

AGENDA FOR THE CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 18, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING

1. HGE Pole Petition Corser St(1)

PUBLIC COMMENT

REGULAR AND PENDING EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

2. From City Clerk Brenna Murphy Leary an Admin Assistant Jeffery Anderson-Burgos, meeting minutes from the Special Meeting on February 24, 2025 and the March 4, 2025 meeting.
3. -- November 1, 2022, December 5, 2023, and February 6, 2024 Executive Session Minutes - Reviewed and partially released as of September 4, 2024
4. -- January 22, 2024 and June 11, 2024 Executive Session Minutes - Reviewed and withheld in entirety as of September 4, 2024
5. -- November 19, 2024 Executive Session and December 9, 2024 Finance Committee Executive Session Minutes - Yet to be reviewed

LAIID ON THE TABLE

6. From City Clerk Brenna Murphy Leary and Admin. Assistant Jeffery Anderson-Burgos, minutes of February 18, 2025 meeting.
7. The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order With community support, order that the following section of our Codes of Ordinances and charter be updated to reflect use of email as sufficient for special meeting notice:
Sec. 12. – Special meetings of city council.
The Mayor or City Council President may at any time call a special meeting of the city council by public posting through the city website along with written notifications thereof, together with a statement of the subjects to be considered thereat, to be deposited in the post office, postpaid and addressed to the persons to be notified, at least forty-eight hours before the time appointed for such meeting, or to be left at the usual place of residence of each member of the council, by email at least forty-eight hours before the time appointed for such meeting. (Acts 1965, c. 187; Acts 1992, c. 189)
Awaiting disposition

COMMUNICATIONS

8. From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter reappointing Ms. Patricia Normand of 36 Pleasant St to serve as a member of the Conservation Commission. Ms. Normand will serve a three year term expiring February 1, 2028.
9. From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter reappointing various individuals to serve as members of the Parking Advisory Board

10. From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter appointing Ms. Dalila Hyry-Dermith of 37 Longfellow Rd. to serve as a Commissioner of the Board of Health. Ms. Dalila Hyry-Dermith will serve a three-year term expiring
11. From City Solicitor Lisa Ball, City of Holyoke Law Department Business Report 24-25
12. From Assistant City Solicitor Kathleen Degnan-Open Meeting Law Complaint for Councilor Linda Vacon
13. From Sean Sheedy, Maintenance Administrator, MSBA SOI Communication
14. From Alicia Zoeller, Office of Community Development, American Rescue Plan Act Grant Update
15. From President Murphy-Romboletti- letter regarding municipal finance reform update
16. From City Councilor Kevin Jourdain-School Budget Advisory Report 1 from School Budget Advisory Group
17. Westfield City Councilor Dan Allie, Lithum Fire Poses Risk to CT Valley
18. From Holyoke Redevelopment Authority, meeting minutes for the HRA January 22, 2025
19. From Historical Commission, meeting minutes from January 13, 2025.
20. From Board of Fire Commission, meeting minutes from February 12, 2025
21. From HEDIC, minutes from January 23, 2025 meeting

PETITIONS

22. Petition from Marisol Figueroa , application for a renewal of a Home Occupation for a nail salon at 222 West Franklin St.
23. Petition from William F. Sullivan for a renewal of a Junk Dealer License at 107 Appleton St.
24. Petition from William F. Sullivan for a renewal of a Junk Dealer License at 1-3 Jed Days Landing

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

25. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred a Zone change application - Tiago Martins & Jeffrey Dias at 736 Dwight St from BL to DR to develop properties with duplex/triplex apartments.
Recommended that the zone change be granted.
26. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred a Zone change application - Tiago Martins at 712-718 Dwight St from BL to DR to develop properties with duplex/triplex

apartments.

Recommended that the zone change be granted.

27. -- The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that if someone is putting in an RFP through the city for a property that is up for sale and the applicant has outstanding issues with the Board of Health, Building Department, or any other city department having to do with other properties they own, that they are not eligible to win the bid for the RFP.

Recommended that the order be adopted.

28. -- The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that Sec 38-73 (6) of our ordinances be amended for the hours to read 10pm instead of 11pm and 8am instead of 7am.

Recommended that the order be adopted.

29. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order Sec 86-6 be updated from \$200 to \$1000 for consistency with state law.

Recommended that the order be adopted.

30. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order Ordinance be created that requires the police to report all damage to city property greater than \$1,000 from a motor vehicle accident to the City Council, Mayor and Law Dept. Further, that the DPW, Mayor and Law Dept have an affirmative duty to pursue collection action against the insurance carrier and/or operator or other responsible party to make the City whole for damage to city property resulting from motor vehicle accidents. City needs to have an ordinance establishing a policy in this matter to help ensure uniformity of enforcement.

Recommended that the order be adopted.

31. The Committee on Finance 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.

32. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order hat there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, FIVE THOUSAND Dollars AND 00/100 Dollars (\$5,000) as follows:

	FROM	TO
12101 5119 POLICE RESERVE	5,000	
0010 57200 OUT OF STATE TRAVEL		5,000
	5,000	5,0000

Recommended that the order be adopted.

33. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, FIVE THOUSAND Dollars AND 00/100 Dollars (\$5,000) as follows:

	FROM	TO
1421 51102 DPW HOISTING EQUIP OPERATOR	5,000	
01010 57200 OUT OF STATE TRAVEL		5,000

5,000 5,000

Recommended that the order be referred to the full Council without recommendation.

34. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, FIVE THOUSAND Dollars AND 00/100 Dollars (\$5,000) as follows:

		FROM	TO
12101 5119 FIRE FIGHTER LINE		5,000	
0010 57200 OUT OF STATE TRAVEL	5,000		
		5,000	5,000

Recommended that the order be adopted.

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, ELEVEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY FIVE AND 00/100 Dollars (\$11,235) as follows:

FROM

11521-51102 PERSONNEL ASSISTANT	\$11,235
TOTAL	\$11,235

TO:

11522-53009 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$11,235
TOTAL	\$11,235
PERSONNEL DEPT	

Recommended that the order be adopted.

36. 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 FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$25,000) as follows:

FROM

11381-51102 ASSISTANT CPO	\$25,000
TOTAL	\$25,000

TO:

11382-53010 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$25,000
TOTAL	\$25,000
PURCHASING DEPT	

Recommended that the order be adopted.

37. 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 THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$20,000) as follows:

FROM

11451-51125 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	\$11,000
11451-51132 PAYROLL SPECIALIST	9,000

	TOTAL	\$20,000
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TO:

11452-53010 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		\$20,000
	TOTAL	\$20,000
CITY TREASURER'S OFFICE		

Recommended that the order be adopted.

38. 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 "BYRNE STATE CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM, \$84,458.79, 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.

39. 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 FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$25,000) as follows:

FROM

8811-10400 CAPITAL STABILIZATION	\$25,000
	TOTAL \$25,000

TO:

12103-58003 HPD CAP OUTLAY- BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	\$25,000
	TOTAL \$25,000

Recommended that the order be adopted.

40. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that City Council review CPA Committee recommendations and approve funding for FY25 CPA projects.
Recommended that the order be adopted.

41. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED THIRTY SEVEN AND 50/100 Dollars (\$2,337.50) as follows:

FROM

15101-51203 SUBSTITUTE NURSE	\$1,500.00
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15101-51850 AUTO ALLOWANCE	837.50
TOTAL	\$2,337.50

TO:

15101-51201 BOARD MEMBERS – BOARD OF HEALTH	\$2,337.50
TOTAL	\$2,337.50

Recommended that the order be adopted.

42. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order In the interest of transparency, order that the Collins Center for Public Management present its findings, working with Holyoke's Government Restructure Advisory Council, on Payments In Lieu of Taxes, PILOTs. Some cities and towns (Boston, Brookline) developed formal PILOT policies where the municipality asks the nonprofit to pay a portion of the taxes their tax-exempt property would have paid if it wasn't tax-exempt. Springfield and Concord are exploring the need for PILOT policies. Holyoke has hundreds of tax-exempt properties including group homes, charities, drug recovery agencies, hospitals, health centers, churches, schools, colleges, and more that were included in the study.
Recommended that the order has been complied with.
43. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred a communication Holyoke Draft PILOT Report
Recommended that the order has been complied with.
44. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order The Parks Commission forward the proposed lease between the City and the Blue Sox to city council for its review and approval asap (ie preferably prior to the start of the 2025 baseball season).
Recommended that the order has been complied with.
45. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order The DGR committee invite the Valley (Holyoke) Blue Sox owner/president (Matt Drury) and its new manager (Endy Morales) to a future meeting to preview the Summer 2025 season. Matt's in his 3d season as owner and this will be Endy's first season as the Blue Sox' head coach. Endy wore #40 when playing for the Blue Sox and that number is retired.
Recommended that the order has been complied with.
46. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred a communication From Parks and Rec-02.28.25-Elms College Contract 2025
Recommended that the contract be adopted.
47. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred a communication From Parks and Rec Commission-02.28.25 Blue Sox Contract 2025 season
Recommended that the contract be adopted.

MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS

48. I. Rivera - Order that the chief give us an update or a plan as to how what the approach is to begin tackling issues outlined in MRI audit.
49. I. Rivera - Order that the honorable city council develop a vision statement that outlines the council's goals and aspirations for the community.
50. I. Rivera - Order that the honorable city council develop a list of core values that is developed and supported by all individual councilors.
51. I. Rivera -Order that the honorable city council develop a mission statement focused on key priorities such as:
Community focus: Prioritizing the needs and quality of life for all residents.
Inclusive decision-making: Ensuring representation and consideration of diverse perspectives.
Fiscal responsibility: Managing public funds wisely.
Transparency and accountability: Open communication with the public.
Sustainable development: Planning for the future with environmental considerations
52. Bartley- City of Holyoke staff our municipal garages over Parade weekend. Years ago, I presented and we approved a parade weekend parking fee of \$10/car for daily parking. DPW should staff the entrances Saturday and Sunday mornings. Refer to Matt Sokop, copy HPD.
53. Bartley- City Council Rule 4 is hereby amended as follows: Add the following paragraph to the end of Rule 4.B. – For the sake of public transparency, Late Filed orders (as defined herein) may be added to the already published Regular Agenda and presented (a) to the members at the Regular Meeting by offering printed copies and by remittance to the members by way of electronic mail and the same shall be sent no later than 1 PM on the day the Regular meeting is scheduled and (b) to the Public via the City website and the same shall be posted no later than 1 PM of the day of a Regular City Council meeting. In any event, late -filed orders may not be appended the Regular Agenda unless for good cause and so long as written approval from both the Clerk and the President is presented to the members before the Regular meeting. Said writing shall be presented to the members at the Regular meeting and shall include reasons explaining the 'good cause' and signatures of both the Clerk and the President.
54. Bartley- City Council Rule 4 is hereby amended as follows: Add the following sentence to the end of the first paragraph of Rule 4.B. – So long as it is in a writing to the Clerk, any member may opt out of having his/her agenda sent via U.S. mail and instead may have the agenda sent via electronic mail, personal delivery by the Administrative Assistant or not at all. Said decision shall remain in force until the Clerk is otherwise notified, in writing, by the member.
55. Bartley - ORDER That the Law Dept immediately update City Council on its legal action to take the Begley-Lawler seven acre property for tax title. The matter is pending in Land Court (see Docket No. 2023TL00052, City of Holyoke v. David Begley of the Begley Family Realty Trust, et al). This concerns a wooded parcel located in Ward

Three. FYI to the public - the seven acre parcel nearly abuts the 11-acre HEDIC-owned parcel that is now under a purchase & sale contract between HEDIC and USA International Sports Complex Inc.. I say nearly abuts because the Parks Dept. owns the 4.5 acre parcel that splits the HEDIC-owned and BEGLEY-owned parcels. Please provide City Council with as much detail as possible on the lawsuits merits, costs, legal expenses and ultimately its benefit to the City Taxpayers.

56. Givner-Per business owner request, order that a 10am-6pm loading zone, with signage, be created at 414 High St.~DGR copy to Ordinance
57. Magrath-Smith, ordered that the Ordinance Committee make necessary changes in order for us to align city ordinances to the revised notification procedure for regular, sub-committee, and special meetings recently drafted in Charter and Rules.
58. Magrath-Smith, ordered that the role of the Public Service and Human Resources Committee as described in Section 9B.iv and 9L and 9M be reviewed and revised.
59. Magrath-Smith - ordered that Charter and Rules holistically review and reorganize how information on sub-committees is presented in the rules for the sake of clarity in Section 9.
60. Magrath-Smith - ordered that Rule 1C be revised to align with modern practices. 1C reads: "All 'Rules and Orders of the City Council' shall be read by the President of the Council to every newly elected City Council during the first meeting of that newly elected Council or at any time prior to said first meeting if the City Council so agrees."
61. Magrath-Smith - ordered that Rule 4E be revised to create a system that assigns a specific number to each order, allowing for better tracking across multiple committees and over time. Rule 4E is "All city council orders introduced to the City Council shall be numbered consecutively, and a log of all orders be kept by the City Clerk and the Council's Clerk of Committees showing the order number, the date the order was brought before the City Council, the action taken by the City Council on the order, or the Council Committee or city department the order was referred to, the date the order was referred back from the committee or department, and the final action taken by the City Council."
62. Magrath-Smith, ordered that Rule 4F be revised to align with modern practices. Rule 4F is "Co-signers of City Council orders must call the City Clerk to confirm that they do, in fact, want their name on that specific order."
63. Magrath-Smith, ordered that a procedure for tracking updates in Municode be created for Ordinances similar to the grant reporting procedure established by Councilor Bartley.
64. Magrath-Smith, ordered that revisions to Section 7A of our rules be considered. Section 7A reads: 7. AGENDA A. At every regular meeting of the Council, the order of business shall be as follows:
 - i. Calling the roll of the members.
 - ii. Pledge of Allegiance followed by the statement "God Bless America, God Bless the City of Holyoke and All its Citizens, and God Bless the City Council."
 - iii. Presentations and reports by invitation of the City Council

- iv. Public Comment (amended May 15, 2012)
 - v. Reading the journal of the previous meeting, if requested by the City Council.
 - vi. Unfinished business of previous meeting.
 - vii. Communications and reports from city officers
 - viii. President's Report. ix. Presentation of petitions, memorials, and remonstrances.
 - x. Reports of Committees.
 - xi. Motions, orders, and resolutions
 - xii. Late-Filed orders: A listing of all late file orders from the prior City Council Meeting be listed and attached to the subsequent meetings agenda as an addendum.
- The above shall not be departed from but by vote of the majority of the City Council present.

- 65. Murphy-Romboletti- Ordered that, at the recommendation of the Holyoke Police Department, the City Council review and update its towing ordinances related to fees (Sec. 86-133)
- 66. Murphy-Romboletti- Ordered that the City Council update its ordinances in Chapter 86 - Traffic and Vehicles to include language that clarifies rules and restrictions related to the city's street sweeping schedule.

