated that Ms. Glasheen was a longtime member of Holyoke Public Schools. He then expressed support for appointing her right away as an excellent choice.

Councilor Bartley stated that while Ms. Glasheen was employed by HPS, this would be play because this would be a non-paid position. He then commended the outgoing member, George Mettey, who was also doing a lot of work serving on the Fire Commission.

Councilor Givner asked why this wouldn't be sent to Public Service like most of the other first time appointments.

Councilor Bartley stated that he would always support sending an appointment to Public Service if any one councilor preferred that. He then suggested that the interest to appoint her right away was that Ms. Glasheen was a well-known individual and a champion for public schools and the library.

President Murphy-Romboletti asked if that was a motion to send to committee.

Councilor Givner clarified that it was just a question.

Councilor J. Rivera expressed her support, noting that Ms. Glasheen was her boss at HPS. She added that Ms. Glasheen was excellent and would be great at this.
---> Received and appointment confirmed.

From City Clerk Brenna Murphy Leary and Admin. Assistant Jeffery Anderson-Burgos, minutes from the October 15, 2024 meeting
---> Received and Adopted.

From Atty Jane Mantolesky, Asst City Solicitor, Letter regarding Municipal Hearings Officer
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

From Atty Jane Mantolesky, Asst City Solicitor, City Council Voting Specifics
---> Received and referred to the Charter and Rules Committee.

From Atty Jane Mantolesky, Asst City Solicitor, Updated Stabilization Legal Opinion
---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

From Atty Tyler Ingraham, letter requesting enforcement of ordinances at 224 Westfield Rd
---> Received and referred to the Development and Governmental Relations Committee.

From Dr. Gloria Caballero Roca, information for second Afro-Caribbean History through the Arts Festival
---> Received.

Grant Completion Form - Mass EMPG Grant $12,350
---> Received.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 12 and 13 as a package.

From Planning Board, meeting and hearing minutes from February 27, 2024, March 26, 2024, April 2, 2024, May 14, 2024, August 27, 2024, and September 10, 2024
---> Received.

From Community Preservation Committee, meeting minutes of May 8, June 12, August 14, September 11, October 9, 2024
---> Received.

From City Auditor, Tanya Wdowiak, 2025 General Fund and Sewer Enterprise Fund budget versus actual reports for 10/31/2024.
---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

PETITIONS

(20:10)

Application for Special Permit, LN Berneche, Inc at 37 Appleton Street for motor vehicle repair garage, per sec 7.2.13 (a)
---> Received and referred to the Development and Governmental Relations Committee.

Home Occupation Renewal Petition of William T Lyle at 79 Merrick Ave for Electrician business
---> Received and Adopted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(20:55)

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that the plan for the tax rate vote on December 3rd at 6pm prior to the regular Council meeting at 7pm. She then stated more information would be coming.

Councilor Jourdain asked if the final number for the levy was ready and would the usual sheets be sent around.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that all of that information would be sent. She noted that she had pushed for the current week but the information wasn't going to be ready in time.
She then stated that the superintendent was seeking a councilor to serve on a working group to discuss the future of Metcalf School. She then stated the goal was to get recommendations out by the end of January.

Councilor Bartley volunteered.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that Admin Asst Anderson-Burgos had continued to receive calls about people not being able to hear some councilors. She then emphasized that everyone needed to speak directly into the microphones. She then threatened to sing karaoke if she needed to continue making the point.
She then offered a reminder that the annual MMA conference would be on Thursday, January 23rd through Saturday, January 25th. She asked that councilors confirm with the administrative assistant by December 6th if they plan to attend. She added that an email with information was sent around.
She also stated that councilors would need to sign a form acknowledging they had received and reviewed an Open Meeting Law guidance.

Councilor I. Rivera asked if signing it confirmed having been trained on Open Meeting Law.

President Murphy-Romboletti clarified it would confirm having reviewed the document emailed by the administrative assistant.
She then stated that the Tree Lighting would take place on December 7th, including ornament decorating and free rides at the Merry-Go-Round at 3pm, followed by events at City Hall beginning at 5pm, with the lighting and the parade at 6pm.
She then wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(26:20)

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the City Council review and adopt the Mayor's proposal for the city's financial policies by ordinance."

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor I. Rivera stated that the committee met on this several times.

Councilor Jourdain stated that he was greatly in favor of this. He then commended DLS, the mayor, as well as the Ordinance Committee for their work on this. He then asked if Councilor Vacon's requested amendment to the policies had been done which changed CAFO to Mayor/CAFO.

Councilor I. Rivera stated that it had been done.

Councilor Jourdain asked if his previous insertion to require losses greater than $500 to be reported had remained in the language.

Councilor I. Rivera expressed his understanding that the only edit to the second version was Councilor Vacon's amendment and any previous language was not changed.

Councilor Vacon confirmed that the attachment included the edits.
---> 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.

Motion was made and seconded 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, comply with items, or suspend the rules unless there is an objection.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order That the city's Ethics Ordinance 2-69 be amended as follows:

a. That the city government shall create and maintain an Ethics and Compliance hotline for the City of Holyoke overseen by a professional, reliable, and independent hotline services provider for the purpose of eliminating waste, fraud and abuse in our city government. The program shall foster a strong "see something, say something" culture in Holyoke government.

b. The city shall take extensive efforts to spread the awareness of the hotline for use by everyone including but not limited to employees, managers, vendors, elected officials, regulators, and the general public;

c. It shall also provide various options for communicating information;

d. We shall ensure confidentiality, anonymity and protection from retaliation;

e. The ordinance and the hotline vendor itself shall establish clear-cut message handling and investigative procedures.

f. It is recommended that the Personnel Director and City Auditor shall be the city officials in charge of working with the hotline vendor to manage the hotline for all messages, incidents or complaints related to all city operations and departments except the school department. School department messages, incidents or complaints shall be managed by Superintendent of Schools or their designee.

g. The hotline vendor shall produce an annual report every January of the messages, incidents, or complaints of the prior calendar year to provide a statistical analysis by department in a way that reasonably balances confidentiality and the public's right to know. This annual report shall be published and provided to the City Council, Mayor and published on city website for public review.

h. The City Council may from time to time hold meetings with the hotline vendor and/or key city officials to review data and overall improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the program.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor I. Rivera stated that there were some amendments to the language based on feedback from Councilor Jourdain and Councilor Bartley. He then deferred to them to expand on their amendments.

Councilor Jourdain commended the committee and the Law Department for their work. He then explained that this was about taking an affirmative role in getting the word out about the new compliance hotline to create a "see something say something" culture. He then explained that this ordinance would be the enabling step for that. He added that this would be advertised on the website, and make it known throughout the different departments. He added that they would do their reasonable best to protect confidentiality.

Councilor Bartley commended Councilor I. Rivera as the chair for working through the moving parts of this.
---> 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.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 19 and 20 as a package.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order Zoning ordinance change proposal to allow cannabis businesses beyond the IG zone and allow priority for social equity applicants and those negatively impacted by war on drugs.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor I. Rivera stated that they were waiting for a recommendation from the Planning Board, but they took too long and the order timed out after the public hearing. He then stated that he would plan to refile the order. He then suggested they needed to figure out how to work with the Planning Board when things may take longer than 90 days for them to work through these orders.

Councilor Jourdain stated that the law allowed a window for the Planning Board to respond and the committee could still proceed if they didn't respond in time. He noted the two paths usually walked in parallel to each other.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order The City of Holyoke amend Zoning Ordinance section 4.3(A)(8) to require a special permit prior to granting permission for this use in all residential districts in the City of Holyoke and no longer allow the use as of right; the special permit is to be issued by the City Council or the Planning Board only after a public hearing.

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

Committee Members:

Israel Rivera
Linda L. Vacon
Meg Magrath-Smith
David K. Bartley
Jenny Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor I. Rivera stated that this timed out but another order was still in committee being addressed in a public hearing.

Councilor Vacon noted that she filed this order in June and a similar order was filed by Councilor Greaney in August which was currently in an open public hearing that was continued to December 11th.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

(40:35)

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, THIRTY TWO THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars ($32,000) as follows:
FROM:

11351-51106	AUDIT – PROF ACCT HPD	$15,000
11381-51102	PROCUREMENT – ASST CPO	12,000
11451-51125	TREASURER – ADMIN ASST	5,000
TOTAL:	$32,000	

TO:

11552-53100	IT – SOFTWARE LICENSE	$32,000
TOTAL:	$32,000	

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

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Kocayne Givner
Michael Sullivan
Kevin A. Jourdain
Carmen Ocasio

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Devine stated when the budget was being voted on, $32,000 was cut from the software license line and it was needed to pay the license fees.

