

AGENDA FOR THE CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 21, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC COMMENT

LAI D 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. List of Council Appointments 2025
3. From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter appointing Ms. Tiffany Espinosa of 30 Amherst St Holyoke to serve as a member of the Holyoke Redevelopment Authority. Ms. Espinosa will replace Mr. Jorge Colon and will serve the remainder of his term expiring November 1, 2029.
4. From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter appointing Ms. Mary O'Connor of 55 Mayer Drive in Holyoke to serve as a member of the Holyoke Historical Commission. Ms. O'Connor will serve a three year term expiring on January 6, 2028.
5. From City Clerk Brenna Murphy Leary and Admin. Assistant Jeffery Anderson-Burgos, meeting minutes from January 7, 2025
6. From City Solicitor Lisa Ball, Holyoke Police Chief Contract
7. From Assistant City Solicitor Jane Mantolesky- Notice of Sale - Old Rock Valley Road
8. From Tanya Wdowiak, City Auditor, response to order asking for information on revolving funds
9. From Mary Monahan, Chair of Board of Public Works, Funding request to Rep Duffy for levee repair
10. From R Levesque Associates, agreement to waive 65 day time frame to open public hearing on special permit application for 37 Appleton Street - Proposed Motor Vehicle Repair Garage filed on November 19, 2024
11. From R Levesque Associates, agreement to waive 90 day time frame to act on special permit application for 209 South Street - Proposed Coffee Shop/Drive-thru Restaurant filed on June 6, 2023 and public hearing closed on October 28, 2024
12. Board of Public Works minutes, March 2021 - December 2021
13. Board of Public Works minutes, January 2022 - December 2022

14. Board of Public Works minutes, January 2023 - December 2023
15. Board of Public Works minutes, January 2024 - November 2024

PETITIONS

16. Petition from Amanda and Marcos Garcia of 25 Brenton Lane for a Home Occupation for Accounting Remote Work
17. Petition from Alan Fini for a Special Permit for a Family Cemetery (9.3) at 2 Fini Rd. Holyoke

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

18. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the City install a raised crosswalk (or other appropriate alternative) on Nick Cosmos Way in front of the Boys & Girls Club to ensure pedestrian safety for residents, kids and staff accessing the park.
Recommended that the order be adopted.
19. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order 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.
Recommended that the order be adopted.
20. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order Handicap Placard Application for Margarita Roldan of 150 Linden St.
Recommended that the order be adopted.
21. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order the DPW install a Handicap sign for Estela Acosta 171 Beech St.
Recommended that the order be adopted.
22. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order the DPW install a Handicap sign for Rebecca Ganieary of 322 Linden St.
Recommended that the order be adopted.
23. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order The DPW install a handicap sign for Yulitza Diaz Garcia of 45 Congress Ave
Recommended that the order be adopted.
24. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order the DPW install a handicap sign for Hector Torres at 184 Sargeant St.
Recommended that the order be adopted.
25. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the DPW install a Handicap sign at for Hector Torres of 184 Sargeant St.
Recommended that the order has been complied with.

26. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 Dollars (\$10,500) as follows:
FROM
12101-51107 PATROLMEN \$10,500
TOTAL \$10,500
TO:
12102-53010 MAP/DATA MAINT \$10,500
TOTAL \$10,500
Recommended that the order be adopted.
27. 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 "SFY25 SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE (CSI) GRANT PROGRAM, \$606,446.54, 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.
Recommended that the order be adopted.
28. 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 "SFY2025 COMMONWEALTH PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE GRANT, \$30,000, NO MATCH" grant and authorizes the establishment of a Fund or other method appropriate for the accounting of the receipts and expenditures of all resources associated with the administration of said grant.
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.
Recommended that the order be adopted.
29. 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
8811-10400 CAPITAL STABILIZATION \$30,000
TOTAL \$30,000
TO:
16932-52500 WAR MEMORIAL R&M BUILDING \$30,000

TOTAL \$30,000

Recommended that the order be adopted.

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, FIFTEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$15,000) as follows:

FROM

14251-51104 PAY-HMEO	\$15,000
TOTAL	\$15,000
TO:	
14222-52505 R&M SENIOR CENTER	\$15,000
TOTAL	\$15,000

Recommended that the order be adopted.