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

APPENDIX A

PETITION FOR POLE AND WIRE LOCATIONS

Holyoke, MA February 28, 2025

To the CITY COUNCIL of Holyoke, Massachusetts.

The GAS AND ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT requests permission to locate a line of wires, cables, poles and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way or ways:

- *One (1) 35' pole near 1 Corser St, corner of Isabella St Holyoke MA*

Wherefore it prays that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, it be granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain a line of wires, cable and poles, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked HG& E Dept. No.3-1S and Dated 02/28/2025.

Also, for permission to lay and maintain underground services, cables and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as it may desire for distributing purposes.

Your petitioner agrees to reserve space at a suitable point on each of said poles for the fire, police, telecommunications, and control signal wires belonging to the municipality and used by it exclusively for municipal purposes.

HOLYOKE GAS AND ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

By_____

ORDER FOR POLE AND WIRE LOCATIONS

By the CITY COUNCIL of the City of Holyoke, Massachusetts.

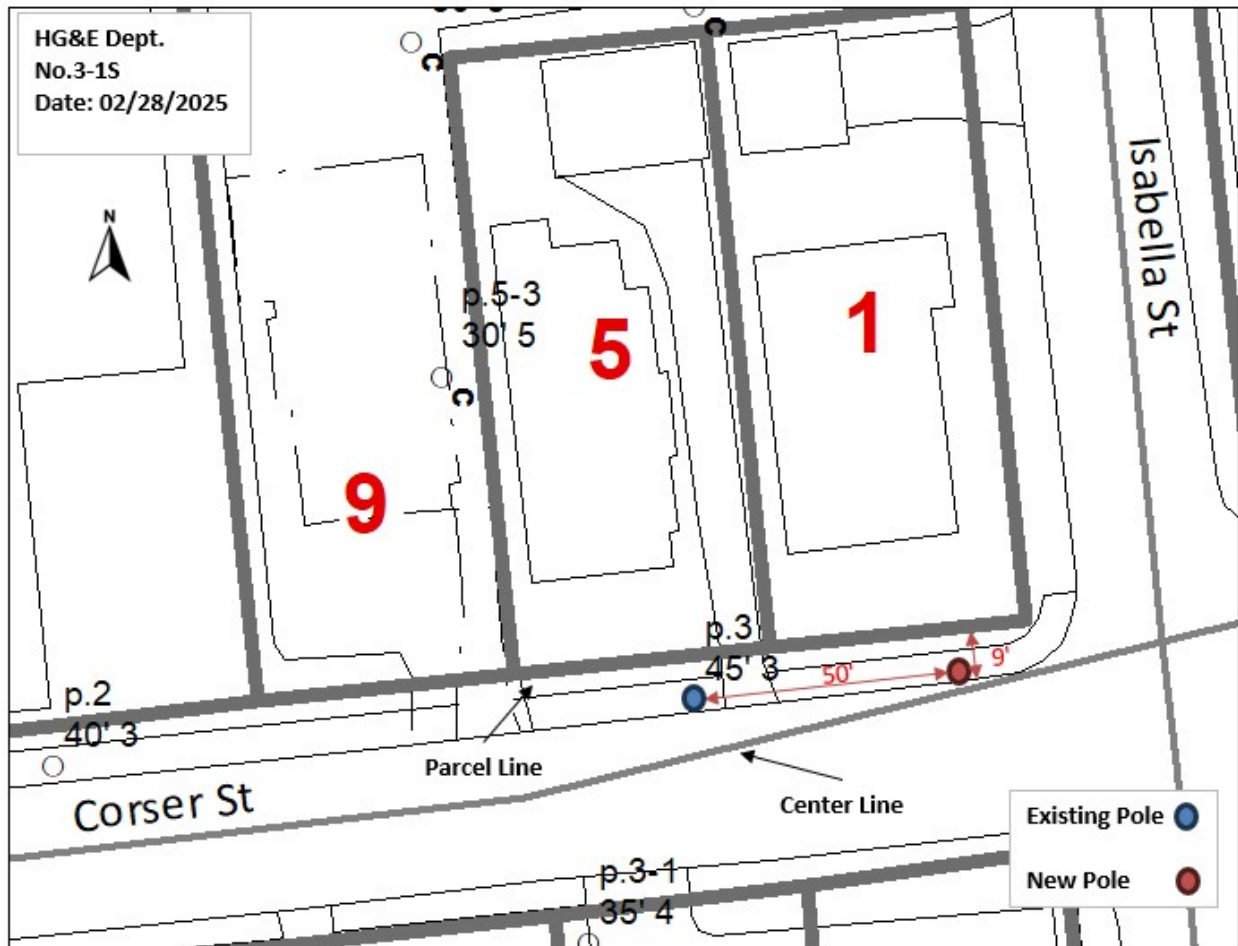
Notice having been given and a public hearing being held, as provided by law,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

That the **GAS AND ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT** be and it is hereby granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain a line of wires, cables and poles together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as said **DEPARTMENT** may deem necessary, in the public way or ways hereinafter referred to as requested in petition of said **DEPARTMENT** dated _____ the day of _____ 20__.

All construction under this order shall be in accordance with the following conditions:

Poles shall be of sound timber and reasonably straight and shall be set substantially at the points indicated upon the plan shown below.



The following are the public ways or parts of ways along which the poles above referred to may be erected, and the number of poles which may be erected thereon under this order:

- *One (1) 35' pole near 1 Corser St, corner of Isabella St Holyoke MA*

Also, that permission be and hereby is granted said **GAS AND ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT** to lay and maintain underground services, cable and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as it may desire for distributing purposes.

I hereby certify that foregoing order was adopted at a meeting of the CITY COUNCIL of the City of Holyoke, Massachusetts, held on the _____ day of _____ 20__.

City Clerk

I hereby certify that on _____ 20__, at _____ o'clock, _____ M. at _____

A public hearing was held on the petition of the **GAS AND ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT** for permission to erect the line of wires, cables, poles, fixtures and connections described in the order herewith recorded, and that I mailed at least seven days before said hearing a written notice of the time and place of said hearing to each of the owners of real estate (as determined by the last preceding assessment for taxation) along the ways or parts of ways upon which the **DEPARTMENT** is permitted to erect the line of wires, cables, poles, fixtures and connections under said order. And that thereupon said order was duly adopted.

City Clerk

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a location order and certificate of hearing with notice adopted by the CITY COUNCIL of the City of Holyoke, Massachusetts, on the day of 20 , and recorded with the records of location orders of said City, Book , Page . This certified copy is made under the provisions of Chapter 166 of Massachusetts General Laws and any additions thereto or amendments thereof.

Attest:

City Clerk

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

February 18, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Murphy-Romboletti at 7:05 p.m.

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

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. Motion adopted.

The name of Councilor Magrath-Smith was pulled to head the roll call voting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alanna Rutledge, 75 Taylor Street, stated that she and several neighbors on her street had concerns that they had not been plowed since the recent snowstorm. She added that it had been difficult to get out of her street every morning. She also stated that it had not been sanded or salted, and she often fishtailed trying to get into her driveway. She also stated that a police car went up and down her street with a siren running but had not given any instructions. She added that after people moved their cars, the road was still not plowed. She also expressed concern with people falling, noting that a lot of older people lived on the street. She also emphasized that the road not being plowed had been a consistent issue.

Amelia Box, 57 Taylor Street, seconded Ms. Rutledge's concerns. She then stated that her car was an SUV and still found herself spinning out trying to get into the street from Hampden. She noted it was a one way street and observed that many other one way streets were also missed and had not been sanded or plowed.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up item 30 out of order.

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order Special permit application of F & M Hideway, Inc to reconstruct and renovate Schermerhorn's Restaurant and retail store per sec 4.7.3 at 224 Westfield Road (157-00-072).

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

Committee Members:

Kocayne Givner
Michael Sullivan
Carmen Ocasio

Juan Anderson-Burgos
Patricia Devine

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Givner noted that the applicants were in attendance. She then stated that they were planning to reconstruct Schermerhorn's by rebuilding exactly what was there before, adding that it will be up to code. She noted they sent in their building plans.

Councilor Devine thanked the applicant for sending in their plans. She noted that one of the neighbors had concern about parking, and she was impressed that the applicant offered to meet with that neighbor to address those concerns.

Councilor Vacon expressed support for the special permit. She also commended them for doing their due diligence and finding problem areas to do things the right way.

Councilor I. Rivera noted that many people were grateful that Schermerhorn's' would still be around.

Councilor Greaney stated that he hoped they would leave the sign up in the front.

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

LAI D ON THE TABLE

(10:35)

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.

Councilor Devine made a motion to suspend the necessary rules to remove item 2 through 6 from the table as a package. Councilor Anderson-Burgos seconded the motion.

Councilor Jourdain stated that he did not mind 3 through 6 being taken up as a package, but had concerns about unique issues with item 2 and would prefer to see that one separated from the package.

Councilor Vacon made a motion to refer the whole package to the Finance Committee as none of the orders had been taken up in committee. Councilor Jourdain seconded the motion.

Councilor Bartley stated they needed to be taken off the table first.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that she believed that had happened.

Councilor Bartley stated that he did not hear a vote take place.

Councilor Jourdain stated that he objected to it all being taken up together.

Councilor Givner expressed her understanding that there was a motion to take items out of order and there was a vote.

Councilor Bartley stated that there was not a vote on it.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that the body still needed to vote to take them up together. She then stated that item 2 would be taken up separately, and then 3 through 6 would be taken up as a package.

Motion was made and seconded to remove item 2 from the table.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWENTY ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND 22/100 Dollars (\$21,600.22) as follows:

		FROM	TO
11211	51276	MAYOR'S CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS	21,600.22
15411	51103	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - COA	2,222.00
15411	51101	DIRECTOR COUNCIL ON AGING	3,030.00
11711	51101	CONSRVTN & SUSTNBLTY DIRECTOR	3,030.00
12441	51101	SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES	2,525.00
16301	51101	DIRECTOR PARKS/REC FORESTRY	2,899.14
16301	51103	ASST DIRECTOR OF PARKS & REC	2,222.00
14211	51108	SAFETY OFFICER	2,020.00
15101	51101	DIRECTOR BOARD OF HEALTH	1,632.00
15101	51202	ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER	2,020.08
		21,600.22	21,600.22

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Vacon made a motion to refer items 2 through 6 to the Finance Committee. Councilor Jourdain seconded the motion.

Councilor Devine stated that all of these had been in Finance. She then stated that she provided a list of 22 people that were in these positions. She then emphasized that the Council could only talk about the appropriations and could not get into benefits because that was not the Council's prerogative. She then suggested that discussion of benefits may lead to an unfair labor practice charge. She then asked why item 2 should go to committee but not the others.

Councilor Jourdain explained that item 2 had extra rules. He then suggested that due to previous objections to an earlier package of items that had portions of interdepartmental transfers, the administration submitted items 3 through 6 as intradepartmental transfers. He then stated that the only other issues was that to pass those items, it would require both readings by a two-thirds vote. He then suggested that item 2 presented an interdepartmental transfer due to funds coming from the Mayor's Contracted Services line to other departmental salary lines. He then noted that the Law Department offered guidance that since this was for the same purpose, that would not follow the interdepartmental rule. He then asked for an opportunity to speak to DOR (Department of Revenue) on the following Friday to ask if they understood the funds were in the Mayor's budget and the others were all their own separate departments. He added that he could consider going along with it if the Law Department's guidance was accurate. He emphasized that there was not a contract negotiation line in each of those departments. He

then stated that items 3 through 6 had not come to the Council before, and there could be open questions about why there was extra money in some of those accounts.

Councilor Vacon explained that the reason for her motion because it was better for the committee to do their work instead of the entire body trying to do that work.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to allow the Law Department to address the Council.

Councilor Devine asked Councilor Jourdain if he was speaking with the DOR.

Councilor Jourdain stated that he was.

Councilor Devine asked if they would be giving a ruling in writing.

Councilor Jourdain stated that he doubted they would give one in writing, noting that they had not given one in writing to the Law Department. He then stated his interest in confirming what the Law Department was saying was accurate because it was only a verbal report.

Atty Bissonnette stated that it was unfortunate that the accuracy and legitimacy of what the Law Department has reported was being characterized as fruit of the poisonous tree and not an accurate representation of what the DOR said. He then explained that they call the DOR for guidance on a regular basis and emphasized that they do not provide written opinions. He then observed that due to Councilor Jourdain enlightening everyone on the rules of interdepartmental transfers, the mayor put forward these orders to transfer funds already within those departments. He then recalled that during the budget discussions, \$25,000 was specifically put into the mayor's budget for contract negotiations. He added that the contract negotiations with the PSA had been prolonged and had resulted in a stalemate, and the budget needed to reflect what the settlement may be. He then stated that after explaining all of that to the DLS (Division of Local Services) led to them concurring that it was for the same purpose. He added that it was not an attempt to mislead anyone as it had been explained what it was for. He noted that there was also a communication from Atty Ball presenting a case law from 1913 that explained the first time an item appeared on an agenda was when an item was first read.

Councilor Givner stated that this information was not new and she did not believe there was any reason to send the items back to the Finance Committee. She then expressed frustration that one person repeatedly does not agree with the opinions of the Law Department. She then expressed hope that the Law Department's guidances could be taken as real. She added that these items were time sensitive as employees had been waiting. She added that losing employees would be more costly. She then questioned looking for reasons that would make people want to leave. She then stated that while she understood the desire to hear from the state personally, she believed the word of the Law Department should be trusted.

Councilor Jourdain stated that history had taught him that the Law Department had often been wrong, as everyone else was wrong at times. He then suggested that he may look into things more than others choose to do. He then explained that the original form of this item already showed him to be correct, which was why these items were now here. He then stated that he had made his points already about the expense to taxpayers to give more vacation time, benefits, flex time, and other giveaways beyond just par raises. He then emphasized that he just wanted to ensure the rules were being followed. He noted that he

had just spoken with Atty Ball the previous week to understand where she got her opinion and then reached out to them to seek to hear it for himself. He also expressed concern about longtime rules and practices of the Council being flipped. He emphasized that this was not about just trying to win on an issue, but about avoiding having bad precedent created. He then acknowledged that items 3 through 6 were eventually going to pass. He then expressed disagreement with the interpretation of section 22 of the charter regarding the two reding rule in that the second reading could not be taken up until a motion to pass the first reading was passed. He then stated that the section required that if both motions were done within 3 days of each other, it required two-thirds of the vote for passage. He then acknowledged that items 3 through 6 could eventually pass on a simple majority if at least 3 days were given between the votes to pass the first and second readings. He also emphasized that these items included retro pay going back to July of 2023 and another 2 weeks would not be the end of the world.

Councilor Devine agreed with Councilor Givner that the Law Department should be trusted. She then emphasized that with respect to getting benefits on flex time, there was not comp time for employees who often get called in for meetings in the evening. She then asked Atty Bissonnette what the difference was with the motions to pass first and second readings as they had been done before.