Councilor Jourdain stated that he supported this on the premise that this was coming from other locations in the budget and it was budget-neutral by shifting surpluses in other lines.

Councilor I. Rivera asked if this software license was for just HPD or the whole city.

Councilor Devine stated that it was for the IT department.

Councilor Bartley recalled that at budget time, former Councilor Leahy would propose significant cuts to make them come back to explain where they were, giving flexibility that allowed the Council to hear more about the departments' needs later in the year. He then expressed a hope that in the future, when cuts were proposed, it was understood that it wasn't to be cruel but to understand more.
---> 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.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars ($300,000) as follows:

FROM:			
12101-51117	DISPATCH		$150,000
12101-51107	PATROLMEN		150,000
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:

Patricia Devine
Kocayne Givner
Michael Sullivan
Kevin A. Jourdain
Carmen Ocasio

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Devine stated that this was to transfer to pay overtime, noting that surpluses were usually due to vacancies and resignations. She added there were 6 officers in the academy and 4 more to be sworn in in late November or early December. She added that Councilor Jourdain asked in committee if they would be coming back with another request, and they were on trend with last year and expected there may be one more request before the end of the fiscal year. She added there were a couple patrolmen whose salaries were paid for through grants.

Councilor Sullivan recalled that $70,000 had been proposed to be cut from the patrolmen line item, half of what was being transferred here. He emphasized that the funds were available due to the line being over budget every year for several years. He then suggested it had been nothing but a slush fund every year, adding that it never had been the full complement of officers. He added that this was not the first time funds were transferred out this year and it would not be the last time.

Councilor Bartley suggested that the way to address that would be to make a vote to cut the budget in June, reiterating that it was not about hamstringing the department but about giving the mayor more flexibility and providing more room under the cap and likely resulting in more free cash at the end of the year.

Councilor I. Rivera stated that while they were claiming it was trending the same as last year, they were already at more than half what was spent on overtime in the previous year. He recognized it was hard to vote against police budgets, but agreed with Councilor Bartley that the best approach would be to take a harder stance.

Councilor Greaney called the question.
---> 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.

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 "FY2025 STATE 911 DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH GRANT PROGRAM, $24,500, NO MATCH" grant and authorizes the establishment of a Fund or other method appropriate for the accounting of the receipts and expenditures of all resources associated with the administration of said grant.
Sec 2-509 - Grant Reporting
Any city department, of which has received grant funding by approval of the city council pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, or any other authorizing criteria, shall within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 60 days from the conclusion of said grant, generate a detailed report which outlines the planned outcomes with the documented actual results. Said report shall be submitted to the city clerk for addition to the city council's next agenda.

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

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Kocayne Givner
Michael Sullivan
Kevin A. Jourdain
Carmen Ocasio

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Devine commended Sgt. Zurheide for his work on getting these grants. She then explained that the grant would pay Cataldo Ambulance to pay the fee for EMT 9-1-1 certified dispatchers. She added that it was intended to support the costs associated with resources utilized for the 9-1-1 requiring emergency medical dispatch.

Councilor I. Rivera emphasized that the money was to pay Cataldo to do a service that the city's dispatchers were not trained to do. He questioned why those dispatchers were not being trained, noting that there were grants to provide training. He then expressed suspicion it may be about insurance.

Councilor Jourdain suggested that the logic was that all dispatchers would need to be trained to provide medical first aid instruction and have the same level of knowledge as Cataldo, which would be much more expensive than to kick it over to the service. He added they were also able to find this grant to pay for that, making it the more efficient way to do it. He added that there was likely a liability.

Councilor Devine stated that the next item would provide more details.
---> 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.

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 "FY2025 STATE 911 DEPARTMENT TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM, $12,555.20, 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.
Sec 2-509 - Grant Reporting
Any city department, of which has received grant funding by approval of the city council pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, or any other authorizing criteria, shall within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 60 days from the conclusion of said grant, generate a detailed report which outlines the planned outcomes with the documented actual results. Said report shall be submitted to the city clerk for addition to the city council's next agenda.

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

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Kocayne Givner
Michael Sullivan
Kevin A. Jourdain
Carmen Ocasio

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Devine stated that the grant would provide funding to pay the overtime to dispatchers for required training they had to take on their own time. She added the grant would cover course fee of $399 each for 16 hours of education as well as the overtime costs.
---> 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.

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 "FY2025 MUNICIPAL ROAD SAFETY PROGRAM GRANT, $39,600, 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.
Sec 2-509 - Grant Reporting
Any city department, of which has received grant funding by approval of the city council pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, or any other authorizing criteria, shall within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 60 days from the conclusion of said grant, generate a detailed report which outlines the planned outcomes with the documented actual results. Said report shall be submitted to the city clerk for addition to the city council's next agenda.

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

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Kocayne Givner
Michael Sullivan
Kevin A. Jourdain
Carmen Ocasio

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Devine stated this was a traffic enforcement grant that would cover 4 hour details between 8am and 10pm all over the city. She added that the committee asked for the monthly reports to be provided. She also stated that the committee encouraged the Police Department to give out fewer warnings and more tickets. She then stated that the chief explained it was at the discretion of the officers, emphasizing that quotas were against the law. She then stated that while everyone was aware of the traffic issues around the city, it was important to recognize the danger officers could put themselves in every time they stop someone.

Councilor Bartley recalled that he was recently pulled over for going too slow. He then stated that he was grateful for this grant.

Councilor I. Rivera also stated he was grateful for this grant. He then emphasized this was a small step in what was being looked for. He noted there was an order in Ordinance around the traffic squad. He suggested that if this was managed by a traffic squad, there would be more teeth to it, and there could be more reports even without grant funding.
---> 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.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that she was often passed when going to the citywide speed limit of 25.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 26 and 27 as a package.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order From the Holyoke Retirement Board, PERAC Investment Report 2023

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

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Kocayne Givner
Michael Sullivan
Kevin A. Jourdain
Carmen Ocasio

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

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order From the Holyoke Retirement Board, Annual Statement of the Financial Condition of the Holyoke Retirement Board

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

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Kocayne Givner
Michael Sullivan
Kevin A. Jourdain
Carmen Ocasio

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Devine stated that they had good discussion about the valuation summary. She then stated that of all cities in the state, the return in 2023 was 8.71%, the 5 year return was 10.47%, the 10 year return was 8.33%, and the 39 year return was 9.31%, and the funded ratio on January 1, 2022 was 76.80%. She added it had gone up to 81.49% from the previous year. She also stated that the city was going up 7% each year, the retirement fund was in good shape and should be fully funded by 2032. She also stated that the city was in the 75th percentile for state retirement boards.

Councilor Greaney stated those sounded like very good numbers.

Councilor Jourdain emphasized that Springfield was only at 35% funded while Holyoke was at 81%, adding that this was something Holyoke was doing a good job on. He then suggested that in 2032, the city would see a nice windfall of money as it then would only need to fund the regular appropriation.

Councilor Greaney quipped that he looked forward to working with new colleagues in 2032.

Councilor Sullivan emphasized that Holyoke had one of the best retirement boards in the state. He recalled that when he first joined the Council, the expected date of being fully funded was a few years further out.

Councilor Bartley stated that the board had gone through good stewardship over the years. He then quipped that if he was still on Council in 2032, it still would not be half as long as former Councilor McGiverin was on Council.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

ORDERS AND TRANSFERS

(1:06:50)

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 28 and 30 as a package.

BARTLEY - The DGR committee invite Andrew Morehouse, executive director of the W. Mass Food Bank, to a future committee meeting. Mr. Morehouse will present an overview of the Food Bank, how it impacts and serves the city of Holyoke, and offer ways for the public to help and volunteer. Copy to DGR. Invite any relevant social agency serving Holyoke to attend.

Councilor Bartley stated that he spoke with Mr. Morehouse and he was good to go once a date was set.
---> Received and referred to the Development and Governmental Relations Committee.

BARTLEY - The DGR committee invite the District 8 Governor's Councilor to a future DGR meeting. Tara Jacobs of Adams currently represents Holyoke in this office. Her predecessor appeared in committee ca. 2017.

Councilor Bartley stated that he spoke with Ms. Jacobs and she was good to go as long as the meeting was on a Monday.
---> Received and referred to the Development and Governmental Relations Committee.

BARTLEY, VACON- The City consider installation of flashing Crosswalk signals at the two crosswalks proximate to Metcalf. Refer to Mayor, DPW, C.E., Receiver, Joint Committee.