31. 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 "MA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH/PARTNERS FOR A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY - CAPACITY BUILD RACIAL EQUITY, \$10,000, NO MATCH" grant and authorizes the establishment of a Fund or other method appropriate for the accounting of the receipts and expenditures of all resources associated with the administration of said grant.

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.

Recommended that the order be adopted.

32. 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-EIGHT THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX AND 15/100 Dollars (\$48,826.15) as follows:

	FROM	TO
11211	51276MAYOR'S CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS	21,631.74
11211	51104MAYOR'S PAY-CAFO	716.19
15431	51103VETERAN'S PAY - INVESTIGATOR	6,002.88
15431	51101VETERAN'S PAY - COMMISSIONER	2,240.00
15431	51500VETERAN'S VACATION BUYBACK	2,000.00
15431	51510VETERAN'S SICK LEAVE BUYBACK	5,000.00

11521		51102PAY -	11,235.34
		PERSONNEL	
12401	51102	ASSISTANT	
		ASST BUILDING	3,132.93
		COMMISSIONER	
12401	51103	CHIEF	2,828.00
		INSPECTOR OF	
		WIRES	
12401	51107	ZONING OFFICIAL	2,222.00
11751	51108	ASSISTANT	4,560.00
		DIRECTOR OF	
		PLANNING	
11751	51102	ASST DIR OF	4,560.00
		ECONOMIC DEV	
11751	51105	SENIOR PROJECT	2,222.00
		MANAGER	
11751	51106	PLANNER 1	1,090.00
12441	51101	SEALER OF	2,525.00
		WEIGHTS AND	
		MEASURES	
11711	51101	CONSRVTN &	3,030.00
		SUSTNBLTY	
		DIRECTOR	
14211	51108	SAFETY OFFICER	2,020.00
15411	51103	ASSISTANT	2,222.00
		DIRECTOR - COA	
15411	51101	DIRECTOR	3,030.00
		COUNCIL ON	
		AGING	
15431	51105	NATIONAL	1,560.99
		SERVICE	
		OFFICER	
16301	51101	DIRECTOR	2,899.14
		PARKS/REC	
		FORESTRY	
15101	51101	DIRECTOR	1,632.00
		BOARD OF	
		HEALTH	
15101	51202	ANIMAL CONTROL	2,020.08
		OFFICER	
16911	51101	DIRECTOR	2,828.00
		WISTARIAHURST	
16911	51103	CITY HISTORIAN	2,222.00
16301	51103	ASST DIRECTOR	2,222.00
		OF PARKS & REC	
			48,826.15 48,826.15

Recommended that the order be denied.

33. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order Settlement agreement by and between the City of Holyoke and Holyoke Professional Supervisors Association Recommended that the order be denied.
34. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order Redlined Settlement agreement by and between the City of Holyoke and Holyoke Professional Supervisors Association Recommended that the order be denied.
35. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order Special permit application of Marcel Gavel to operate a vehicle exhaust repair and welding business at 54 Commercial Street (018-01-15).
Recommended that the special permit be granted with the following conditions:
1. That the hours of operation will be Monday - Saturday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.;
 2. That there will be no overnight parking;
 3. That there will be no engine work on site;
 4. That there will be no vehicles stores inside;
 5. That there will be no hazardous waste storage in site.
36. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order Special Permit Application of Daniel LaFlamme (Daniel's Truck Center Inc) to operate a light truck repairing and detailing center at 41 Temple St (085-00-012) per sec. 7.2.13(a).
Recommended that the special permit be granted with the following conditions:
1. That the hours of operation will be Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.;
 2. That the lighting cannot be detrimental to the neighborhood;
 3. That the petitioner will address all open questions on the Planning Department letter dated December 10, 2024.
37. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order 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.
Recommended that the order has been complied with.
38. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order that OPED please provide an update on the former K-Mart plaza. On the main door to the former retailer is contact information for what appears to be a new owner. Please reach out to them and circle back to city council. Per its web site: For other inquiries, please call Transformco at (847) 286-2500 and please see its website www.transformco.com.
Recommended that the order has been complied with.
39. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order 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.
Recommended that the resolution be adopted.