Atty Bissonnette stated that the argument was what constituted a reading. He then explained that an item being read by the president could constitute a first reading. He added that according to the interpretation of the SJC (Supreme Judicial Court), the referral to a committee was considered to be a first reading. He added that the language of section 22 on passing both readings was likely about getting things passed on the first night they were introduced. He noted that the city of Lowell that was the focus of the SJC decision had a similar charter to that of Holyoke.

Councilor Devine asked if these items could be passed that night if a motion to do so was made.

Atty Bissonnette expressed his understanding that the motion on the floor was to refer item 2 to the Finance Committee. He then stated that if that motion was defeated, a motion to pass item 2 could be made, and as these items were taken up as late files and tabled at the last meeting which constituted the first reading, these could be passed with only the second reading needed to be passed. He noted that items 3 through 6 would first have to be taken off the table.

President Murphy-Romboletti clarified that Vaco's motion had been to refer items 2 through 6 to the Finance Committee.

Councilor Vacon stated that was correct but understood that the discission was currently just about item 2. She then expressed concern that the Council had been sliding away from practices under the city charter over the last 2 years under the argument that it was outdated. She then explained that unless it were changed, the Council still needed to operate under it. She also expressed concern about recent arguments that the state law trumped the charter, while the Council had always followed the charter until those recent arguments. She then stated that at the last meeting, the motion had been to take them up and table them and they were not even read into the record nor were they even posted 48 hours before the meeting. She also questioned how the late files were emergencies. She then suggested that this was the first night the items were legally before the Council and the first night they were read into the record.

Councilor Sullivan, emphasizing that this was not a reflection of the current Law Department, recalled that the Council had been lied to by the Law Department regarding things that went on with the collapse, lawsuits, and practices with respect to the Essex Hotel. He then stated that it was not a lack of trust to

question the Law Department or any other department, but was due diligence and not a waste of taxpayer money. He added that the city lost millions on the advice of the Law Department at that time.

President Murphy-Romboletti clarified that she did read the items into the record at the last meeting.

Motion to refer items 2 through 6 to the Finance Committee failed on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 6 (Bartley, Greaney, Jourdain, Ocasio, Sullivan, Vacon)--Nays 7--Absent 0.

Councilor Devine made a motion to pass items 2 through 6. Councilor Anderson-Burgos seconded the motion.

Councilor Jourdain emphasized that a motion to take them all up as a package had not been passed.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that she had not recognized the motion.

Councilor Devine withdrew her motion and made a motion to pass item 2. Councilor Anderson-Burgos seconded the motion.

Councilor Jourdain stated that if this were to pass the first reading, he believed the second reading should be tabled in order to get confirming of what the Law Department was saying. He then expressed frustration in being questioned about seeking to get independent verification of what they were reporting. He noted that they had reversed their own opinions in the last few years, and had given verifiably bad opinions. He then stated that he believed they got it right and did their best most of the time. He then emphasized that Holyoke elected a split Council 7-6, adding that people did not get to change the rules because they did not like how the election turned out by trying to circumvent the rules that had been in effect for years. He then expressed concern that this new contract required flex time to be given which would tie the hands of the mayor going forward. He added that he also did not agree that managers should have been in the union. He also expressed concern about giving everyone an extra 2 weeks of vacation, along with extra longevity time, adding that the average Holyoker wasn't getting those benefits.

Councilor I. Rivera suggested that there was an irony in questioning when governments, both locally and nationally, should follow rules. He added that it appeared to be wielding power in a way that was not fair when people who disagree were being chastised. He then suggested that if the city had been working in collaboration with employees over the years, there wouldn't be a big hit all at once. He then stated that he could no longer be mad if an employee was asked to attend an Ordinance meeting and they couldn't show up if they were not going to be compensated. He emphasized that when the people of Holyoke are referred to, the employees were also among the people of Holyoke who needed to be thought about.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos expressed frustration with claims that the City Solicitor can't always be trusted. He then emphasized that these employees have been waiting since 2023 for these raises. He then questioned how anyone would feel about statements claiming that there was nothing wrong with waiting another two weeks. He also questioned the focus on when the City Solicitor was wrong when these people were just waiting to get paid. He also suggested that it was an insult that some councilors have a vendetta because of the results of an election. He added that the city had been in a rut for years and that was not on the newer city councilors who were being blamed.

Councilor Vacon raised a point of order, asking that the debate stay on topic.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that the comments were on topic as they were response to what was already said, adding that those earlier comments arguably had not been on topic.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that the mayor was trying to get things done and this felt like trying to block him in order to be able to claim he was doing a horrible job.

Councilor Vacon stated that city councilors had a fiduciary responsibility. She added that once councilors receive opinions from the Law Department, it is on the councilors to vote based on the rules, emphasizing that the Law Department was advisory to the Council. She reiterated that the City Solicitor had changed their opinion to the complete opposite in just the last 2 years. She added that it was legal and fair for the Council to question the cost of an agreement. She also asked that the same empathy being expressed for these employees being also expressed for the taxpayers who have to pay for the contract. He added that it was the job of councilors to know the charter.

Councilor Devine emphasized that the professional employees on the list had been asked into meeting on numerous occasions. She added that she can't help it if someone has a \$600,000 house. She then asked to get these passed for the sake of the good people who work for the city.

Councilor Magrath-Smith called the question. Councilor Devine seconded the motion.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that the motion was to pass the second reading.

Councilor Jourdain asked when the motion to pass the first reading was.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that she read the order into the record at the last meeting and that was the first reading.

Councilor Jourdain stated there was never a vote to pass the first reading.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that she read the order into the record, adding that there was a legal opinion on the agenda citing case law. She added that this was not a new debate.

Councilor Jourdain stated that every single transfer that had come before the body had included a vote on the first reading and then a vote to adopt on the second reading.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that the item was tabled at the last meeting.

Councilor Jourdain stated that nobody made a motion to pass the first reading.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that there was a motion to table it after reading it.

Councilor Jourdain stated that the charter required a motion to pass the first reading.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that the Law Department as well as case law cited otherwise.

Councilor Jourdain stated that it was unfair.

President Murphy-Romboletti asked how that was unfair. She also noted that some councilors do things that make things unfair to her.

Councilor Jourdain stated that he could talk all night about he gets treated in meetings.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that she was not going to get into it. She then stated that Councilor Jourdain was out of order.

Councilor Jourdain stated that he had a point of order, reiterating that the charter required a passage of two readings.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that things sometimes get laid on the table.

Councilor Jourdain stated that there still needed to be a motion to pass the first reading and then pass the second reading.

President Murphy-Romboletti reiterated that the Law Department weighed in.

Councilor Jourdain stated that he did not ask for the Law Department to weigh in.

Councilor Devine stated that she had asked.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that she was going to listen to the Law Department.

Councilor Jourdain asked why this was going to be different than what had been done for 100 years. He added that the SJC case had not gone to committee for a discussion.

President Murphy-Romboletti questioned needing a discussion on everything that got communicated.

Councilor Jourdain stated that it should on a charter that everyone took an oath to enforce.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that she did not need reminding of the oath she took. She then threatened to end the meeting early.

Councilor Jourdain expressed frustration that this was censorship.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that it was not censorship.

Councilor Jourdain asked if the next step was going to be the police being called to kick him out.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that the behavior was outrageous. She then demanded that Councilor Jourdain not raise his voice at her.

Councilor Jourdain stated that the public needed to understand that this was censorship.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that it was not censorship, and she understood what censorship.

Councilor Devine stated that Councilor Magrath-Smith had a motion on the floor.

President Murphy-Romboletti called a five minute recess.

A five minute recess took place.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that she would recognize a motion to pass the first reading.

---> Passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 7--Nays 3
(Greaney, Jourdain, Sullivan)--Absent 3 (Bartley, Ocasio, Vacon).

Councilor Magrath-Smith asked Atty Bissonnette if 7 was enough for passage.

Atty Bissonnette stated that the motion passed as DLS advised that the appropriation was made to fund the contracts.

Councilor Jourdain stated that as two readings had taken place on the same night, he believed that it was a violation of section 22 of the charter and should have required a two-thirds vote of the body.

Councilor Devine made a motion to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 3 through 6 as a package. Councilor Anderson-Burgos seconded the motion.

Councilor Magrath-Smith raised a point of order. She then asked if the body was just on item 3.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that was correct.

Councilor Magrath-Smith asked if this was the first reading or the second reading.

Councilor Devine stated that it was the first.

President Murphy-Romboletti asked for a motion to lay items 3 through 6 on the table, noting that the body had just argued about these for an hour and a half. She then acknowledged and was fine that half the Council was going to oppose her on everything she did, but expressed frustration if everyone was going to contradict each other.

Councilor Jourdain raised a point of order. He then expressed it was an example of unfair treatment for her to state that half the Council was going to oppose her on everything.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that she was not going to continue doing this.

Councilor I. Rivera made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Greaney seconded the motion. Motion adopted.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, EIGHT THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO AND 93/100 Dollars (\$8,182.93) as follows:

	FROM	TO
12401 51101 LOCAL INSPECTOR	8,182.93	
12401 51102 ASST BUILDING COMMISSIONER		3,132.93
12401 51103 CHIEF INSPECTOR OF WIRES		2,828.00
12401 51107 ZONING OFFICIAL		2,222.00
	8,182.93	8,182.93

---> Laid on the table.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, ELEVEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY TWO AND 00/100 Dollars (\$11,342.00) as follows:

	FROM	TO
11751 51106 PLANNER I	11,342.00	
11751 51108 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PLANNING		4,560.00
11751 51102 ASST DIR OF ECONOMIC DEV		4,560.00
11751 51105 SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER		2,222.00
	11,342.00	11,342.00

---> Laid on the table.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, FIVE THOUSAND FIFTY AND 00/100 Dollars (\$5,050.00) as follows:

	FROM	TO
16911 51104 ENTERPRISE COORDINATOR	5,050.00	
16911 51101 DIRECTOR WISTARIAHURST		2,828.00
16911 51103 CITY HISTORIAN		2,222.00
	5,050.00	5,050.00

---> Laid on the table.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY AND 99/100 Dollars (\$1,560.99) as follows:

	FROM	TO
15431 51104 INVESTIGATOR	1,560.99	
15431 51105 NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER		1,560.99
	1,560.99	1,560.99

---> Laid on the table.

From Assistant Solicitor Jane Mantolesky, letter regarding St. Vincent Lots

---> Laid on the table.

COMMUNICATIONS

From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter appointing Ms. Patricia Normand of 36 Pleasant St to serve as a member of the Conservation Commission. Ms. Normand will serve a three year term expiring February 1, 2028.

---> Laid on the table.

From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter appointing Mr. Denis Luzuriaga of 6 Pinehurst Rd., to serve as a Commissioner of the Holyoke Housing Authority. Mr. Luzuriaga will replace Mr. Jose Maldonado-Velez and will serve the remainder of his term expiring April 1, 2029.

---> Laid on the table.

From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter reappointing Ms. Lyn Horan of 100 Southamptn Rd., to serve as a member of the Commission on Disabilities. Ms. Horan will serve a three year term expiring in March 2028.

---> Laid on the table.

From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter reappointing Ms. Jessica Lebron-Martinez of 102 Brown Avenue., to serve as a member of the Commission on Disabilities. Ms. Lebron-Martinez will serve a three year term expiring in March 2028.

---> Laid on the table.

From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter reappointing Mr. Jeffrey Horan of 100 Southamptn Rd. to serve as a member of the Conservation Commission. Mr. Horan will serve a three year term expiring February 1, 2028

---> Laid on the table.

From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter reappointing Ms. Rosemary Arnold of 30 Mountain Rd. to serve as a member of the Conservation Commission. Ms. Arnold will serve a three year term expiring February 1, 2028.

---> Laid on the table.

From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter reappointing Ms. Sarah Wedaman of 28 Howard St., to serve as a member of the Commission on Disabilities. Ms. Wedaman will serve a three year term expiring in March 2028.

---> Laid on the table.

From City Solicitor: Lisa Ball- Case of Fuller v. Haines 224 Mass. 176 which addresses the first reading of an order

---> Laid on the table.

From City Solicitor: Opinion from KP Law

---> Laid on the table.

From Assistant City Solicitor Jane Mantolesky- Notice of Sale - 285 Main

---> Laid on the table.

From Councilor Councilor Givner- Boston Globe article on Impact fees

---> Laid on the table.

From DOR- Guideline on appropriation transfers

---> Laid on the table.

From Frank Demarinis, Shermerhorns site plan review

---> Laid on the table.

Cultural Humility Workshop Curriculum

---> Laid on the table.

From City Clerk Brenna Murphy Leary and Amin. Assistant Jeffery Anderson-Burgos, minutes from February 4, 2025 meeting.

---> Laid on the table.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Mayor Garcia, letter appointing Ms. Beverlyn Blanchard of 46 St. Kolbe Dr. to serve as a member of the Library Board of Directors. Ms. Blanchard will serve a three year term expiring February 2028.

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

Committee Members:

Juan Anderson-Burgos
Carmen Ocasio
Howard Greaney, Jr

---> Laid on the table.

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order 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.

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

Committee Members:

Juan Anderson-Burgos
Carmen Ocasio
Howard Greaney, Jr

---> Laid on the table.

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From 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.

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

Committee Members:

Juan Anderson-Burgos
Carmen Ocasio
Howard Greaney, Jr

---> Laid on the table.

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter appointing Mr. Joseph Black of 1015 Maple St. to serve as a member of the Recycling Advisory Committee. Mr. Black's will serve a three year term, expiring on August 1, 2027.

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

Committee Members:

Juan Anderson-Burgos
Carmen Ocasio
Howard Greaney, Jr

---> Laid on the table.

The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order 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.

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

Committee Members:

Juan Anderson-Burgos
Carmen Ocasio
Howard Greaney, Jr

---> Laid on the table.

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order Special Permit Application of Salmar Realty LLC c/o Peter Martins for a special permit for a Proposed Coffee shop/Drive Thru Restaurant at South Street Plaza, A Portion of 209 South St.

have considered the same and Recommended that the special permit be granted with the 32 conditions described in the Planning Board Site Plan Review Notice of Decision letter dated January 16, 2025

Committee Members:

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

---> Laid on the table.

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order City Council explore with the Mayor a residential redevelopment plan for city owned vacant parcels has homes built then sold. City funds coupled with any available grant funding will be used for seed funding with the proceeds of the sales used to build more homes. The long term play for the city is the generation of all of the property tax revenue from these home sales, the new availability of great new housing, the reduction in city owned buildable lots and the growth of population.

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

---> Laid on the table.

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order The Law Dept., Building Commissioner and the city's property group provide its annual update on the City's Receivership program. Please send communication to the Clerk for the second city council meeting in January 2023.

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

---> Laid on the table.