Councilor Bartley asked for Councilor Vacon to be added to the order.
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee. Copy to Mayor, DPW, Engineer, Receiver, Joint Committee.

DEVINE, MAGRATH-SMITH - ORDERED; That the City Forester, DPW Director and Purchasing Director come in to the Finance Committee to discuss the Urban Forestry Grant.
---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

DEVINE - Ordered that the City Council reconsider our vote to appoint the City Treasurer rather than have it be and elected position and further take the necessary steps to combine the Treasurer and Tax Collector positions into one office.

Councilor Devine stated that she had been considering the point from Councilor Anderson-Burgos that it would not be a good idea to hold a special election. She then stated that information from the City Clerk explained that it would be $13,000 for poll workers and movers, $150 to rent a U-Haul, $225 for the rental at St. Paul's, $500 for programming election cards and printing ballots, and $2,000 for overtime. She then expressed concern about spreading the word about an election on January 28th. She also expressed concern that if the Council's intent was to have an appointed treasurer and the election did not produce that result, the city would be back to square one. She added that there likely would not be a lot of interest, it would be dark early, and there could be a snowstorm. She then emphasized that the best elections tended to be the presential elections, producing turnout of 45-49%, with the most recent municipal election without a mayor's race only having 17% of the people voting. She added that the preliminary election in 2021 with only the mayor's race on the ballot had a turnout of 19%. She then emphasized that it was sometimes the duty of the Council to do what was best for the city.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that his stance on this was not to take power away from voters but believed councilors were put in their positions with the understanding that the body would do what it thinks is best for the city and was not intentionally taking power away from them. He added that this would waste money and resources to get this done.

Councilor Vacon spoke in opposition to a second effort to reconsider the vote. She then recalled that the Council had voted to put it on the November ballot that turned out to have a 48% turnout. She also noted that the mayor had argued for putting the CPA question on that ballot based on the interest in higher turnout, which resulted in 65% voting to reduce the surtax. She then suggested that the treasurer vote was similar, but consideration was given to the Clerk who shared the administrative difficulties of doing that, leading to the decision to hold the election on January 28th. She added that the date had been made known to the public. She also stated that while the public votes for councilors to make decisions for them, that does not mean that includes making every decision for them. She then suggested the horse was already out of the gate on this.

Councilor I. Rivera asked rhetorically if it was already out of the gate after the last vote when the Council was still able to adjust it to January.

Councilor Vacon clarified that by the time the order was taken up in Charter and Rules, Rep Duffy indicated it had already been held it back and the timeline for it to be filed and already been exceeded without the knowledge of the City Council, and there was no longer an opportunity to put it on the November ballot.

Councilor I. Rivera asked it that meant it was never a done deal.

Councilor Vacon reiterated it was held back and time ran out.

Councilor I. Rivera asked if that meant it was not approved for November.

Councilor Vacon emphasized it was not approved by the state.

Councilor I. Rivera stated there was a lot of confusion around the language for questions that were on the ballot so interpreting how people voted was not a fair analysis. He then suggested that a lot of people likely would not vote in January no matter the information because they may not see as important to vote on one thing. He then expressed concern that this would turn out to be a performative action.

Councilor Greaney stated that he believed people had a right to vote.

Councilor Jourdain stated that he appreciated the spirit of making things more efficient, given that the general tenor of the Council was to have an appointed treasurer. He then emphasized that while the Council was on board, that did not necessarily the public would be on board. He added that the public voted to have an elected treasurer and taking away their right vote on the position should be their decision. He recalled the question came up in 2011 and the public voted to keep it elected. He added that House Bill 5062 was adopted by the Council, which stipulated it would not pass unless the public voted to approve it, meaning it would have to be repealed and a whole new process would need to start if that happened. He then questioned the argument that pushing it to January was now a reason to not even hold the election at all. He then suggested that the public's right to amend the charter was worth $30,000.

President Murphy-Romboletti asked for councilors to keep their statements brief or, if not, then this should be allowed to go to committee to have a full discussion.

Councilor Bartley stated that while he agreed with every point Councilor Devine had made, a vote could only be reconsidered in the same session but an action taken at a prior meeting could not be procedurally reconsidered. He then stated that while he didn't want a vote in January, he understood that they were stuck at this point.

Councilor Magrath-Smith stated that she was trying to think about how to get the word out to voters. She then stated that while it was unfortunate that the special election would cost $30,000, she believed that it protected the voters right to have a say. She added that she heard from some voters that they were confused about some of the recent ballot questions, including those from the state. She emphasized that simplistic language was important, adding that the language from the Law Department may not be the most clear for voters to understand what it means. She noted that the state sends out booklets explaining the ballot questions, including explanations from organizations on each side of a question. She then emphasized that the Council needed a campaign budget if it was asking the public to vote on this change in order to explain why this was important. She added that she planned to pen an open letter from the Council explaining why it was asking for this.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that it was interesting to hear the argument about taking the power away from the public, recalling that the vote of the Council to put the question about two schools on the ballot was close, with some voting to prevent the public from having a say. He then stated that one big difference now was that he had not heard from a single constituent who was asking that this power not be taken away. He then emphasized that his position was not to take that power away but was in the interest of not wasting taxpayer money.

Councilor Sullivan stated that $30,000 would not be a waste of taxpayer money. He then suggested that continuous delays was costing the city, with the inability to set sewer rates, certify free cash, and set a tax rate all illustrated a certified professional needed to be in that position. He added the city needed someone with a managerial accounting background.

Councilor Devine stated that the Clerk's office would need to begin mailing out and accepting mail in ballots soon, and it would cost $1 a ballot every time they mail one out.

President Murphy-Romboletti emphasized that a motion had not yet been made.

Councilor Vacon stated that while she appreciated the sentiments of Councilor Devine, the rules were clear that a vote could not be reconsidered outside the meeting in which it was taken. She then made a motion to give this order a leave to withdraw. Councilor Greaney seconded the motion.

Councilor Devine made a motion to amend the previous motion and have the order referred to the Development and Governmental Relations Committee.

Councilor Jourdain suggested it should be Charter and Rules.

Councilor Vacon asked if sending it to committee would delay the Clerk from proceeding with the vote on January 28th.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that it would not. She added that the Council had done everything it needed to do.

Councilor Greaney stated that he did not understand dragging feet on this.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that it could be discussed in committee, emphasizing that the maker of the order had that right.
---> Received and referred to the Charter and Rules Committee.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 34 and 35 as a package.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, SEVEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY AND 42/100 Dollars ($7,150.42) as follows:
FROM
12201-51103 CAPTAIN $3,663.90
12201-51104 LIEUTENANTS 3,142.74
12201-51105 FIREFIGHTERS 343.78
TOTAL $7,150.42
TO:
12201-51180 INJURED ON DUTY (PAY PERIOD #10) $7,150.42
TOTAL $7,150.42

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, November 19, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor
---> Passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 13--Nays 0--Absent 0.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWENTY TWO THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FIFTY SEVEN AND 48/100 Dollars ($22,957.48) as follows:
FROM
12101-51105 SERGEANTS $ 8,562.44
12101-51107 PATROLMEN 14,395.04
TOTAL $22,957.48
TO:
12201-51180 INJURED ON DUTY $22,957.48
TOTAL $22,957.48

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, November 19, 2024.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

UNDER DISCUSSION:
President Murphy-Romboletti stated that item 34 represented 3 firefighters and item 35 represented 9 officers.
---> Passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 13--Nays 0--Absent 0.

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

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, FORTY NINE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FIFTEEN AND 00/100 Dollars ($49,915.00) as follows:
FROM
8811-10400 CAPITAL STABILIZATION $49,915.00
TOTAL $49,915.00
TO:
14222-52519 R&M PUBLIC LIBRARY $49,915.00
TOTAL $49,915.00

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, November 19, 2024.

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

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWENTY NINE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY TWO AND 00/100 Dollars ($29,152.00) as follows:
FROM
11751-51128 OPED-ADMIN ASST $29,152.00
TOTAL $29,152.00
TO:
11751-51112 OPED- LICENSING AGENT $29,152.00
TOTAL $29,152.00

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, November 19, 2024.

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

GIVNER - With community support, order that speed trailers be moved regularly to collect speed data from rotating locations throughout the city. Trailer priority shall be given to most dangerous streets and intersection areas as listed in state, Triple A, and other professional traffic data reports. A 2-4 week period per location shall be determined ongoing. Speed data reports shall be submitted to Public safety monthly

for review.
---> Received and referred to the Public Safety Committee. Copy to HPD.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 39 and 40 as a package.