40. -- The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order Resolution in Support of Eviction Sealing to Promote Housing Opportunity and Mobility (Attached).
Recommended that the order has been complied with.

MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS

41.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWENTY NINE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED NINETEEN AND 44/100 Dollars (\$29,619.44) as follows:

FROM

12101-51104 LIEUTENANTS	\$ 4,120.92
12101-51105 SERGEANTS	3,567.68
12101-51107 PATROLMEN	21,930.84
TOTAL	\$29,619.44

TO:

12201-51180 INJURED ON DUTY	\$29,619.44
TOTAL	\$29,619.44

42.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, THIRTY TWO THOUSAND SEVENTY ONE AND 58/100 Dollars (\$32,071.58) as follows:

FROM

12101-51104 LIEUTENANTS	\$ 4,120.92
12101-51105 SERGEANTS	3,567.68
12101-51107 PATROLMEN	24,382.98
TOTAL	\$32,071.58

TO:

12201-51180 INJURED ON DUTY	\$32,071.58
TOTAL	\$32,071.58

43.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$350,000) as follows:

FROM

12101-51107 PATROLMEN	\$250,000
12101-51105 SERGEANTS	50,000
12101-51117 DISPATCH	50,000
TOTAL	\$350,000

TO:

12101-51300 OVERTIME	\$350,000
TOTAL	\$350,000

44. Murphy-Romboletti- Ordered that the City Council issue a proclamation in recognition of "Girl Day" on February 20 to present to Girls Inc of the Valley, as part of a day of recognition to inspire girls to consider careers in engineering and other STEM fields.
45. Rivera, J.-As per the property manager's request from Lyman Terrace Apartments, we are requesting three parking spots for the staff in front of 17 Hampden Street, along with signs indicating "Parking for Lyman Terrace Staff."
46. Vacon- ORDER: At the 1-91 dedicated exit lane to the mall, consider the installation of flexible lane delineators to prevent people from illegally crossing the solid line across the bike lane.
Refer to Public Safety and Sgt. Zurheide and the Traffic Enforcement Grant Committee
47. Vacon- ORDER: that our Police Department address the illegal drag racing on Bobala Drive and coordinate with West Springfield police as able to stop this activity.Refer to PD, Sgt. Zurheide and the Traffic Enforcement Grant Committee
48. Vacon- ORDER: the PD provide enforcement activities by Holyoke and/or State Police re: truck traffic during restricted hours at night and drivers exceeding speed limits on Homestead Ave.
Refer to Public Safety, Sgt. Zurheide and the Traffic Enforcement Grant Committee
49. Vacon- ORDER: Request to prioritize Homestead Ave. from Westfield Rd to Lower Westfield Rd be re-paved due to high truck traffic volume & many rough repairs on the roadway.
50. Vacon, Jourdain- ORDER: that the law department come into compliance with Ordinance 2-156 and the auditor confirms that the rates of pay are in compliance with the ordinance & schedule A.
- 51.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, ONE HUNDRED FORTY FIVE AND 00/100 Dollars (\$145.00) as follows:

FROM

15102-57300 DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS – BOARD OF HEALTH	\$ 75.00
15102-54220 SUPPLIES OTHER – BOARD OF HEALTH	70.00
TOTAL	\$145.00

TO:

11752-57300 DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS-PLANNING	\$145.00
TOTAL	\$145.00

52.

Devine-Ordered, that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the "FY24 MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY-EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM GRANT, \$9,500, 50% 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.

53.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWO HUNDRED NINETY THREE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY NINE AND 63/100 Dollars (\$293,439.63) as follows:

FROM

8810-10400 GENERAL STABILIZATION	\$186,557.87
8811-10400 CAPITAL STABILIZATION	106,881.76
TOTAL	\$293,439.63

TO:

14253-58002 HIGHWAY- CAPITAL OUTLAY MV	\$293,439.63
TOTAL	\$293,439.63

54. Greaney, Ocasio - Ordered that flashing stop signs be placed at the intersection of Jackson and Commercial Streets.

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