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 FIREFIGHTER SAFETY EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM, \$24,081, 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

---> Laid on the table.

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

14101-51105 SR CIVIL ENGINEER	\$ 17,000	
14251-51102 HOISTING EQUIPMENT OPERATOR		16,000
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

---> Laid on the table.

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

FROM

12101-51107 PATROLMEN	\$ 50,000	
12101-51117 DISPATCH		50,000

TOTAL \$100,000

TO:

12102-53010 MAP/DATA MAINTENANCE \$100,000

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

Committee Members:

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

---> Laid on the table.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, EIGHTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$80,000) as follows:

FROM

12101-51105 SERGEANTS \$40,000

12101-51107 PATROLMEN 40,000

TOTAL \$80,000

TO:

12102-53010 MAP/DATA MAINTENANCE \$80,000

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

Committee Members:

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

---> Laid on the table.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, EIGHTY THREE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY SIX AND 00/100 Dollars (\$83,656) as follows:

FROM

11511-51201 PT ASSISTANT SOLICITOR \$83,656

TOTAL \$83,656

TO:

11511-51202 PT ASSOCIATE SOLICITOR \$83,656

TOTAL \$83,656

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

Committee Members:

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

---> Laid on the table.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order From Sean Sheedy, Maintenance Admin for Holyoke Public Schools, 2-4-2025 SOI ARP PROJECTS HPS

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

Committee Members:

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

---> Laid on the table.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the City of Holyoke appropriates the amount of One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a Schematic Design Study at Kelly Elementary School located at 216 West Street Holyoke MA 01040 for a potential roof replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Holyoke has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of Mayor Joshua Garcia. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, Chapter 70B, or any other enabling authority. The City of Holyoke acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Holyoke incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Holyoke; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Holyoke and the MSBA.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes. Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council

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

Committee Members:

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

---> Laid on the table.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That the City of Holyoke appropriates the amount of One Hundred Thousand(\$100,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a Schematic Design Study at Lt Elmer J McMahon Elementary School located at 75 Kane Road Holyoke MA 01040 for a potential roof replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Holyoke has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of Mayor Joshua Garcia. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, Chapter 70B, or any other enabling authority. The City of Holyoke acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Holyoke incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Holyoke; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Holyoke and the MSBA. FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes. Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council

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

Committee Members:

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

---> Laid on the table.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That the City of Holyoke appropriates the amount of Seventy-Five Thousand(\$75,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a Schematic Design Study at Lt Clayre Sullivan Elementary School located at 400 Jarvis Avenue Holyoke MA 01040 for a potential partial roof replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental or related

thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Holyoke has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of mayor Joshua Garcia. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, Chapter 70B, or any other enabling authority. The City of Holyoke acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Holyoke incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Holyoke; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Holyoke and the MSBA. FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes. Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council

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

Committee Members:

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

---> Laid on the table.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That the City of Holyoke appropriates the amount of One Hundred and Fifty Thousand (\$150,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a Schematic Design Study at Holyoke High School located at 500 Beech Street Holyoke MA 01040 for a potential roof replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Holyoke has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of Mayor Joshua Garcia. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, Chapter 70B, or any other enabling authority. The City of Holyoke acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Holyoke incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Holyoke; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Holyoke and the MSBA. FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order,

and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes.
Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council

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

Committee Members:

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

---> Laid on the table.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That the City of Holyoke appropriates the amount of Seventy-Five Thousand(\$75,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a Schematic Design Study at Maurice A Donahue Elementary School located at 210 Whiting Farms Road Holyoke MA 01040 for a potential partial roof replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Holyoke has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of Mayor Joshua Garcia. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, Chapter 70B, or any other enabling authority. The City of Holyoke acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Holyoke incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Holyoke; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Holyoke and the MSBA.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes.
Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council

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

Committee Members:

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

---> Laid on the table.

The Committee on Joint Committee of City Council and School to whom was referred an order the School Department, the School Committee, the Receiver and Mayor present a plan for the future of Metcalf School. I'd like to hear long-terms plans as well as temporary ones. I would like the district to consider the City continue using the school in its current purpose: as a learning institution. If not in the plan, then let's consider it as the headquarters of the School Department. Should a committee be formed? What plans are being discussed? The building, erected 1911, is iconic and should be preserved and, if needed, rehabilitated and repurposed for City uses. Refer to HPS, Receiver, Mayor and Joint Committee.

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

Committee Members:

Kevin A. Jourdain
Carmen Ocasio
Howard Greaney, Jr

---> Laid on the table.

The Committee on Joint Committee of City Council and School to whom was referred an order From Mayor Garcia and Superintendent Soto, a Joint statement affirming the rights of immigrants

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

Committee Members:

Kevin A. Jourdain
Carmen Ocasio
Howard Greaney, Jr

---> Laid on the table.

The Committee on Joint Committee of City Council and School to whom was referred an order The Superintendent of Schools discuss his recent memo on affirming the rights of immigrants with the Joint Committee on City Council and School Committee.

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

Committee Members:

Kevin A. Jourdain
Carmen Ocasio
Howard Greaney, Jr

---> Laid on the table.

The Committee on Joint Committee of City Council and School to whom was referred an order From Sean Mangano, School Committee Finance Subcommittee 12.12.24

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

Committee Members:

Kevin A. Jourdain
Carmen Ocasio
Howard Greaney, Jr

---> Laid on the table.

The Committee on Joint Committee of City Council and School to whom was referred an order The Superintendent of Schools please update the Joint Committee on City Council and School Committee on any updated plans for the School Dept headquarters in light of their decision not to go forward with proposed High Street location.

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

Committee Members:

Kevin A. Jourdain
Carmen Ocasio
Howard Greaney, Jr

---> Laid on the table.

ORDERS AND TRANSFERS

Magrath-Smith, ordered that City Council review CPA Committee recommendations and approve funding for FY25 CPA projects.

---> Laid on the table.

Murphy-Romboletti- With community support, the City Council issue a proclamation to Gina Nelson, Executive Director of Community Roots Neighborhood Services, Inc. and the Veterans Lunch Program in recognition of the invaluable work they do for our community's veterans.

---> Laid on the table.

Vacon- ORDER: That the American flag protocol is followed for flags at public schools such as McMahon & on other city property, including; either lighting the flag or bringing the flag in each night and putting it up in the morning.

---> Laid on the table.

Vacon, Jourdain- ORDER: The Treasurer & Auditor provide the City Council with an update & timeline for the certification of free cash. Refer to Finance Committee
---> Laid on the table.

Bartley- Ordered that Schedule B, Compensation for Elected Officials of Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances be amended as follows:
City Clerk: \$90,000
---> Laid on the table.

Devine, Givner - ORDERED: that the Directors of the Board of Health, Zoning, Planning, and the Animal Control Officer and Law Department meet with the Ordinance Committee to discuss Ordinance Sec. 14-12 as it relates to #2 Hens, specifically the keeping of hens DEFINITIONS, SPECIAL PERMIT PROCESS, SPECIFICATIONS AND DIMENSIONS, GENERAL REGULATIONS, VIOLATIONS and any and all regulations whether State or Federal that may be pertinent.
---> Laid on the table.

Devine - ORDERED: that the City Engineer determine if a BLOCK THE BOX is warranted at Columbus Avenue and Northampton Street. Refer to City Engineer
---> Laid on the table.

Devine- ORDERED that the Law Department determine and render an opinion as to whether DPW supervisors/employees can ticket those automobiles/trucks that are impeding snow removal and plowing during a legal parking ban.
---> Laid on the table.

Devine-Ordered, that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the "BYRNE STATE CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM, \$84,458.79, 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 Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor
---> Laid on the table.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, NINE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE AND 52/100 Dollars (\$9,981.52) as follows:

FROM

12201-51103 CAPTAIN \$3,663.90

12201-51104 LIEUTENANTS	6,317.62
TOTAL \$9,981.52	
TO:	
12201-51180 INJURED ON DUTY	\$9,981.52
PP#16 TOTAL \$9,981.52	

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

---> Laid on the table.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$25,000) as follows:

FROM

8811-10400 CAPITAL STABILIZATION	\$25,000
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TOTAL \$25,000

TO:

12103-58003 HPD CAP OUTLAY- BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	\$25,000
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TOTAL \$25,000

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

---> Laid on the table.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, ONE HUNDRED EIGHT THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED NINETY FIVE AND 56/100 Dollars (\$108,695.56) as follows:

FROM

8815-10400 CANNABIS STABILIZATION	\$108,695.56
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TOTAL \$108,695.56

TO:

19412-57630 SOLICITOR CLAIMS & DAMAGES	\$108,695.56
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TOTAL \$108,695.56

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor
---> Laid on the table.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, FIVE THOUSAND Dollars AND 00/100 Dollars (\$5,000) as follows:

	FROM	TO
12101 5119 POLICE RESERVE	5,000	
0010 57200 OUT OF STATE TRAVEL		5,000
	5,000	5,000

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor
---> Laid on the table.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, FIVE THOUSAND Dollars AND 00/100 Dollars (\$5,000) as follows:

	FROM	TO
1421 51102 DPW HOISTING EQUIP OPERATOR	5,000	
01010 57200 OUT OF STATE TRAVEL		5,000
	5,000	5,000

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor
---> Laid on the table.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, FIVE THOUSAND Dollars AND 00/100 Dollars (\$5,000) as follows:

	FROM	TO
12101 5119 FIRE FIGHTER LINE	5,000	
0010 57200 OUT OF STATE TRAVEL		5,000
	5,000	5,000

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor
---> Laid on the table.

Givner- In the interest of transparency, order that the Collins Center for Public Management present its findings, working with Holyoke's Government Restructure Advisory Council, on Payments In Lieu of Taxes, PILOTs. Some cities and towns (Boston, Brookline) developed formal PILOT policies where the municipality asks the nonprofit to pay a portion of the taxes their tax-exempt property would have paid if it wasn't tax-exempt. Springfield and Concord are exploring the need for PILOT policies. Holyoke has hundreds of tax-exempt properties including group homes, charities, drug recovery agencies, hospitals, health centers, churches, schools, colleges, and more that were included in the study. ~Send to DGR
---> Laid on the table.

Givner- In an effort to promote efficiency while upholding quality of life standards, Order that the City Council invite department heads involved with permitting in to review special permit processes. Incomplete applications regularly come before DGR. The current process is incredibly inefficient wasting 8-10 hours, per applicant, in efforts from the Clerk's office, the Planning department, the Planning Board, building department, as well as City council and subcommittees. Our permitting Ordinance should be reviewed and updated if needed. ~Send to DGR for discussion / copy to ordinance for updates
---> Laid on the table.

LATE FILED ORDERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order Law Dept and Mayor be invited to the City Council to discuss an update on the city's use of the receivership program including current properties being targeted and others that are excellent prospects for required repairs. I also would like to see if we can use this for larger scale problem rental properties with the right receiver as has been done in larger metropolitan cities. I also would like to start an initiative as has been used in large urban settings where we have required landlord training programs when appropriate as well as a model like Kansas City Bad Apple Program for repeat offenders. Law dept. and Mayor will be encouraged to look at what resources we need to go bold on problem properties and develop a plan with us.

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

---> Laid on the table.

Adjourned at 8:59 p.m.





MAYOR JOSHUA A. GARCIA

CITY OF HOLYOKE

Note to City Council: The following is a revision of a letter we sent to you in February. We change the word “appoint” to “reappoint”

March 13, 2025

The Honorable City Councilors
City of Holyoke
Holyoke, MA 01040

Dear Council Members:

Subject to your approval, I hereby reappoint the following individual to serve as a member of the Conservation Commission for the City of Holyoke:

Ms. Patricia Normand
36 Pleasant Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

Ms. Normand will serve a three-year term; said term will expire on February 1, 2028.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua A. Garcia, Mayor
JAG/nmo

CC: Ms. Patricia Normand
Yoni Glogower, Conservation



MAYOR JOSHUA A. GARCIA

CITY OF HOLYOKE

March 11, 2025

The Honorable City Council
City of Holyoke
Holyoke, MA 01040

Dear Council Members:

Subject to your approval, I hereby reappoint the following individuals to serve as members on the Parking Advisory Board for the City of Holyoke:

Kate Kruckemeyer
Planning Board Member
Designee for Planning Director

Daphne Board
Redevelopment Authority
Member

Harry Montalvo
Chamber of Commerce

Laura Wilson, Director
Tax Collector's
Office Worker

Vacant
DPW

Sgt. James Bartolomei
Police Department

DJ O'Connor
Owner High Street Business
Mass Surgical Supply, LLC

David Bartley
Ward 3
City Councilor

Israel Rivera
At-Large
City Councilor

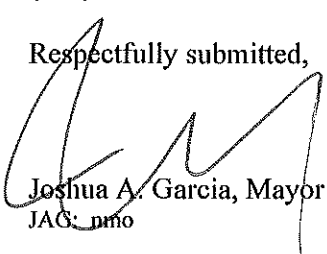
Emily Guzman
174 High Street
Multi-family resident

Matthew Sokop
City Engineer

Mr. Bartley, Ms. Kruckemeyer, Ms. Board and Mr. Montalvo are serving a three-year term; said term will expire in February 2028. Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Rivera will serve a three-year term; said term will expire February 2027. Ms. Wilson and Ms. Guzman will serve for a two-year 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: pmo

CC: City Council President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti



MAYOR JOSHUA A. GARCIA
CITY OF HOLYOKE

March 11, 2025

The Honorable Brenna M. Leary
City Clerk
City of Holyoke
Holyoke, MA 01040

Dear Ms. Leary:

I hereby reappoint the following individual to serve as a Commissioner
of the Board of Health for the City of Holyoke:

Ms. Dalila Hyry-Dermith
37 Longfellow Road
Holyoke, MA 01040

Ms. Hyry-Dermith will serve a three-year term; said term will expire
February 1, 2028.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua A. Garcia, Mayor
JAG/nmo

Cc: Timothy Rivers
Dalila Hyry-Dermith



Mayor Joshua A. Garcia

Lisa A. Ball, Esq.

City of Holyoke

City Solicitor

Kathleen E. Degnan, Esq.
Jane L. Mantolesky, Esq.
Michael D. Bissonnette, Esq.
Tasheena M. Davis, Esq.
Mary E. Gotham, Paralegal

March 13, 2025

Honorable City Council
Holyoke City Hall
536 Dwight Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

RE: City of Holyoke Law Department Business Report 24/25

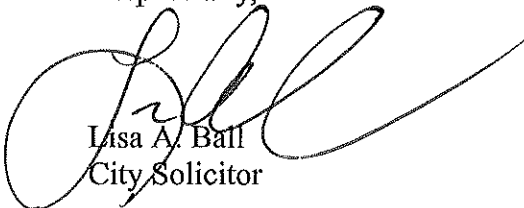
Dear Honorable Councilors,

Please find below a summary of all current and pending litigation matters including claims against the city since this office last sent an update in August, 2024.