GIVNER - Ordered that Holyoke Assessors Parcel 062-03-005, 133 Pine Street, Holyoke, MA be sold to abutter, Pine Suffolk, LLC with an address of 175 Suffolk Street, Holyoke, MA 01040, for $4,500.00. This property is valued under $35,000.00 and therefore exempt from procurement requirements. This property was originally sold via auction to the above abutter, but due to an error in the auction process the same was declared void. $4,500 was the auction price. The abutter plans to utilize the property in connection with his business located on either side of the property. This property was previously declared surplus.

Councilor Bartley asked that the committee be provided an explanation of what happened with the error in the auction process.
---> Received and referred to the Development and Governmental Relations Committee. Copy to Treasurer.

GIVNER - Ordered that Holyoke Assessors Parcel 183-00-006, Old Rock Valley Road, Holyoke, MA be declared surplus and sold to abutter, Jessica A. Messier with an address of 22 Old Rock Valley Road, Holyoke, MA 01040, for $25,000.00. This property is valued under $35,000.00 and therefore exempt from procurement requirements. The abutter plans to keep this property as open space.
---> Received and referred to the Development and Governmental Relations Committee.

JOURDAIN, MAGRATH-SMITH, I. RIVERA - Ordered, that the City Forester provide the City Council with a list as soon as possible of the 100 most dangerous trees in the city.   He should designate which of these he can handle based on current resources within the next 3 months. All others he does not have the resources for should be identified on the list. He should provide us with a projected cost to handle these others and what if any grant funds are available to handle. All others will be targeted for removal from capital stabilization funds or other reserves as determined by the Mayor and City Council. It is the expectation of the City Council this tree list will be handled completely within the next 3 months.

Councilor Jourdain stated that he would like a response within 30 days. He added that this was asking for them to tell the Council what they can do in house within the next 3 months and then what else would require a contractor so that the funding could be sought.

Councilor I. Rivera asked to be added to the order.
---> Received and Adopted. Copy to City Forester, DPW, Mayor, BPW. Asking for response within 30 days.

LATE FILED ORDERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

(1:44:25)

From Leslie D Ward, Building Commissioner, letter regarding Municipal Hearings Officer
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

DEVINE - ORDERED: That the City Council ask the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) through Alex Gillman at DCR, 413-442-4963, X134 to include the Mt. Tom State Reservation to the list of " First Day in January hikes across Massachusetts parks and reservations" as a list of participants.

Motion was made and seconded to take final action.
---> Received and Adopted. Copy to Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Brenna Murphy Leary
Adjourned at 8:47 PM

11/19/2024

To the City Council of Holyoke,

This reply respectfully corrects misinformation in Mr. Weinberg's presentation before the City Council on 10/01/2024.

1. MIFA's accountant makes clear travel expenses (amounting $49,029) in FY22 were for program travel (by Victory Players and other performers), travel by general management and other staff, and travel for consultants (Attachment A). $49,000 was Sanders' salary compensation in FY21.
2. Charles Group Consulting and 27 South Strategies are duly registered and credentialed State lobbying firms who are paid monthly. They have been productively employed by MIFA for three years. Their successful efforts have resulted in $4,550,000 (including $3,500,00 from the Governor's office/Administration & Finance, and $750,000, $250,000, $50,000 in legislative earmarks) for Victory construction. Additionally, MIFA has recently contracted Federal lobbyists (Capitol Counsel), to raise federal monies for Victory construction. We are very lucky to have such dedicated and effective professionals helping us to realize this important project (Attachment B).
3. The MIFA Victory Theatre professionally generated pro forma business plan projects income and expenses based on a 1,600-seat theater. Weinberg suggests that MIFA Victory Theatre events during the developmental years leading to its opening disprove that capacity. The majority of those figures are for 100- to 300-seat event venues, offering purposefully subsidized or free admissions that enable audiences to experience high quality events that bring the city and the region positive attention and recognition. The whole purpose of the reopening of the Victory is that it has the size to generate box office to cover the cost of marquee events. Audience development programs were not expected to be covered by box office—programs *did* earn money, but through donated funds. Attachments show donations earned for each season. Clearly, the years 2004 (Baryshnikov, $207,000) and 2011 (Hal Holbrook, $48,000), with 2,300 and 800 seats respectively, show higher earned income and MIFA's producing ability to generate high ticket sales in relation to audience size ratio (Attachment C).

Note; Points 1 & 3 were clearly corrected for Weinberg previously (see presentations on June 6th and August 6th, 2024), but he has chosen to misrepresent them again. MIFA is happy to clarify all questions about the viability and management legitimacy of the Victory Theatre Project. The project is an outstanding economic development asset for Holyoke, recognized on City, Regional, State, National and International levels. I look forward to sharing with you the ongoing progress and completion of this great asset.

MIFA continues its willingness to meet with Mr. Weinberg to walk him through any questions he has, rather than to have repeated misrepresentations— I suggest that Mr. Weinberg be encouraged to accept MIFA's open invitation to meet. I respectfully submit this to the City Council for public record.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald T. Sanders

Donald T. Sanders
Executive Artistic Director, MIFA

ATTACHMENT A

Responses to Questions from David Weinberg
by Brad Foster, MIFA Accountant

Q: $96,000, Lobbying, year ending 6/30/23
A: We paid $48,000 each to 27 South Strategies and Charles Group Consulting for advocacy on our behalf with state and other government bodies.

Q: $49,000, Travel expenses, year ending 6/30/22 (FY2022)
A: In FY2022 MIFA had expenses of $49,029 for travel, split $31,591 for program expenses (Victory Players and other performers), $1,988 for management & general (staff travel), $15,450 for fundraising (travel reimbursements for consultants).

Q: $950, "program service revenue," year ending 6/30/22 (FY2022)
A: FY2022 990 shows $950 in program fees; these were for use of the hall for photoshoots.

Q: $49,000, "Sanders paid" in tax year 2021.
A: This is correct; Donald Sanders was paid a salary of $49,000 in FY2021.

Q: Comparison of Total Revenue, Program Revenue, and Program Expense

A1 – The Data: The general picture from David Weinberg's chart is correct; some specific elements are incorrect. I have created a new spreadsheet with corrected data, derived from our Federal Tax filings. We did file tax reports for FY2004: I agree, they aren't shown on the Mass Nonprofit Documents Search website, and I don't know why. We can provide copies upon request.

A2 – Analysis of the Data: Even when Victory Theatre opens, like all venues of this size and most public cultural programs, program revenue is expected to cover only a portion of program expenses. With Victory Theatre restoration incomplete, we have the added burden of generally having to use smaller venues for our programming, increasing our reliance on grants and donations.

ATTACHMENT B

Kate Worrall, Partner (Charles Group Consulting)

Kate Worrall serves as CGC's Vice President. She joined the CGC team in 2012 and brought to the position a diverse background in grassroots and direct lobbying at the state and federal level, law, public policy, and public relations. Together, she and Charles provide strategic, government affairs advice to clients and organize fundraising events to promote the valuable services that they provide to underserved populations. Kate also assists with developing new business prospects, managing budgets, maintaining social media, and organizing marketing efforts.

Before joining CGC, Kate served as Legislative Assistant and Membership Coordinator for the American Council on International Personnel (ACIP), a federal trade association focusing on education and advocacy around business immigration issues.

Education; B.A., Tufts University. M.P.P./M.P.A., George Washington University

Aaron Agulnek, Founder & CEO (27 South Strategies)

Aaron Agulnek has over a decade of government, policy and campaign experience working as a lobbyist, campaign consultant and legislative staffer. Aaron began his career as Legal Counsel to the Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts State Senate, working on a broad range of issues including, economic development, civil rights, and financial services. After leaving the State Senate, he joined the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston as Director of Government Affairs, leading efforts to promote economic development, extend civil rights and create innovative public/private collaborations to meet emerging needs.

Aaron serves as a senior advisor at Pine Street Strategies, a Washington, D.C.-based policy consulting firm. Aaron is also a Professor at Emerson College in Boston where he teaches courses in *Advocacy and Argumentation*, and *Boston Politics*. He currently resides with his wife and two sons in Sharon, MA.

Ann Jablon, Partner (Capitol Counsel)

Ann M. Jablon is a partner at Capitol Counsel, LLC. She brings to the firm more than 25 years of policy, political, and management experience as the lead staffer for Congressman Richard Neal (D-MA), a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee. Jablon brings to clients expertise in health care policy, financial services, tax, and trade issues. Her pragmatic and strategic style and experience in the federal appropriations process have resulted in multimillion-dollar projects and economic development for New England. She became one of the youngest women on the Hill to assume the chief of staff position after beginning as an intern and a scheduler for Congressman Neal.