- Litigation
 - Federal Court Litigation
 - Massachusetts Appeals Court
 - Superior Court Cases
 - Land Court Cases
 - Housing Court Cases
- Tort claims

Please contact me with any questions or requests for clarification.

Respectfully,



Lisa A. Ball
City Solicitor

LITIGATION

1. **JANE DOE 1 v. CITY OF HOLYOKE, et al**
US District Court 3:22CV11701
Summary: Lawsuit initiated against the City, the School Department and others alleging sexual abuse/sexual harassment.. City filed a Motion to Dismiss which was granted in part. Matter is currently pending.

2. **JANE DOE 2 v. CITY OF HOLYOKE, et al**
US District Court 3:24CV30018
Summary: Lawsuit initiated against the City, the School Department and others alleging sexual abuse/sexual harassment. City filed a Motion to Dismiss which was granted.

3. **ZK, RK v. CITY OF HOLYOKE, et. al Reyzecandre**
Hampden Superior Court 2379CV00507
Summary: Lawsuit initiated against the City, the School Department and others alleging sexual abuse/sexual harassment. City/School filed a complaint to bring in a 3rd party. Parties went to mediation the matter was resolved settling, with the School Department making a small contribution.

4. **FIGUEROA-VALLE v. CITY OF HOLYOKE**
Holyoke District Court 2317CV000083
Summary: Figueroa-Valle filed a complaint to have the denial of a License to Carry a Firearm reversed. Matter is scheduled to be heard on April 25, 2025.

5. **WESTBROOK v. CITY OF HOLYOKE**
Holyoke District Court 2317CV000154
Summary: Westbrook filed a complaint to have the denial of his License to Carry a Firearm reversed. District Court found for Westbrook. City has appealed to the Superior Court. The Attorney General filed an appearance in the litigation as an intervener as they believe the granting of the license by the district court was an abuse of discretion. City filed a Motion for Judgment on Pleadings, and AG filed an Intervenor's Memorandum. Matter was heard on March 5, 2025, under advisement..

6. **VALEGO v. CITY OF HOLYOKE**
Holyoke District Court 2279CV00673
Summary: City is being sued for a slip and fall injury. Matter is currently in discovery.

7. **VACON v. GARCIA**
Hampden Superior Court 2379CV00438
Summary: The matter was argued in Sept. 2024 & Plaintiff's motion for Preliminary Injunction denied.
8. **PUELLO-MOTA v. CITY OF HOLYOKE CITY COUNCIL**
Hampden Superior Court 2279CV00532
Summary: Matter was dismissed without prejudice. Plaintiff is a fugitive from justice and not expected to appear and prosecute further.
9. **SALMAR REALTY, LLC ET AL v. HOLYOKE PLANNING BOARD ET AL**
Land Court 2021 MISC 000434
Summary: The Planning Board approved the Site Plan Review Application with Conditions. The Applicant is now litigating the conditions as unreasonable. A site visit is currently scheduled with a trial to occur May 1st and 2nd, 2025.
10. **FIRE DEPT EMPLOYEE v. CITY OF HOLYOKE**
CIVIL SERVICE D1-24-012
Summary: Disciplinary matter went to hearing at the Civil Service Commission. Commission found on behalf of the City on Feb. 19, 2025. Appellant has 30 days to appeal.
11. **HPD EMPLOYEE v. CITY OF HOLYOKE**
MCAD / 23SEM01119
Summary: MCAD claim against COH. Matter will be discussed in Executive Session.
12. **NILSA LABOY v. CITY OF HOLYOKE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**
Hampden Superior Court 2479CV00290
Summary: Ms. Laboy filed an appeal of a denial of a variance for her property located at 475 Northampton Street. We are proceeding with a Motion to Dismiss.
13. **ALAN SCHEINMAN v. CITY OF HOLYOKE BOARD OF ASSESSORS**
Appeals Court No. 2024-P-1239
Summary: Appeal from Appellate Tax Board filed by property owner of 50 Fairfield Avenue. Arguing that property should be assessed at zero due to being in historic district.

Appellate Tax Board found for City. Both property owner and City have filed appeals briefs.

TORT CLAIMS

July 2024

Road obstruction	Sal Canata III	Referred to HWW	HWW pipe cap
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August 2024

Pothole	Earnest Sargent	\$374.64	
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Sept. 2024

Road tar/vehicle	Chris Levielle	Referred to MassDOT	Contractor Responsible
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Oct. 2024

Pothole/crash	Xandria Cortes	Denied	No prior knowledge
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Dec. 2024

Pothole	Luy Nguyen	Denied	No prior knowledge
Tow /event	Gretchen Hoesovsky	Denied	Signs posted

Jan. 2025

Tree Roots sewer	Edward Martin	Denied	insufficient evidence roots from city tree
Mailbox /plow	Michael Giguere	Denied	Southampton route
Mailbox / plow	Tomas Spafford	Denied	Southampton route
Mailbox / plow	Sheila Rosa	\$73.79	Holyoke Route
Pothole	Kevin Kaczynski	Denied	Rt 141 MassDOT
Fence damage	Colvest LLC	Denied	HPD/FBI operation caused by suspect
Pothole	Charles Battle	Denied	Contributory negligence speeding

Feb. 2025

Trip & fall	Nancy Martinez	Denied	Medical paid seeking pain & suffering no proof- not timely 9/24
Pothole	Andre Brown	\$228.44	
Pothole	Joshua Warren	Denied	No knowledge
Pothole	Brian Assaunt	\$191.25	
Pothole	Sheri Trimboli	Pending	Need more info
Pothole	Brenda Rivera	Denied	Mass DOT RT 5
Pothole	Dana Potter	\$386.41	

Pothole	Jeronimo Palacio	Pending
Pothole	Anthony Antonelli	Pending
Pothole	Taylor Beaudreau	Pending
Pothole	Brianna Figueroa	Pending
Pothole	James Baily	Pending
Pothole	Michael Zaliychii	Pending
Pothole	Robin Smith	Pending
Pothole	Autumn Stuart	Pending

HOUSING COURT

<u>Property Address</u>	<u>Status</u>
160 Pine	New receiver appointed; preparing sale to non-profit affiliate under new MGL c. 111, Section 127I ; Court Review 3/17/2025 by Receiver's Attorney Nyles Courchesne.
190 Lyman	Receiver appointed - Tony Whitman - rehab plan approved; Review set for April 28th
188 Lyman	Agreement out for signature - have received one signature back; Will follow-up with heirs to check status of agreement
186 Suffolk	Property foreclosed upon by the lender; Pending submittal of rehab plan by new buyer
208-210 Sargeant	Property being sold by heir
281 Main	Continued generally because in compliance.
148-154 High	Property auctioned by Receiver; Receiver purchased - file closed
168-184 West/235 E. Dwight	Continued rehabilitation by owner; Next status set for June 23rd
75 Elm	Filed now closed after compliance with BOH
15 Gates	Receiver appointed; next hearing date of April 7th for Motion to Demolish structure

129 Morgan	Negotiating with heirs of deceased owner
52 - 54 Longwood	Bank going to demolish garage and move forward with foreclosure
903 Dwight	Working with Attorney for property owner on repairs; Continued generally
50 West/41-43 Mosher	Repairs completed and closed
52 Clemente	Filed and out for service
198 Walnut	Order for Corrections; Review set for April 7th
123 Walnut	Filed and sought emergency receiver; Property owner now working with Building and Board of Health; Continued generally with weekly updates from property owner
164 Hampshire - 262 Oak	Filed - out for service
26 Vernon Street - 2nd Floor	Filed; Hearing March 21, 2025
104 Lincoln	Property recently sold to new owner; Continued to confirm ongoing compliance
140 Pearl	Receiver appointed and work ongoing
934 Main	Filed; Hearing March 31, 2025

11-13 Hampshire	Ongoing negotiations with owner, however negotiations appear to have stalled; Preparing Motion for Receiver appointment
69 Gates	Ongoing negotiations with owner
74-76 Newton Street	Property being foreclosed upon by lender; Proceeding with Receivership motion
41 Lynwood Ave	Receiver appointed; Work ongoing
127-131 Clemente	On hold pending ongoing compliance
56 Suffolk	CO revoked by Building Inspector. Resident tenants found to be living in this commercial building and are currently getting assistance from Enlace. The Building, Health, Law and Community Development Departments are working with the owner to resolve some of the building issues.



Mayor Joshua A. Garcia

Lisa A. Ball, Esq.

City of Holyoke

City Solicitor

Kathleen E. Degnan, Esq.
Jane L. Mantolesky, Esq.
Michael D. Bissonnette, Esq.
Tasheena M. Davis, Esq.
Mary E. Gotham, Paralegal

March 7, 2025

Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General
Division of Open Government
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

Re: Open Meeting Law Complaint from Ms. Linda Vacon

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please know that, on March 4, 2025, the City Council received an Open Meeting Law Complaint from Ms. Linda Vacon, which she filed in her capacity as an individual and which complaint is attached hereto. The City Council responds that Ms. Vacon's complaint is meritless because there was no violation of the Open Meeting Law, and that even if there was a violation, such violation was cured.

In her complaint, she alleges that certain financial transfer orders were added to the February 4, 2025 city council agenda in violation of the Open Meeting Law. She alleges that said transfer orders were controversial and should have been reasonably expected by the City Council President. She also alleges that said financial transfer orders were not emergency orders and that it appears that the City Council President tried to avoid discussion of these transfer orders. Lastly, she alleges that, on February 4th, the City Council President only did an abbreviated reading of the orders where she read the amount of the transfer, but did not include where the money was being transferred to.

THERE WAS NO VIOLATION OF THE OPEN MEETING LAW

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A, §20, the notice of a public meeting must contain a listing of topics which the public body reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting. In this situation, the City Council President was not aware that these financial transfers were going to be listed as agenda items prior to the release of the agenda, which agenda included matters provided to the City Clerk forty-eight (48) hours prior to the February 4th meeting. As a result, she could not have reasonably anticipated that the financial transfers at issue were going to be listed as a late file for the February 4th meeting. Additionally, there was no discussion of the content of the late-filed orders. *See* pages 14-17 of the Minutes of February

4, 2025, a copy of which is attached hereto and marked as Exhibit A. The only discussion was whether or not the orders could be discussed. Id.

While the term “deliberation” is not limited to decision-making or opinion communications, it does require at least minimal deliberation on the content of the matter which should be listed on a properly noticed agenda. *See* OML 2022-234 which involved a “Communications Policy” that was not listed on the agenda and where there was no vote taken regarding the acceptance of the policy, but where there was some discussion regarding the benefits of the policy, where the policy should be posted, and what documentation should be included in the policy. Id. The Attorney General decided that such discussion constituted deliberation and that the failure to include said Communications Policy was a violation of the Open Meeting Law. Id.

However, as previously stated, there was absolutely no deliberation on the late-filed items during the February 4th meeting.

The public body submits that there was no violation of the Open Meeting Law during the February 4th meeting because (1) the City Council President could not reasonably anticipate that these financial orders were going to be late-filed; and (2) there was no deliberation on these financial transfer orders on February 4, 2025. *See* Exhibit A regarding the absence of deliberation.

**IF THERE WAS A VIOLATION OF THE OPEN MEETING LAW, SAID VIOLATION
WAS CURED**

Massachusetts courts, as well as the Attorney General, have ruled that a violation of the Open Meeting Law “may be cured by independent, deliberative action that is not merely a ceremonial acceptance and perfunctory ratification of action taken in violation of the law.” *See Pearson v. Bd. of Selectman of Longmeadow*, 49 Mass.App.Ct. 119, 125 (2000); *see also* OML 2021-35; OML 2023-227; 2023-146; OML 2021-10; OML 2013-69; *see also Boutet v. Acton Bd. of Selectmen*, 2020 Mass. Super. LEXIS 29, 2020 WL 949914; OML 2020-47. The Attorney General has explained that curing a violation means that the public body conducts new deliberations at a subsequent meeting that is accessible to the public for which proper notice is provided. *See* OML 2021-35. A violation of the Open Meeting Law is not cured when the public body does not discuss the matter which was the subject of an Open Meeting Law violation, but rather simply voted on the matter. Id.

In this case, the February 4, 2025 meeting to which Ms. Vacon refers did not contain a listing of those orders although they were listed on the City of Holyoke website where they were fully described. *See* a copy of the agenda for the February 4, 2025 meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto and marked as Exhibit B.

On February 18, 2025, those same orders were listed as Items numbered 2 through 6 on the agenda for that meeting which was published and made available to the public within 48 hours of the said meeting, a copy of which agenda is attached hereto and marked as Exhibit C.

More specifically, the February 4th agenda lists the following late-filed orders which is as follows:

FEBRUARY 4, 2025-EXHIBIT B ATTACHED HERETO

LATE-FILED ORDERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Item 66. DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND 22/100 Dollars (\$21,600.22) as follows:

	FROM	TO
11211 51276 MAYOR'S CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS	21,600.22	
15411 51103 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – COA		2,222.00
15411 51101 DIRECTOR COUNCIL ON AGING		3,030.00
11711 51101 CONSRVTN & SUSTNBLTY DIRECTOR		3,030.00
12441 51101 SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES		2,525.00
16301 51101 DIRECTOR PARKS/REC FORESTRY		2,899.14
16301 51103 ASST DIRECTOR OF PARKS & REC		2,222.00
14211 51108 SAFETY OFFICER		2,020.00
15101 51101 DIRECTOR BOARD OF HEALTH		1,632.00
15101 51202 ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER		2,020.08
21,600.22	21,600.22	

*Added February 4, 2025, 4:38 p.m.

Item 67. DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, EIGHT THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-TWO AND 93/100 Dollars (\$8,182.93) as follows:

	FROM	TO
12401 51101 LOCAL INSPECTOR	8,182.93	
12401 51102 ASST BUILDING COMMISSIONER		3,132.93
12401 51103 CHIEF INSPECTOR OF WIRES		2,828.00
12401 51107 ZONING OFFICIAL		2,222.00
8,182.93	8,182.93	

*Added February 4, 2025, 4:38 p.m.

Item 68. DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, ELEVEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY-TWO AND 00/100 Dollars (\$11,342.00) as follows:

	FROM	TO
11751 51106 PLANNER I	11,342.00	
11751 51108 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PLANNING		4,560.00
11751 51102 ASST DIR OF ECONOMIC DEV		4,560.00
11751 51105 SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER		
2,222.00		
11,342.00	11,342.00	

*Added February 4, 2025, 5:03 p.m.

Item 69. DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, FIVE THOUSAND FIFTY AND 00/100 Dollars (\$5,050.00) as follows:

	FROM	TO
16911 51104 ENTERPRISE COORDINATOR	5,050.00	
16911 51101 DIRECTOR WISTARIAHURST		2,828.00
16911 51103 CITY HISTORIAN		2,222.00
5,050.00	5,050.00	

*Added February 4, 2025, 5:03 p.m.

Item 70. DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY AND 99/100 Dollars (\$1,560.99) as follows:

	FROM	TO
15431 51104 INVESTIGATOR	1,560.99	
15431 51105 NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER		1,560.99
1,560.99	1,560.99	

*Added February 4, 2025, 5:03 p.m.

From the asterisks from each line item, it is clear that these items were late filed and were not listed on the agenda in order to give the public forty-eight (48) hours of notice. However, if there was a violation, it was cured when the same items were listed on the February 18th agenda which was published within forty-eight (48) hours of the meeting. The items listed on the agenda for the February 18th meeting are as follows:

FEBRUARY 18, 2025 AGENDA-EXHIBIT C ATTACHED HERETO

Item 2. DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND 22/100 Dollars (\$21,600.22) as follows:

	FROM	TO
11211 51276 MAYOR'S CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS	21,600.22	
15411 51103 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – COA		2,222.00
15411 51101 DIRECTOR COUNCIL ON AGING		3,030.00
11711 51101 CONSRVTN & SUSTNBLTY DIRECTOR		3,030.00
12441 51101 SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES		2,525.00
16301 51101 DIRECTOR PARKS/REC FORESTRY		2,899.14
16301 51103 ASST DIRECTOR OF PARKS & REC		2,222.00
14211 51108 SAFETY OFFICER		2,020.00
15101 51101 DIRECTOR BOARD OF HEALTH		1,632.00
15101 51202 ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER		2,020.08
21,600.22	21,600.22	

Item 3. DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, EIGHT THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-TWO AND 93/100 Dollars (\$8,182.93) as follows:

	FROM	TO
12401 51101 LOCAL INSPECTOR	8,182.93	
12401 51102 ASST BUILDING COMMISSIONER		3,132.93
12401 51103 CHIEF INSPECTOR OF WIRES		2,828.00
12401 51107 ZONING OFFICIAL		2,222.00
8,182.93	8,182.93	

Item 4. DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, ELEVEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY-TWO AND 00/100 Dollars (\$11,342.00) as follows:

	FROM	TO
11751 51106 PLANNER I	11,342.00	
11751 51108 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PLANNING		4,560.00
11751 51102 ASST DIR OF ECONOMIC DEV		4,560.00
11751 51105 SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER		2,222.00
11,342.00	11,342.00	

Item 5. DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, FIVE THOUSAND FIFTY AND 00/100 Dollars (\$5,050.00) as follows:

	FROM	TO
16911 51104 ENTERPRISE COORDINATOR	5,050.00	
16911 51101 DIRECTOR WISTARIAHURST		2,828.00
16911 51103 CITY HISTORIAN		2,222.00
5,050.00	5,050.00	

Item 6. DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY AND 99/100 Dollars (\$1,560.99) as follows:

	FROM	TO
15431 51104 INVESTIGATOR	1,560.99	
15431 51105 NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER		1,560.99
1,560.99	1,560.99	

As you can see, the items that were listed as late files for the February 4th meeting are the exact same items that were listed on the February 18th meeting agenda which was properly noticed. *See* Exhibits B and C. On February 4th, the late files were not discussed as they were simply tabled. *See* pages 14-17 of Exhibit A. On February 18th, Item number 2 was discussed and passed by a 7 to 3 vote. Since Items 2-6 were listed on the properly noticed February 18th agenda, any violation which may be deemed to have occurred, was cured because there was an independent deliberative action and discussion in a subsequent properly noticed meeting. *Contrast* OML 2021-35 where the South Hadley Board of Selectmen, at a subsequent meeting, did not discuss the statement against racism which the Board discussed outside of an open meeting, but rather the Board simply voted to accept said statement as written. Id.

With regard to the February 18th meeting, there was a long and contentious discussion on the number of readings required to pass an order. As a result, Items numbered 3 through 6 were not discussed but were simply tabled. Items numbered 3 through 6 were listed on the properly noticed agenda for the city council meeting which occurred on March 4, 2025. *See* Exhibit D.

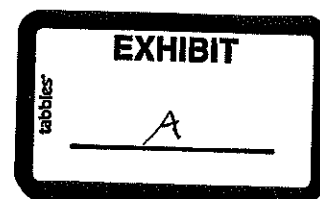
Since the late-filed items listed on the February 4th website were listed on a properly noticed agenda for both the February 18th and March 4th meeting, the City Council has conducted new independent deliberations at subsequent meetings that are accessible to the public and for which proper notice was provided; which means that, if there was a violation of the public records law in the February 4th meeting, such violation was cured. *See* OML 2021-35; *see also* Exhibits B, C and D.

Very truly yours,



Kathleen E. Degnan, Esq.
Assistant City Solicitor

cc: Ms. Linda Vacon

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCILFebruary 4, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Murphy-Romboletti at 7:04 p.m.

The Clerk called the roll. Absent Members: 0 Present Members in person 13 (Anderson-Burgos, Bartley, Devine, Givner, Greaney, Jourdain, Magrath-Smith, Murphy-Romboletti, Ocasio, I. Rivera, J. Rivera, Sullivan, Vacon).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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. Motion adopted.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Beth Strycharz, 25 Woodland Street, stated that she was following up on an email she and neighbors sent to councilors the previous week in which they voiced concerns about the proposed sports complex and the lack of information. She then stated that this would impact their densely populated neighborhood in Ward 3. She further stated that she spoke to the Planning Board and was not able to get much information. She also stated that she was unable to get much information from Andrew Melendez with USA International other than a plan for the parcels of land they were planning to take. She then explained that the developers paid \$70,000 for 1.85 acres of land abutting Woodland Street. She added that they also had 2 parcels of land under contract on Whiting Farms Road, indicating there was intent to build. She then questioned if there was a feasibility study. She also questioned if there were site plans available. She then expressed concern about where the funding would come from, specifically if it would come from city incentives or private investors. She added that she believed it would be done in phases, adding up to \$50-\$100 million, and questioned what would happen if they ran out of money. She also asked if they would be cutting trees. She also expressed concern about impact on already existing drainage issues on Woodland Street.

Councilor Greaney raised a point of order, making a motion to allow Ms. Strycharz to speak for an additional minute. Councilor I. Rivera seconded the motion. Motion adopted.

B. Strycharz stated that in reference to drainage issues, they had petitioned for a catch basin and had not gotten it. She emphasized that the DPW had been aware of the issue for a long time. She then asked that the Council investigate what was happening and do their due diligence.

Jordana O'Connell, 56 Woodland Street, expressed opposition to the sports complex, expressing concern that the proposal was backed by politically connected figures. She also expressed frustration that there had been no communication from Cesar Ruiz to the surrounding neighborhood, calling into question if the process was being handled in good faith. She also emphasized that there were already multiple sports

complexes in the area and would make this proposed complex redundant. She then expressed further concerns about it being a densely residential area, that it would cause traffic and parking issues, increase noise pollution, decrease property values, and alter the character of the neighborhood.

Libby Hernandez, 245 Walnut Street, thanked Councilor Devine for introducing an order regarding backyard hens. She then stated that it would allow for more sustainability, as well as providing fresh eggs to residents at a time when prices were high. She noted a previous proposal was voted down in 2021, and expressed hope that new leadership would help make it happen. She added that it would create an educational component for children to learn about how food got to their table. She noted that other surrounding towns were already successfully doing this.

Jose Gonzalez, 139 Hillside Avenue, expressed support for allowing chickens as a matter of providing food sustainability. He noted that complaints he had heard included disparaging Puerto Ricans and their dirty chickens making a mess. He then stated that if there were issues, the Board of Health could deal with it. He added that those kinds of complaints were uninformed bias, adding that he believed people should mind their own business. He then stated that he and his kids would love to have chickens. He then expressed concern about the recent special election being held randomly without better information put out to voters. He added that he would have preferred to have mail in ballots and more input for public elections. He also expressed frustration with parking bans not being enforced and some areas not being plowed, leading to people like his wife slipping and ending up in the ER, missing work, and entire lives being impacted.

Mega Hernandez, 245 Walnut Street, expressed support for the backyard hen proposal. She then stated that it would be a simple and affordable way to help families deal with high food prices, food insecurity, and sustainability. She added that many families in the city struggled with food insecurity, and hens would provide a regular source of eggs. She also emphasized that hens ate food scraps, reducing waste, and they also did not require the population caused by mass production and transportation of eggs. She added that raising hens helped teach kids about responsibility, hard work, and where food comes from. She also stated that hens were less noisy than dogs and did not smell if properly cared for.

President Murphy-Romboletti asked for a moment of silence in honor of Ron Dietrich from the Auxiliary Police, a great man who gave a lot of time and service to the city. She also asked for a moment of silence in honor of David Gadaire, President and CEO of MassHire Holyoke. She noted she had been a board member of MassHire and the loss of Mr. Gadaire would be a big void in the community.

A moment of silence was observed for Mr. Dietrich and Mr. Gadaire.

LAI D ON THE TABLE

(19:05)

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 2 from the table.

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	51276	MAYOR'S CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS	21,631.74	
11211	51104	MAYOR'S PAY-CAFO	716.19	
15431	51103	VETERAN'S PAY - INVESTIGATOR	6,002.88	
15431	51101	VETERAN'S PAY - COMMISSIONER	2,240.00	
15431	51500	VETERAN'S VACATION BUYBACK	2,000.00	
15431	51510	VETERAN'S SICK LEAVE BUYBACK	5,000.00	
11521	51102	PAY - PERSONNEL ASSISTANT	11,235.34	
12401	51102	ASST BUILDING COMMISSIONER		3,132.93
12401	51103	CHIEF INSPECTOR OF WIRES		2,828.00
12401	51107	ZONING OFFICIAL		2,222.00
11751	51108	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PLANNING		4,560.00
11751	51102	ASST DIR OF ECONOMIC DEV		4,560.00
11751	51105	SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER		2,222.00
11751	51106	PLANNER 1		1,090.00
12441	51101	SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES		2,525.00
11711	51101	CONSRVTN & SUSTNBLTY DIRECTOR		3,030.00
14211	51108	SAFETY OFFICER		2,020.00
15411	51103	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - COA		2,222.00
15411	51101	DIRECTOR COUNCIL ON AGING		3,030.00
15431	51105	NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER		1,560.99
16301	51101	DIRECTOR PARKS/REC FORESTRY		2,899.14
15101	51101	DIRECTOR BOARD OF HEALTH		1,632.00
15101	51202	ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER		2,020.08
16911	51101	DIRECTOR WISTARIAHURST		2,828.00
16911	51103	CITY HISTORIAN		2,222.00
16301	51103	ASST DIRECTOR OF PARKS & REC		2,222.00
			48,826.15	48,826.15

Recommended that the order be denied.

Councilor Devine asked that item 2 be returned to the Auditor.

---> Report of Committee received and returned to the Auditor.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 3 and 4 as a package.

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.

---> Report of Committee received.

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.

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Devine made a motion to reject the committee report and approve the contract. Councilor Givner seconded the motion.

Councilor Jourdain stated that these were just documents sent to the Council, emphasizing that the operative item was the transfer order. He then suggested that the contracts just be received.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that was what usually happened with contracts.

Councilor Devine stated that it would be fine with item 4.

Councilor Jourdain stated that both were essentially the same thing, with item 4 just being the full contract.

Councilor Devine reiterated that her motion was to approve the contract.

Councilor Jourdain reiterated that the Council does not adopt contracts.

President Murphy-Romboletti agreed that the Council usually just receives them.

Councilor Devine

---> Report of Committee received.

COMMUNICATIONS

(22:35)

From Mayor Garcia, letter appointing Mr. David P. Owen of 12 Mason Rd. to serve as a member of the Historical Commission. Mr. David Owen will serve a three year term expiring January 2028.

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

From Mayor Garcia, letter appointing Ms. Beverlyn Blanchard of 46 St. Kolbe Dr. to serve as a member of the Library Board of Directors. Ms. Blanchard will serve a three year term expiring February 2028.

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

From Mayor Garcia, letter reappointing Brenna Levitin of 48 Vernon St. to serve as a member of the Library Board of Directors. Ms. Levitin will serve a three year term, expiring February 28, 2028.

---> Received and appointment confirmed.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 8 and 35 as a package.

From Mayor Garcia and Superintendent Soto, a Joint statement affirming the rights of immigrants

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

Councilor Jourdain- The Superintendent of Schools discuss his recent memo on affirming the rights of immigrants with the Joint Committee on City Council and School Committee.

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

From City Clerk Brenna Murphy Leary and Admin. Assistant Jeffery Anderson-Burgos, meeting minutes from January 21, 2025

---> Received and Adopted.

From City Solicitor Lisa Ball, legal opinion on votes and transfer request

---> Received.

From Executive Director of the Holyoke Retirement Anthony Dulude, Notice of Retirement meeting to Elect to Grant Retiree COLA (no action needed by the City Council)

Councilor Jourdain expressed his understanding that once approved by the Retirement Board, the mayor would then approve it, and then it would come to the City Council.

Councilor Devine noted that the item stated there was no action needed by the City Council.

Councilor Jourdain expressed his understanding that there were dollar implications. He added that he believed this came in before, and the Council approved it before the mayor, so this may be from a prior fiscal year. He reiterated that he believed it needed to go the mayor before coming to Council.

---> Received. Copy to the Mayor.

From Alicia Zoeller, CDBG Allocation Spreadsheet

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

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 13 and 60 through 64 as a package.

From Sean Sheedy, Maintenance Admin for Holyoke Public Schools, 2-4-2025 SOI ARP PROJECTS HPS

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

Devine- That the City of Holyoke appropriates the amount of One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a Schematic Design Study at Kelly Elementary School located at 216 West Street Holyoke MA 01040 for a potential roof replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Holyoke has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of Mayor Joshua Garcia. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, Chapter 70B, or any other enabling authority. The City of Holyoke acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Holyoke incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Holyoke; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote

shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Holyoke and the MSBA.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes.

Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

Devine- That the City of Holyoke appropriates the amount of One Hundred Thousand(\$100,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a Schematic Design Study at Lt Elmer J McMahon Elementary School located at 75 Kane Road Holyoke MA 01040 for a potential roof replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Holyoke has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of Mayor Joshua Garcia. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, Chapter 70B, or any other enabling authority. The City of Holyoke acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Holyoke incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Holyoke; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Holyoke and the MSBA.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes.

Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

Devine- That the City of Holyoke appropriates the amount of Seventy-Five Thousand(\$75,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a Schematic Design Study at Lt Clayre Sullivan Elementary School located at 400 Jarvis Avenue Holyoke MA 01040 for a potential partial roof replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Holyoke has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of mayor Joshua Garcia. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, Chapter 70B, or any other enabling authority. The City of Holyoke acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Holyoke incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Holyoke; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Holyoke and the MSBA.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes. Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

Devine- That the City of Holyoke appropriates the amount of One Hundred and Fifty Thousand (\$150,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a Schematic Design Study at Holyoke High School located at 500 Beech Street Holyoke MA 01040 for a potential roof replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Holyoke has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of Mayor Joshua Garcia. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, Chapter 70B, or any other enabling authority. The City of Holyoke acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Holyoke incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Holyoke; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Holyoke and the MSBA.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order,

and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes.
Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

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

Devine- That the City of Holyoke appropriates the amount of Seventy-Five Thousand(\$75,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a Schematic Design Study at Maurice A Donahue Elementary School located at 210 Whiting Farms Road Holyoke MA 01040 for a potential partial roof replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Holyoke has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of Mayor Joshua Garcia. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, Chapter 70B, or any other enabling authority. The City of Holyoke acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Holyoke incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Holyoke; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Holyoke and the MSBA.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes.
Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

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

From Sean Mangano, School Committee Finance Subcommittee 12.12.24

Councilor Magrath-Smith asked if this was an earlier chart the Council received.

Councilor Jourdain stated that he was planning to have a discussion about the chart in the Joint Committee relative to the physical condition of all of the school buildings.

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

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 15 and 39 as a package.

From the Office of the Governor, Public Settlements Policy - Jan. 2025

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

Jourdain- Ordered, that the City Council create an ordinance that creates a settlement policy and further prohibits the use of non-disclosure agreements in the City of Holyoke consistent with what Governor Healey has done at the state level. Please see attached policy.

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

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 16 and 17 as a package.

From Harry Montalvo, President of Board of Directors Greater Chamber of Commerce, EM 1-29-25 announcement

---> Received.

From Harry Montalvo, President of Board of Directors Greater Chamber of Commerce, Chamber letter

---> Received.

From Mary Monahan, Chair of Board of Public Works, letter to council TSS & BOD

Councilor Jourdain asked if Ms. Monahan planned to discuss these or if it was informational.

Councilor Devine stated that she believed I was just informational.

---> Received.

From Mary Monahan, Chair of Board of Public Works, follow up to funding request for levee repairs

---> Received.

From Board of Fire Commission, meeting minutes from December 16, 2024.

---> Received.

From Holyoke Redevelopment Authority, minutes from November 13 and 20th

---> Received.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(31:20)

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that there would be a flag raising event for Black History Month on Wednesday, February 12th, at 4:30 p.m., to be followed by a storytelling program at the Holyoke Library.

She then stated that the Irish flag raising would be on Sunday, February 23rd, at 2:15 p.m. at the JFK Memorial located at Appleton and Sycamore.

She also stated that the city would be hosting the first of two public meetings to discuss a plan for wayfinding and signage on Wednesday, February 26th at the Holyoke Community College Culinary Institute located at 164 Race Street. She noted the public was invited to attend.

Councilor Bartley stated that he delivered a proclamation in honor of veteran Harry Chandler, adding that the veterans and Mr. Chandler's granddaughters were appreciative.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(32:55)

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the City create the position of a municipal hearings officer to hear appeals by offenders of the State Building Code made pursuant to MGL c. 148A, Section 2 and that a stipend be determined for said position

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 recommended it 2-1, approving the providing language which included a stipend of \$2,500. He then explained that they discussed different ways to fund the position that didn't necessarily require adding it to the budget. He noted that the Fire Department already had someone doing the same role and there was a possibility of wedding the two positions together. He also stated that this would allow the city to provide a middle person to hear appeals rather than always needing to go to court, making it easier and more cost effective.

Councilor Vacon stated that while she was initially opposed to this as adding a new position, she was now in favor of it after being able to hear different information, including the benefit of providing citizens with a more rapid way for their concerns to be heard.

Councilor Greaney asked if this was temporary or permanent.

Councilor I. Rivera stated that it was part time in that it would happen as needed, but not permanent such as other positions that would be paid an annual salary or receiving benefits.

Councilor Bartley noted that the language did not specify a term. He then asked if there was an end or if someone appointed would hold the position forever. He also questioned the rationale of the language that specifically laid out that the mayor would appoint without confirmation of the City Council. He then noted

that he didn't necessarily have an issue with the mayor appointing. He then made a motion to amend the language to specify a 3 year term. Councilor Vacon seconded the motion.

Councilor Greaney agreed that there should be a start and finish to the term.

Councilor I. Rivera stated that he was not necessarily against that, but believed that leaving it open ended would allow the person in the position to pick up as they go and keep moving. He then suggested mirroring what they were doing with the Fire Department position.

Councilor Magrath-Smith stated that some of the research showed that some communities in the area were working together to contract for the position. She added that it did not necessarily need to be one person but could be a contracted service with multiple people. She also noted that in some other communities, people were paid on a case by case basis rather than receiving a set amount.

Councilor Jourdain expressed his support for this, particularly because \$2,500 would not be a big hit, adding that it was what was allowed under the statute. He then expressed his understanding that this would one person filling one position and not multiple people each getting \$2,500. He then noted that in reference to terms, someone lacking a need for City Council confirmation was basically serving at the pleasure of the mayor. He questioned if adding in language that specified a term meant that the mayor was stuck with someone even if they wanted someone else.

Councilor Vacon explained that the main impetus for this was being informed that the Council had adopted a law many years earlier that required having this role filled. She added that the goal was to remedy that problem. She then suggested that pursuing other avenues such as sharing with another community may mean the city was out of compliance with the requirement to have a local option for people. She also stated that she could go either way with respect to a term. She also noted that the committee had sought numbers on the number of cases that was not able to be provided, adding that she expected they may be able to get some information after a year of this being in place.

Councilor Bartley explained that his motion was to specify that the municipal hearing officer shall serve for a term of no more than three years. He added that would not impact the mayor's ability to hire or fire but would allow the Council and the public to know how long the person could serve. He also noted that item 47 on this agenda was a proposal he filed to specify how the position would be paid for.

Councilor Greaney called to move the question.

President Murphy-Romboletti explained that the current motion was to amend the language to add in a term of three years.

Motion to amend adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays-- Yeas 11--Nays 1 (Devine, Murphy-Romboletti)--Absent 0.

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

The Ordinance passed its second reading.

The Ordinance was passed to be enrolled.

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

Report of Enrollment received.

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

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

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up item 47 out of order.

Bartley- The City of Holyoke (esp the Mayor) consider permanently funding the Municipal Hearing Officer position by way of the Vacant Building reservation fund. Refer to Ordinance, the Mayor, and Law Dept.

Councilor Bartley asked if this was an Ordinance or a Finance matter.

President Murphy-Romboletti suggested it may need to start in Ordinance.

Councilor Jourdain stated that he did not believe the Council could do this, noting that only the mayor could decide how the funding was handled, whether it be put in the budget or paid for by transfer. He then suggested sending the order to the mayor.

Councilor Bartley suggested sending the order to the Ordinance Committee and then seek a legal opinion.

President Murphy-Romboletti noted that Mass General Law stated that the fines levied by the code enforcement officer were supposed to pay for the stipend.

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

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order That the Vacant Building fee be adjusted to take into account the size (SF) of the building. Currently, a flat fee is assessed which is not reflective of the burden to the city and it's taxpayers.

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 Board of Health Director, Tim Rivers, provided figures after doing research of other communities which would make sure that vacant building owners would pay the fees based on the size of their building. He then explained that the goal was to motivate building owners to take responsibility for their properties. He emphasized that it was only for 4 or more family buildings. He added that the rates would be adjusted nominally. He then read from the proposed fee schedule:

4 or more residential units or commercial properties that were vacant less than 1 year would have no fee, residential and commercial properties vacant 1 to 2 years would have a \$1,500 annual assessment, residential and commercial properties of less than 3,000 square feet and vacant more than 2 years without an accepted rehabilitation plan would have a \$3,000 annual assessment, those up to 8,000

square feet would have a \$6,000 annual assessment, those up to 14,000 square feet would have an \$8,000 annual assessment, those up to 49,999 square feet would have a \$10,000 annual assessment, and those at 50,000 or more square feet would have a \$15,000 annual assessment.

Councilor Givner asked whether this would apply moving forward or be retroactive.

Councilor Sullivan suggested that common sense would only say this would only be going forward.

Councilor Givner stated that she wanted to ensure that, noting recent issues with a lot of people getting building fines.

Councilor Jourdain stated that section 3 of the language stated it would only be going forward.

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

The Ordinance passed its second reading.

The Ordinance was passed to be enrolled.

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

Report of Enrollment received.

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

Yeas 13--Nays 0--Absent 0.

Approved by the Mayor.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that no group homes, profit or non-profit, be allowed within the city limits of Holyoke, Ma without the approval of the Holyoke City Council.

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 this would allow for the Council and the public to be notified when these facilities come into neighborhoods, emphasizing that the Council could not bar them, but this would at least be a mechanism for being informed.

Councilor Greaney explained that one of the motivations was that many of the facilities lead to the loss of taxpaying properties, leading to others having to bear the burden of paying those taxes.

Councilor Vacon noted that this would also provide for notice if someone was looking for an occupancy permit because there were density rules relative to group homes even though they were allowed as of right. She added that this would ensure the Council was notified that these facilities were in compliance with state licensure requirements.

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

The Ordinance passed its second reading.

The Ordinance was passed to be enrolled.

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

Report of Enrollment received.

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

Yeas 13--Nays 0--Absent 0.

Approved by the Mayor.

Councilor Vacon asked if the mayor would be informed of this change so that he could make the department heads aware.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that the mayor would have to sign off on this. She then asked if department heads would get a copy of this now that it was passed.

City Clerk Leary stated that they would.

The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that when the use a building is changing requiring permits from city departments but not City Council approval, a communication be sent to the City Council informing of the change. This can help councilors keep constituents informed so that concerns can be addressed.

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 this order was about helping the Council have a better understanding of things changing with regard to businesses and storefronts, adding that a communication would now be sent to the Council when changes happen. He noted that councilors had heard from constituents when things moved into their neighborhoods without people knowing about it.

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

(1:00:20)

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up late filed 66 through 70 out of order.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWENTY ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND 22/100 Dollars (\$21,600.22) as follows:

	FROM	TO
11211 51276 MAYOR'S CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS	21,600.22	

15411	51103	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - COA	2,222.00	
15411	51101	DIRECTOR COUNCIL ON AGING	3,030.00	
11711	51101	CONSRVTN & SUSTNBLTY DIRECTOR	3,030.00	
12441	51101	SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES	2,525.00	
16301	51101	DIRECTOR PARKS/REC FORESTRY	2,899.14	
16301	51103	ASST DIRECTOR OF PARKS & REC	2,222.00	
14211	51108	SAFETY OFFICER	2,020.00	
15101	51101	DIRECTOR BOARD OF HEALTH	1,632.00	
15101	51202	ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER	2,020.08	
			21,600.22	21,600.22

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

---> Laid on the table.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, EIGHT THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO AND 93/100 Dollars (\$8,182.93) as follows:

	FROM	TO
12401 51101 LOCAL INSPECTOR	8,182.93	
12401 51102 ASST BUILDING COMMISSIONER		3,132.93
12401 51103 CHIEF INSPECTOR OF WIRES		2,828.00
12401 51107 ZONING OFFICIAL		2,222.00
	8,182.93	8,182.93

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

---> Laid on the table.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, ELEVEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY TWO AND 00/100 Dollars (\$11,342.00) as follows:

	FROM	TO
11751 51106 PLANNER I	11,342.00	
11751 51108 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PLANNING		4,560.00
11751 51102 ASST DIR OF ECONOMIC DEV		4,560.00
11751 51105 SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER		2,222.00
	11,342.00	11,342.00

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor
---> Laid on the table.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, FIVE THOUSAND FIFTY AND 00/100 Dollars (\$5,050.00) as follows:

	FROM	TO
16911 51104 ENTERPRISE COORDINATOR	5,050.00	
16911 51101 DIRECTOR WISTARIAHURST		2,828.00
16911 51103 CITY HISTORIAN		2,222.00
	5,050.00	5,050.00

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

Councilor Devine made a motion to suspend the necessary rules to take final action on late files 66 through 70.

---> Laid on the table.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY AND 99/100 Dollars (\$1,560.99) as follows:

	FROM	TO
15431 51104 INVESTIGATOR	1,560.99	
15431 51105 NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER		1,560.99
	1,560.99	1,560.99

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take final action on late files 66 through 70.

Councilor Vacon stated that as these were late files, they were not published for the public. She then questioned suspending the rules to table them so they would never on a regular agenda.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to allow Atty Bissonnette to address the Council.

Atty Bissonnette asked if the question was if it would be allowed to take up the late files and move them to the table.

Councilor Devine stated that it was.

Atty Bissonnette stated that it would take a majority vote, not two-thirds. He then explained that rule 7.A.xii stated that deviation from the agenda can be done by a majority vote. He added that acting on the items would require two-thirds.

Councilor Vacon clarified that the late files were not listed on the agenda.

Councilor Bartley stated that they were on his.

Councilor Jourdain stated that they were not on the agenda published 48 hours in advance.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that this was done every meeting when there were late files.

Councilor Vacon stated that the rule was that they be posted on the next agenda.

Councilor Bartley stated that they would be if they were tabled.

Councilor Vacon stated that they would usually be sent to committee.

Councilor Bartley reiterated that they would not be this time and would be posted to the next agenda.

Councilor Greaney took issue with voting on something he hadn't seen.

President Murphy-Romboletti clarified that they would not be voted on that evening.

Councilor Greaney stated that he was not aware of what they were.

Councilor Jourdain expressed his understanding that if they were not taken up, they would go on the next agenda. He then stated that tabling them or putting them on the next agenda was a distinction without a difference, and that he preferred to have them just go on the next agenda.

Councilor Bartley emphasized the matter was not debatable.

Motion adopted on a show of hands vote.

---> Laid on the table.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order 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	

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 paying for a Zoom account that was shared with the Board of Health and the mayor's office.

---> 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 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	

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 overtime was expected to cover the Police Department through June 30th. She then explained that it was needed to fill vacancies due to officers being injured on duty of serving in the military. She added that Chief Keenan believed they were moving in the right direction on tightening controls. She also stated they would be working with a staffing company to better track

overtime.

---> 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 "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.

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 for the Emergency Management department would invest in needs for them emergency response team, including shelter, equipment, updating fire technology, running hybrid operations, and close gaps in other departments.

----> 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.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 29 and 58 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, 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

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be referred back to the Council without recommendation.

Committee Members:

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

---> Report of Committee received and returned to the Auditor.

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

8811-10400 CAPITAL STABILIZATION \$293,439.63

TOTAL \$293,439.63

TO:

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

TOTAL \$293,439.63

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Devine stated that this was to replace 3 plow trucks that were in bad shape. She then explained that item 58 was a new order submitted to change the funding mechanism.

Councilor Jourdain stated that the trucks were needed, and the hope was they would be ready by the next winter season. He then explained that the open question was where the funding would come from, with the request going to the mayor that it all come out of capital stabilization.