Education; Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University – M.P.A. Boston University – B.S.

Positions held; Congressman Richard E. Neal (D-MA), Washington, D.C. – Chief of Staff. Developed health policy and worked closely with the Massachusetts health care community on issues relating to Medicare reimbursement and health care innovation. Served as the principal staff contact for Congressman

Neal to the Massachusetts and New England congressional delegations, oversaw his legislative portfolio, and managed his re-election and leadership fundraising operations.

Memberships/Recognition

- Boston University's Washington Internship Program – Lectures on Congress and the legislative process for undergraduate students.
- Massachusetts State Society – Board Member
- House Chiefs of Staff Alumni Association – Treasurer and Board Member

Successes; Jablon helped to secure federal funds for the redevelopment of the Springfield, Massachusetts Union Station; the construction of the Springfield, Massachusetts Federal Courthouse, and of the Pioneer Valley Life Sciences Inst

Joseph Eannello, Partner

Joseph Eannello is a partner at Capitol Counsel, LLC and brings to the firm over 10 years of national policymaking expertise on Capitol Hill and extensive campaign experience. Prior to joining Capitol Counsel, Eannello was legislative director for Congressman Kevin Yoder (R-KS), a "cardinal" member of the powerful House Committee on Appropriations. In that role, Eannello played a central part in developing Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee funding legislation. Further, as Appropriations Committee associate he oversaw the drafting of legislative branch and Department of Homeland Security funding bills. Eannello has developed strong bipartisan relationships over the years working for Representatives Yoder, Jerry Weller (R-IL), and Judy Biggert (R-IL). He has expertise in coalition building, foreign relations, and national security. He has been involved in a variety of campaign activities including consulting and team coordination for local government, statewide, and federal races. Additionally, Eannello is proficient in Spanish.

Education; State University of New York, University at Albany – B.S.

Positions held;

- Office of Congressman Kevin Yoder (R-KS), Washington, D.C. – Legislative Director
- House Committee on Appropriations, Washington, D.C. – Associate Staff Member. Managed legislative staff in preparing policy and Appropriations Committee work; communicated the Chairman's priorities to House leadership, committee staff, administration, and agency officials; and developed materials for committee hearings and markups, including briefings and legislative language.
- Office of Congressman Jerry Weller (R-IL), Washington, D.C. – Legislative Assistant
- Office of Congresswoman Judy Biggert (R-IL), Washington, D.C. – Eannello began his service on Capitol Hill as an intern with Congesswoman Biggert.

Successes; Eannello has helped to drive policy and funding provisions via the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee, including important amendments to the Dodd-Frank Act. He was the lead staffer on the Email Privacy Act, considered major legislation in the House Judiciary Committee to modernize the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986. Eannello also led efforts to build transparency in the legislative branch, opening reports from the Congressional Research Service to the public for the first time in 2018.

ATTACHMENT C

Massachusetts Festival of the Arts Summary Financial History

Fiscal Year	Ending	Total Revenue	Total Contributions, Grants etc	Program Service Revenue	Program Service Expenses
FY1999	6/30/99	503,671	460,120	43,309	361,486
FY2000	6/30/00	426,048	362,709	63,210	403,474
FY2001	6/30/01	414,448	364,361	50,074	459,257
FY2002	6/30/02	158,129	107,412	50,569	101,229
Start of Victory Theatre Restoration Project					
FY2003	6/30/03	239,432	202,405	36,574	155,994
FY2004	6/30/04	454,112	248,363	199,022	351,107
FY2005	6/30/05	226,025	179,049	28,261	161,475
FY2006	6/30/06	178,996	176,743	2,250	130,350
FY2007	6/30/07	302,185	293,747	8,429	191,674
FY2008	6/30/08	185,689	174,156	11,521	91,637
FY2009	6/30/09	214,579	205,935	8,632	108,376
FY2010	6/30/10	172,065	134,409	37,656	132,194
FY2011	6/30/11	340,746	339,746	0	271,492
FY2012	6/30/12	178,783	131,768	47,015	88,990
FY2013	6/30/13	94,892	81,153	5,849	112,098
FY2014	6/30/14	235,982	213,905	22,077	212,723
FY2015	6/30/15	185,596	174,573	11,023	161,380
FY2016	6/30/16	594,329	589,609	4,720	458,622
FY2017	6/30/17	152,149	147,186	4,963	143,174
FY2018	6/30/18	224,453	213,494	10,959	174,064
FY2019	6/30/19	616,789	608,756	8,033	505,978
FY2020	6/30/20	839,290	835,763	3,527	150,937
FY2021	6/30/21	187,915	185,468	2,447	92,239
FY2022	6/30/22	831,365	830,292	950	188,665
FY2023	6/30/23	1,751,641	1,721,209	30,432	338,497

Mayor Joshua A. Garcia HEDIC

City of Holyoke Aaron M. Vega, Executive Director

November 21, 2024

Holyoke City Council
City of Holyoke
Holyoke, MA 01040

Dear Councilors:

Please find attached Meeting Minutes of the Holyoke Economic Development and Industrial Corporation for the dates listed below.

HEDIC Meetings
May 16th, 2024

As always, please contact me if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Casiano

RECEIVED

NOV 21 2024

Holyoke City Clerk's
Holyoke, MA

CITY HALL ANNEX • 20 KOREAN VETERANS PLAZA – SUITE 406 • HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS 01040-5037
PHONE: (413) 322-5655 • FAX: (413) 534-2299 • E-MAIL: oped@holyoke.org
Birthplace of Volleyball

HOLYOKE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION
May 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes
Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce
177 High Street and via Zoom Meeting ID 878 9051 0289

Members Present:
Carl Eger, Jr.
Callie Flanagan
Joseph McGiverin
Antonio Quinones
Michael Sullivan

Staff Present:
Aaron Vega, Executive Director
John Dyjach, Assistant Director
Kimberly Casiano, Head Clerk

Others present: Assistant City Solicitor Jane Mantolesky, Kipngetich Rutto and Melinda Couture (Rutto Bats), Brandon Braxton (The Life Initiative)

1. **Call to Order**
   Chairperson Carl Eger called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and stated that the meeting was being recorded and being held remotely. A roll call followed:

Name	Present
Carl Eger, Jr.	Y
Joseph McGiverin	Y
Antonio Quinones	Y
Callie Flanagan	Y
Michael Sullivan	Y

2. **HEDIC Board Business**
   a. **Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2024:** A motion was made by Joseph McGivern and seconded by Callie Flanagan to approve the minutes of March 28, 2024. Under discussion Joseph McGiverin requested that the minutes be amended to include the vote taken in the Executive Meeting approving the Purchase and Sale Agreement with the sports complex group for the Whiting Farms Rd. land. With no objection, the Chair asked that the motion be amended to update with Board member McGiverin's amendment. Said amendment was seconded by Michael Sullivan and a roll call vote followed:

Name	Vote
Callie Flanagan	Y
Michael Sullivan	Y
Joseph McGivern	Y
Antonio Quinones	Y
Carl Eger, Jr.	Y

3. **HEDIC Manufacturers Loan Program Request - Rutto Bats, LLC**
   The Chair opened discussion for HEDIC Loan request from Rutto Bats, Inc. John Dyjach introduced and welcomed Kip Ruto and Melinda Couture owners of Rutto Bats and Brandon Braxton of The Life Initiative which is the lead lender for this financing. Mr. Dyjach referred the Board to the summary provided in the meeting packet and then gave a description of the company and the terms of the financing request. He explained that this would be a participation loan totaling $500K with The Life Initiative being the lead lender and handling most of the loan administration. He said the breakdown of the financing would be $250K from the Life Initiative, $150K from Mill Cities Community Investments and the $100K requested from HEDIC. Mr. Dyjach also said it was notable that this financing would also leverage an additional $500K in financing from MassDevelopment. Mr. Dyjach said the request to HEDIC is to consider approving the Loan Participation and Servicing Agreement which would be the mechanism to provide funding to the Rutto Bats.

Board desires to move forward with the Participation Agreement it could consider making it contingent upon satisfactory review by legal and staff.

A motion was then made by Michael Sullivan to approve the loan pending review and approval of the Participation Agreement by City counsel and staff and that the $250 application fee be waived. Said motion was seconded by Antonio Quinones. Under discussion Joseph McGiverin commented that typically a vote, especially on such a new arrangement, is not immediately taken and asked if there is a time constraint. Melinda Couture said that there is urgency to proceed given the seasonality of the business and especially the need to obtain the machinery to follow through on the business contracts. Joseph McGiverin thanked Ms. Couture for clarifying this. With no other comments or questions, a roll call vote followed.

Name	Vote
Michael Sullivan	Y
Joseph McGiverin	Y
Callie Flanagan	Y
Antonio Quinones	Y
Carl Eger, Jr.	Y

4. **Adjournment:** With no other business, a motion was made by Joseph McGiverin and seconded by Michael Sullivan to adjourn the meeting. A roll call vote followed:

Name	Vote
Joseph McGiverin	Y
Michael Sullivan	Y
Callie Flanagan	Y
Antonio Quinones	Y
Carl Eger, Jr.	Y

The meeting was adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Sincerely,

Carl Eger

Carl Eger, Chairperson
Holyoke Economic Development and Industrial Corporation

Date: 9/10/24

CITY OF HOLYOKE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL PERMIT APPLICATION FOR
7.2.13(a)

N/A
9/13/24

Name of Owner: Marcel Gavel
Address: 54 Commercial street Holyoke, MA
Contact Name Marcel Address (if other) N/A
Contact Phone (413) 304-1404 Fax #

Name of Applicant: Marcel Gavel
(if different from owner)
Address: 54 Commercial street Holyoke, MA
Phone (413) 304-1404 Fax #

RECEIVED
NOV 21 2024
Holyoke City Clerk's
Holyoke, MA

Name of Engineer/Surveyor/Sign Company: N/A
(if applicable)
Address: Phone
Name of Project:

Deed of Property Recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds: Holyoke Assessor Map Reference:

Book: 10120 Page: 116 Map 018 Block 01 Parcel 015

Property Address: 52 Commercial Street, Holyoke MA 01040

Pursuant to Chapter 40A of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, application is hereby made to the Holyoke City Council to do the following:
Vehicle exhaust repair and welding

Will any other permits or variances be required? If so, please list and indicate if they have been applied for or obtained.
N/A

Marcel Gavel
APPLICANT (please print)

Marcel Gavel
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

Gary L. Courchesne
OWNER (or LEGAL COUNSEL)

Gary L Courchesne
SIGNATURE OF OWNER (or LEGAL COUNSEL)

City of Holyoke, Massachusetts
Birthplace of Volleyball

Kelly Lundgren <lundgrenk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Hazardous Waste ID: MAR000640482

1 message

'Marcel Gavel' via City Clerk <clerks@holyoke.org> Thu, Nov 21, 2024 at 12:30 PM
Reply-To: Marcel Gavel <marcel.gavel6@icloud.com>
To: clerks@holyoke.org

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Marcel Gavel <marcel.gavel6@icloud.com>
Date: October 28, 2024 at 10:06:49 EDT
To: "Hurley, Michael (DEP)" <michael.m.hurley@mass.gov>
Subject: Re: Hazardous Waste ID: MAR000640482

Thank you Mike! I appreciate your help.
Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 23, 2024, at 15:01, Hurley, Michael (DEP) <michael.m.hurley@mass.gov> wrote:

Hi Marcel,

Thanks for your application, the EPA ID Haz Waste number for your shop is: MAR000640482

Take care-

-Mike

Michael M. Hurley
Chief, Systems Management Branch

Massachusetts Dept of Env. Protection
617.913.2931

From: rcrainfo.admin@epa.gov <rcrainfo.admin@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 2:56 PM
To: Marcel Gavel <marcel.gavel6@icloud.com>

Cc: Hurley, Michael (DEP) <michael.m.hurley@mass.gov>
Subject: myRCRAid Submission for New Site Accepted

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Marcel Gavel <WELDER54>,

Your myRCRAid request for Classic Custom Muffler Exhaust has been accepted and assigned the ID MAR000640482. Please use this ID for all future submissions. You have been granted a Site Manager permission for your site.

Thank you!
RCRAInfo Team

Please DO NOT REPLY to this email. This is not a monitored inbox.

City of Holyoke, Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kelly Lundgren <lundgrenk@holyoke.org>

Site plan for special permit

'Marcel Gavel' via City Clerk <clerks@holyoke.org> Thu, Nov 21, 2024 at 12:27 PM
Reply-To: Marcel Gavel <marcel.gavel6@icloud.com>
To: clerks@holyoke.org

This is proof of registration with the EPA as a hazardous waste generator.

12:18 LTE

< Inbox 3 Messages

Michael Hurley 10/23/24
To: Marcel Cc: Daniel, Heather >

Hazardous Waste ID: MAR000640482

Hi Marcel,

Thanks for your application, the EPA ID Haz Waste number for your shop is: MAR000640482

Take care-

-Mike

Michael M. Hurley
Chief, Systems Management Branch
Massachusetts Dept of Env. Protection
617.913.2931

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Marcel Gavel <WELDER54>,

Your myRCRAid request for Classic Custom Muffler Exhaust has been accepted and assigned the ID MAR000640482. Please use this ID for all future submissions. You have been granted a Site Manager permission for your site.

Sent from my iPhone

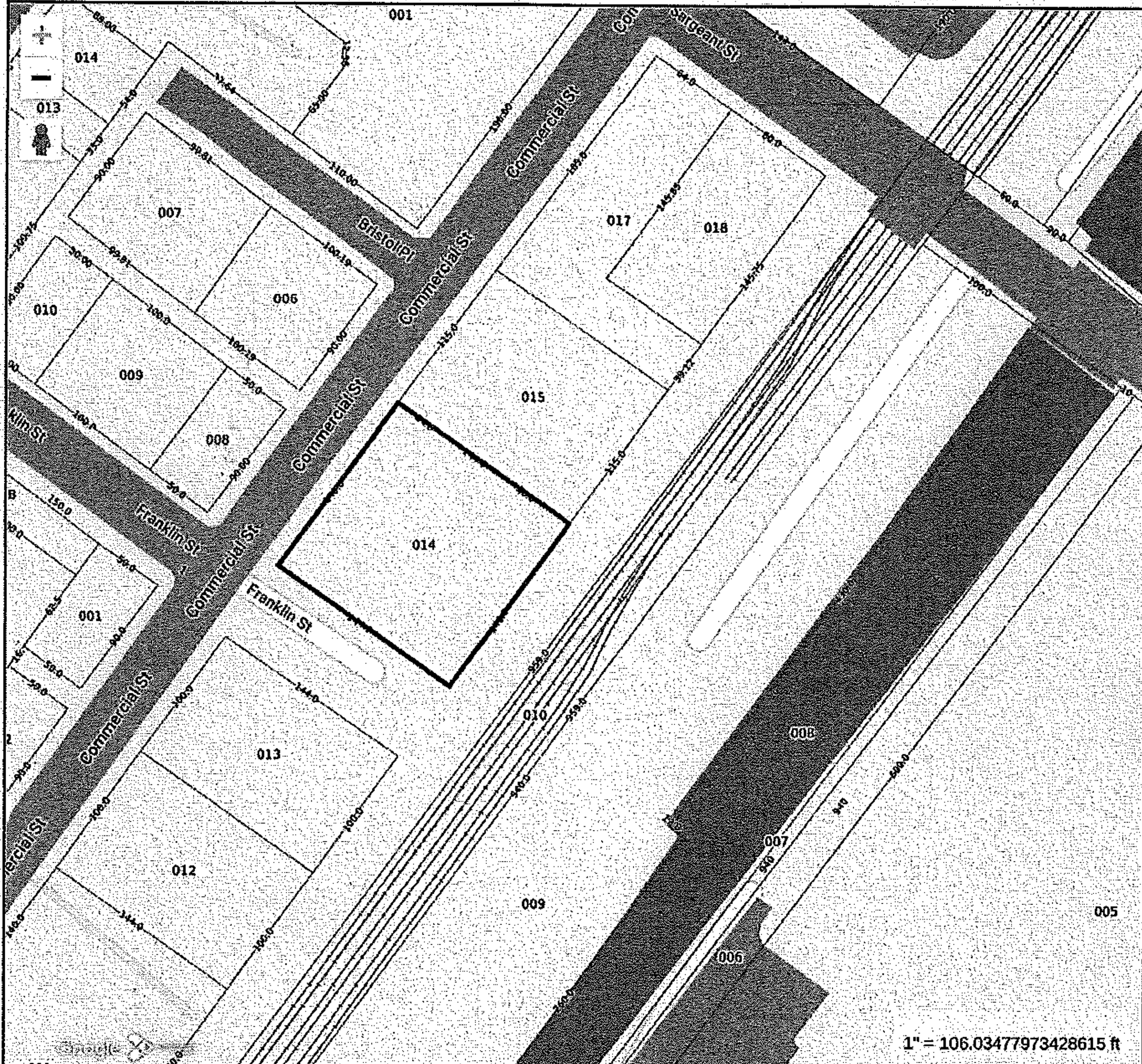
On Nov 21, 2024, at 12:17, Marcel Gavel <marcel.gavel6@icloud.com> wrote:

<COMMERCIAL ST PLOT PLANS.pdf>
This is the site plan provided by the city of Holyoke.

Sent from my iPhone

Satellite View & Map

COMMERCIAL ST AT FRANKLIN ST PARCEL



Property Information

Property ID 018-01-014
Location FRANKLIN ST
Owner COURCHESNE GARY L

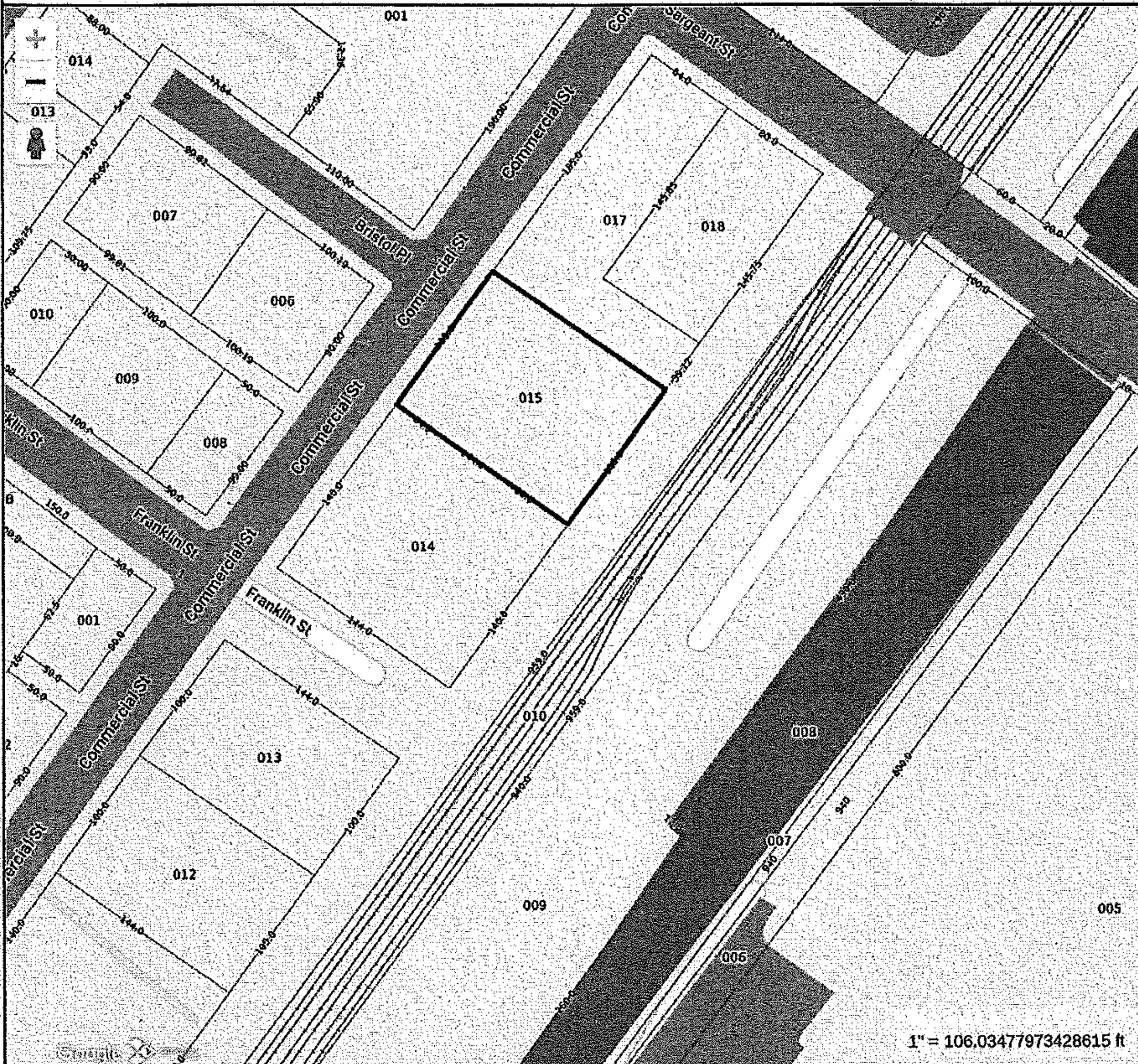
MAP FOR REFERENCE ONLY
NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT

City of Holyoke, MA makes no claims and no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the validity or accuracy of the GIS data presented on this map.

Geometry updated 03/07/2022
Data updated Daily

Print map scale is approximate. Critical layout or measurement activities should not be done using this resource.

52-58 COMMERCIAL ST BUILDING AREA



Property Information

Property ID 018-01-015
Location 52 COMMERCIAL ST
Owner COURCHESNE GARY L

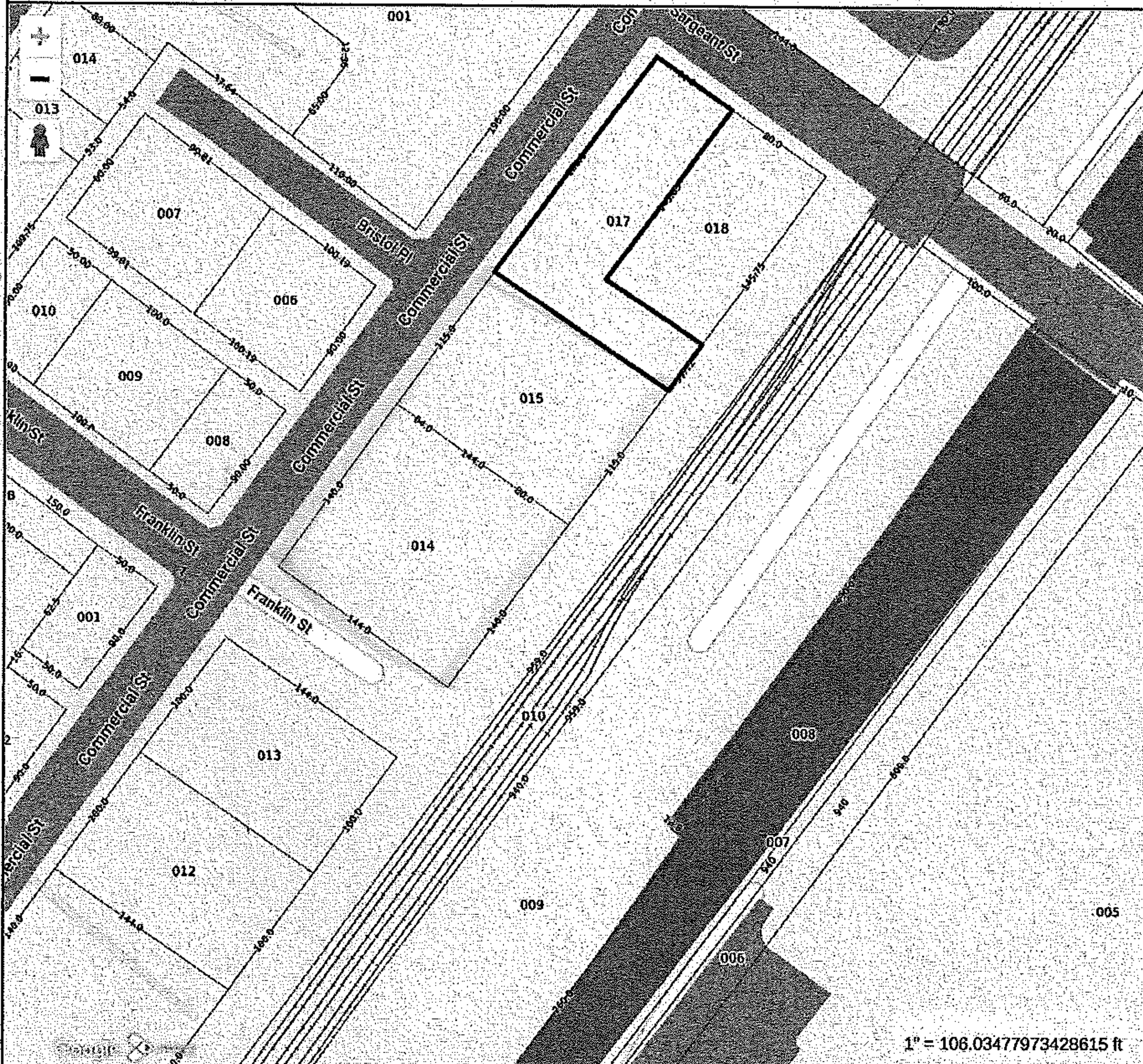
MAP FOR REFERENCE ONLY
NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT

City of Holyoke, MA makes no claims and no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the validity or accuracy of the GIS data presented on this map.

Geometry updated 03/07/2022
Data updated Daily

Print map scale is approximate. Critical layout or measurement activities should not be done using this resource.

PARCEL 14 AND 15 COMMERCIAL ST OWNED BY GARY L. COURCHESNE



Property Information		
Property ID	~~010-01-017~~	
Location	~~42 COMMERCIAL ST~~	
Owner	~~MACY KATHLEEN M~~	

MAP FOR REFERENCE ONLY
NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT

City of Holyoke, MA makes no claims and no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the validity or accuracy of the GIS data presented on this map.

Geometry updated 03/07/2022
Data updated Daily

Print map scale is approximate. Critical layout or measurement activities should not be done using this resource.

Laura E. Wilson
Tax Collector

Rory Casey
Treasurer

City of Holyoke

Form A – Tax Compliance Form

DATE: 11/21/24

In accordance with Section 82-3 of the City Ordinance, specifically:

(c) In addition to the requirements of [M.G.L.] c. 40 § 57, every city board, department, authority, or commission issuing licenses or permits in the city shall certify with the **Tax Collector** and the **Treasurer** that all taxes, fees, and assessments are current, prior to issuing any license or permit, and that all tax agreements are being complied with.

Please bring this form to City Hall and obtain each signature as required below or mail the form to the Tax Collector's Office with a stamped, self-addressed envelope. <u>Please do not submit a Business Certificate application to the City Clerk's Office prior to completing Form A.</u>

I state that I have reviewed the following and as of the date of this letter, the following is true and accurate.

Current	Type	
✓	Real Estate	
N/A	Personal Property	File form of List with Assessor's office
N/A	Excise	
N/A	Payment Plan	

Comments:

Applicant: Marcel Gavel Classic Custom Muffler-Exhaust

Address: 54 Commercial St.

Property Owner: Gary Cauchesne

Respectfully,

Laura Wilson
Tax Collector
413.322.5530

Lourdes l Martinez
City Treasurer
413.322.5560

Date: 11/01/2024

RECEIVED

NOV 15 2024

Holyoke City Clerk's
Holyoke, MA

CITY OF HOLYOKE CITY COUNCIL
ZONE CHANGE (Parcel) - APPLICATION

Current Zone BL Proposed Zone DR

Name of Owner: Vila Nova Properties LLC
Address: 724 Page Blvd Springfield MA 01104
Contact Name TIAGO MARTINS Address (if other) ______
Contact Phone 413-519-5033 Fax # ______

==

Name of Applicant: TIAGO MARTINS + Jeffrey Dias
Address: 724 Page Blvd Springfield MA 01104
Phone: 413-519-5033 Fax: ______

==

Name of/Development/Company: N/A
(if applicable)
Address: ______ Phone ______

==

Deed of Property Recorded in
Hampden County Registry of Deeds:
1.
2. Book: 25392 Page: 128

Holyoke Assessor Map Reference:
1. 006 - 09 - 002
2. Map 006 Block 09 Parcel 001

Property Address: 736 Dwight St Holyoke MA 01040

==

Please explain the reasons for the requested zone change: Plan to develop the property with duplex/triplex townhouse apartments.

Section 1.3.1 of the Zoning Ordinance: Petitions for amendments shall be made in writing on appropriate forms furnished by the City Clerk, and shall, when applicable, be accompanied by a map showing the locus, the premises in question, all abutting premises and other premises within 300 feet of the perimeter of the premises in question, adjacent and nearby streets and ways, and the existing zoning of the locus. The cost of publication of notices of public hearings required by G.L. c. 40A, s. 5 shall be borne by the petitioner. The fee for such notice shall be $100.00.

______
Applicant (or LEGAL COUNCIL

Tiago A Martins (TIAGO A. MARTINS)
OWNER (or LEGAL COUNSEL)

______
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

Tiago A Martins
SIGNATURE OF OWNER (or LEGAL COUNSEL)

Laura E. Wilson
Tax Collector

Rory Casey
Treasurer

City of Holyoke

Form A – Tax Compliance Form

DATE: 11 / 15 / 24

In accordance with Section 82-3 of the City Ordinance, specifically:

(c) In addition to the requirements of [M.G.L.] c. 40 § 57, every city board, department, authority, or commission issuing licenses or permits in the city shall certify with the **Tax Collector** and the **Treasurer** that all taxes, fees, and assessments are current, prior to issuing any license or permit, and that all tax agreements are being complied with.

Please bring this form to City Hall and obtain each signature as required below or mail the form to the Tax Collector's Office with a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Please do not submit a Business Certificate application to the City Clerk's Office prior to completing Form A.

I state that I have reviewed the following and as of the date of this letter, the following is true and accurate.

Current	Type
✓	Real Estate
N/A	Personal Property
N/A	Excise
N/A	Payment Plan

Comments:

Applicant: TIAGO MARTINS

Address: 736 Dwight St Holyoke MA

Property Owner: Vila Nova Properties LLC

Respectfully,

Laura Wilson
Tax Collector
413.322.5530

City Treasurer
413.322.5560

Date: 11/01/2024

RECEIVED

NOV 1 5

Holyoke City Clerk's
Holyoke, MA

CITY OF HOLYOKE CITY COUNCIL
ZONE CHANGE (Parcel) - APPLICATION

Current Zone BL Proposed Zone DR

Name of Owner: MARTINS SANTANIELLO PROPERTIES LLC
Address: 39 GRANT ST LUDLOW MA 01056
Contact Name TIAGO MARTINS Address (if other) ________
Contact Phone 413-519-5033 Fax # ________

==

Name of Applicant: TIAGO MARTINS
Address: 39 GRANT ST LUDLOW MA 01056
Phone: 413-519-5033 Fax: ________

==

Name of/Development/Company: N/A
(if applicable)
Address: ________ Phone ________

==

Deed of Property Recorded in
Hampden County Registry of Deeds:

Holyoke Assessor Map Reference:

Book: 24908 Page: 17

1. Map 006 Block 06 Parcel 009
2. 006 06 010

Property Address: 712-718 Dwight St Holyoke MA 01040

==

Please explain the reasons for the requested zone change: Plan to develop into duplex / triplex apartments

Section 1.3.1 of the Zoning Ordinance: Petitions for amendments shall be made in writing on appropriate forms furnished by the City Clerk, and shall, when applicable, be accompanied by a map showing the locus, the premises in question, all abutting premises and other premises within 300 feet of the perimeter of the premises in question, adjacent and nearby streets and ways, and the existing zoning of the locus. The cost of publication of notices of public hearings required by G.L. c. 40A, s. 5 shall be borne by the petitioner. The fee for such notice shall be $100.00.

____
Applicant (or LEGAL COUNCIL

TIAGO A MARTINS
OWNER (or LEGAL COUNSEL)

____
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

Tiago Martins
SIGNATURE OF OWNER (or LEGAL COUNSEL)

Laura E. Wilson
Tax Collector

Rory Casey
Treasurer

City of Holyoke

Form A – Tax Compliance Form

DATE: 11 /15 /24

In accordance with Section 82-3 of the City Ordinance, specifically:

(c) In addition to the requirements of [M.G.L.] c. 40 § 57, every city board, department, authority, or commission issuing licenses or permits in the city shall certify with the **Tax Collector** and the **Treasurer** that all taxes, fees, and assessments are current, prior to issuing any license or permit, and that all tax agreements are being complied with.

Please bring this form to City Hall and obtain each signature as required below or mail the form to the Tax Collector's Office with a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Please do not submit a Business Certificate application to the City Clerk's Office prior to completing Form A.

I state that I have reviewed the following and as of the date of this letter, the following is true and accurate.

Current	Type
✓	Real Estate
N/A	Personal Property
N/A	Excise
N/A	Payment Plan

Comments:

Applicant: TIAGO MARTINS

Address: 712-718 Dwight St Holyoke MA

Property Owner: MARTINS SANTANIELLO PROPERTIES

Respectfully,

Laura Wilson
Tax Collector
413.322.5530

Samuel Martinez
City Treasurer
413.322.5560