Councilor Sullivan stated that beyond the issue of snow removal, the trucks were unsafe for the employees and residents, noting that one truck was from 1986. He added that the older trucks add to the maintenance budget.

Councilor Bartley stated that employees were also happy with newer vehicles, noting that everything in the trucks actually work, such as radios, heaters, and air conditioning.

Councilor Greaney asked, in jest, if the new trucks would have automatic shutoff when they arrived at his driveway.

Councilor Magrath-Smith asked how much would be left in capital stabilization with \$108,000 coming out of it, noting that continuing to take funds out of it wasn't going to leave much left.

Councilor Jourdain stated that it was at around \$352,000 before this transfer.

Councilor Sullivan clarified that it wouldn't just be the \$106,000 coming out.

Councilor Magrath-Smith noted that \$186,000 was coming out of general stabilization.

Councilor Sullivan stated that the full amount would be coming out of capital stabilization.

Councilor Vacon asked for clarification of what was being voted on.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that item 29 would be separate.

Councilor Jourdain stated that item 29 should be returned to the Auditor.

Councilor Magrath-Smith stated that if item 58 was voted on, it would leave \$58,000 in capital stabilization.

---> 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, TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY AND 00/100 Dollars (\$24,780) as follows:

FROM

0075-10400 VACANT BUILDING REVOLVING FUND	\$24,780
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TOTAL \$24,780

TO:

12401-51201 PROPERTY MAINT/DEMO SUPERVISOR	\$24,780
--	----------

TOTAL \$24,780

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 Building Commissioner explained that the amount of funds from demolition fees would be enormous. She then stated that they would be posting for the position and expected that it would take 3-4 weeks to get someone hired. She also stated that the expected annual

salary would be \$65,000-\$70,000.

---> 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.

Councilor Devine asked that the Auditor provide amounts of what remained in the stabilization and revolving funds.

(1:24:20)

Councilor Vacon stated that item 31 remained in committee.

Councilor Magrath-Smith stated that she did not believe it was in committee. She then explained that she previously believed that a committee member who was not present could sign the committee jacket, but had since learned that was not what always occurred.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that she watched the meeting afterwards.

Councilor Jourdain expressed his understanding that a committee member could not sign the committee report if they did not vote on the item in the committee meeting. He noted that only one member who voted on the item had signed the committee report.

President Murphy-Romboletti asked the Law Department to weigh in on the question.

Atty Bissonnette stated that there was no signature requirement, as it was more of practice rather than a hard rule. He then explained that under open meeting law, the requirement would be that votes to be taken for review so that members could participate in future meetings on the same topic. He reiterated that there was no legal bearing for requiring a signature.

Councilor Devine expressed her understanding that the guidance was that someone who could not attend a meeting could not sign a report. She then asked if someone needed to acknowledge publicly that they could not vote if they could not attend the committee meeting.

Atty Bissonnette clarified that all councilors can vote on any matter that comes before the full Council, absent a reason for recusing. He then explained that if someone could not attend and vote at a committee meeting, they would still be eligible to vote at the full Council meeting. He then reiterated that there was no signature requirement.

Councilor Vacon explained that the issue was on the matter being moved out of committee. She further explained that following the meeting, she gained information that caused her to change her vote to move it forward to a no, and therefore did not sign the committee jacket. She added that she communicated that to the chair but did not discuss it further in order to avoid violating the open meeting law. She added that the chair informed her that it would then kick it back to the committee.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that she was seeking clarification on if it being voted out of committee favorably stood if a committee member later decided not to sign the committee report. She also questioned where the rules discussed this topic.

Atty Bissonnette stated that the committee report would stand, and the member who changed their mind could now choose to vote against the committee report. He added that the Council could also choose to refer it back to the committee.

Motion was made and seconded to refer item 31 back to the Charter and Rules Committee.

The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order that the City Council consider a rule addition to RULE 6C (DECORUM/SPEAKING) adding the following words as a second paragraph: "No Councilor shall speak more than 4 minutes during debate. The President/and or the City Council Administrative Assistant shall keep track of the minutes. A (1) one minute reminder shall be given at the 3 minute mark during debate."

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted, amending "4 minutes during debate" to "3 minutes at a time during debate."

Committee Members:

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

---> Report of Committee received and referred to the Charter and Rules Committee.

The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order 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."

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 the change was in response to having revised a different rule that led to this provision now existing elsewhere in the rules.

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

The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order that rule 9P be amended to remove the reference to items being tabled if they are not taken up in 45 days.

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

Committee Members:

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

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Magrath-Smith stated that the discussion was about the pros and cons of having items listed on agendas as tabled to avoid having items hidden in a committee jacket without ever being brought to light. She then explained that this was a mechanism for someone to bring something up without a chair putting an item on the agenda for discussion.

Councilor Vacon asked for clarification if a matter that was administratively tabled in committee could be taken up if a chair did not list the item for discussion.

Atty Bissonnette stated that the entire notice to the public of an agenda should list matters so that they could be aware of a discussion. He added that an agenda listing 90+ items could cause things to be lost, but there was no other certain way to allow someone to take something up. He then suggested that was likely the reason to create the 45 day rule, but added there could be another way to make that happen.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order that the City Council reconsider our vote to appoint the City Treasurer rather than have it be an elected position and further take the necessary steps to combine the Treasurer and Tax Collector positions into one office.

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

Committee Members:

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

UNDER DISCUSSION:

Councilor Magrath-Smith stated that this was considered an alternate pathway when it was filed, but the process was able to move forward with the state legislators.

Councilor Jourdain asked what the next steps would be now that the treasurer change was passed.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that she had been discussing this with Personnel, the Treasurer, and the Tax Collector, and would be working with the Ordinance chair to start getting items on future agendas to figure out the plan going forward. She added that another order was in the Charter and Rules jacket to discuss combining the Treasurer and Tax Collector.

Councilor Devine noted this was her order but it was filed before it was clear there was going to be a special election.

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

ORDERS AND TRANSFERS

(1:41:35)

Jourdain, Vacon - Ordered, that the City Clerk meet with the City Council to discuss the potential streamlining of poll locations in Wards 1, 2 and 5 as we have already done in Wards 3, 4, 6 and 7. All of these other Wards seem to function fine with one polling location and it would be a potential cost savings and less administrative burden to use the one location per ward method.

Councilor Jourdain stated that he was filing this in concert with discussion he had with the City Clerk. He also noted that Councilor Vacon was to be added to the order. He then explained that the thinking was that four of the wards already had just one location. He also suggested that other locations could be considered.

Councilor Devine recalled there had been a committee put together years earlier to consider different locations. She then suggested that the City Clerk could get people together from those wards to discuss this.

City Clerk Leary stated that she believed it would be easier to discuss it in a subcommittee.

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

Jourdain, Vacon- Ordered, that the City Council adopt the following Special Act and then place the question on the November 2025 ballot.

Councilor Vacon clarified that the question related to adopting a recall provision that the Council had voted on in the past.

---> Received and referred to the Charter and Rules Committee.

Jourdain, Vacon- The Superintendent of Schools please update the Joint Committee on City Council and School Committee on any updated plans for the School Dept headquarters in light of their decision not to go forward with proposed High Street location.

Joudain stated that the Joint Committee would be meeting on the 12th.

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

Rivera, J, Devine, Anderson-Burgos.-Order that Davin Pasek (Zoning Official), a representative from the Law Department, Nicole Maisonet from Vcare, and Tammie Kozuch from Holyoke Health Center to attend a city council meeting to discuss Ordinance 6.4.6#6 and explore potential changes to the ordinance.

Councilor Devine asked to be added to the order.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos asked to be added to the order.

Councilor Vacon asked what ordinance this was.

Councilor I. Rivera stated that it was the signs ordinance.
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

Vacon- ORDER: That installation of a crosswalk near #64 County Rd be evaluated for improved safety.
Refer to DPW, City Engineer & Public Safety
---> Received and referred to the Public Safety Committee. Copy to DPW, Engineer.

Vacon- ORDER: that the portion of Westfield Road from Doyle Drive to the traffic light at Apremont Highway be evaluated with recommendations made for safety improvements, due to a number of recent accidents in the area. Refer to DPW, city engineer and Sgt. Zurheide & the Traffic Enforcement Grant Committee
---> Received and Adopted. Copy to DPW, Engineer, Sgt. Zurheide & the Traffic Enforcement Grant Committee

Bartley- The Holyoke City Council continue its now 11-year tradition by issuing proclamations to the President, its award winners and the colleens of the St. Patrick's Parade Committee and the award winners of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (Woman & Man of the Year; Christian Charity awardee). Both the Parade Committee and AOH have deep roots in Holyoke. The council President set aside the start of the city council regular meeting of March 18, 2025 to issue the proclamations and the city council suspend its rules and allow the Presidents of both organizations to address the City Council that night. Receive and Adopt. Refer to our administrative assistant to coordinate the event, copy Parade Committee and AOH, and Councilor Councilor Devine to produce the proclamations.
---> Received and Adopted.

Bartley, Sullivan- The DGR committee invite the Valley (Holyoke) Blue Sox owner/president (Matt Drury) and its new manager (Endy Morales) to a future meeting to preview the Summer 2025 season. Matt's in his 3d season as owner and this will be Endy's first season as the Blue Sox' head coach. Endy wore #40 when playing for the Blue Sox and that number is retired. Receive and refer to DGR and to our Admin. Asst. to coordinate the meeting. Copy to Park Commission.
---> Received and referred to the Development and Governmental Relations Committee. Copy to Parks Commission, Admin Asst.

Bartley- The City of Holyoke and the Holyoke City Council continue its tradition (first instituted in 2019) by renewing and/or celebrating that the month of March is "Irish American Heritage Month" and promote the same for 2025 and in future years. Receive and Adopt.
---> Received and Adopted.

Bartley- The Parks Commission forward the proposed lease between the City and the Blue Sox to city council for its review and approval asap (ie preferably prior to the start of the 2025 baseball season). Receive and Refer to DGR. Copy to the Parks Commission. Copy to City Forester and DPW. Copy to the Law Dept.
---> Received and referred to the Development and Governmental Relations Committee. Copy to Parks Commission, DPW, Law Department.

Bartley- The Law Dept. in its next ex. Session, provide to city council an update on the pending sexual harassment lawsuit in US District Court. The parties to the suit are three female students (Plaintiffs) and staff & students (Defendants) at Holyoke High School. I was unaware of any such lawsuit prior to reading a newspaper article dated 1/24/25.
---> Received and Adopted. Copy to Law Department.

Bartley- The City Treasurer and/or Auditor send a communication to City council on the financial status of the Community Preservation Fund by the first meeting in March. The motion is to receive and adopt.
---> Received and Adopted.

Bartley- The city ordinances shall be amended to order the city Treasurer and/or Auditor to send an annual communication to City Council on the financial status of the Community Preservation Fund by the council's first meeting in March. Items to be included are: the most recent account balance; where the funds are deposited or invested; the dates and the amounts of any deposits either from the Commonwealth or the Municipality or any other source; the dates and the amounts of any withdrawals // payments in support the CPA's mission. Please also separately delineate any payroll or consultant information. Refer to Ordinance.
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

Bartley- The Parks Commission send a communication to City council by first meeting in March on the fund balance of the Scott's Tower account. I also encourage the Commission to do this annually. Receive, Adopt and Refer to Parks Commission.
---> Received and Adopted. Copy to Parks Commission.

Bartley- The City Engineer review the feasibility of a mid-block crosswalk on Homestead Ave. proximate to the secondary entrance to HCC. (This entrance is N of the main gate). If it is feasible and if there is financing to install (you would need to make it ADA compliant) then please send a report to Ordinance. If not feasible, please send a communication to City Council by its first meeting in May 2025. Receive and Adopt. Refer to Engineer. Refer to Ordinance.

Councilor Bartley made a motion to amend the order to add crosswalk to the main gate at HCC.
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, NINE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE AND 52/100 Dollars (\$9,981.52) as follows:

FROM

12201-51103 CAPTAIN	\$3,663.90
12201-51104 LIEUTENANTS	6,317.62
TOTAL	\$9,981.52

TO:

12201-51180 INJURED ON DUTY (PP #15)	\$9,981.52
TOTAL	\$9,981.52

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

UNDER DISCUSSION:

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that the transfer 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 (Bartley).

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 54 through 57 and 59 as a package.

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

FROM

12101-51107 PATROLMEN \$ 50,000

12101-51117 DISPATCH 50,000

TOTAL \$100,000

TO:

12102-53010 MAP/DATA MAINTENANCE \$100,000

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

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, EIGHTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$80,000) as follows:

FROM

12101-51105 SERGEANTS \$40,000

12101-51107 PATROLMEN 40,000

TOTAL \$80,000

TO:

12102-53010 MAP/DATA MAINTENANCE \$80,000

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

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, EIGHTY THREE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY SIX AND 00/100 Dollars (\$83,656) as follows:

FROM

11511-51201 PT ASSISTANT SOLICITOR \$83,656

TOTAL \$83,656

TO:

11511-51202 PT ASSOCIATE SOLICITOR \$83,656

TOTAL \$83,656

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

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 THREE THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$33,000) as follows:

FROM

14101-51105 SR CIVIL ENGINEER	\$ 17,000	
14251-51102 HOISTING EQUIPMENT OPERATOR		16,000
TOTAL \$33,000		

TO:

14102-53010 PROF ENGINEERING SERVICES	\$33,000	
TOTAL \$33,000		

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

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 FIREFIGHTER SAFETY EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM, \$24,081, 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 Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

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

LATE FILED ORDERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

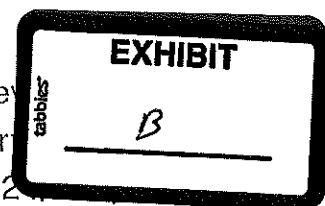
(1:54:50)

From Assistant Solicitor Jane Mantolesky, letter regarding St. Vincent Lots
---> Laid on the table.

Adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Brenna Murphy Leary

Click here to sign up for city emergency alerts-including community events, Department notifications, law enforcement alerts, general information alerts and other notifications (<https://member.everbridge.net/45300308561162>)



Attention Holyoke residents, the current parking ban will conclude on Monday, February 17, 2025, at 6am. Please be advised that starting at 8:00am on Monday, February 17, 2025, a reverse parking ban will be enforced, prohibiting parking on the EVEN side of the street and on cul-de-sacs until further notice. Thank you for your cooperation.

Atención residentes de Holyoke, la actual prohibición de estacionamiento concluirá el lunes 17 de febrero de 2025, a las 6am. Les informamos que a partir de las 8am del 17 de febrero, comenzará una prohibición de estacionamiento inversa, prohibiendo estacionarse en el lado PAR de la calle y en las calles sin salida hasta nuevo aviso. Gracias por su cooperación.

Holyoke City Council Meeting February 4, 2025

Feb
4
2025

7:00 pm ► City Hall Holyoke

536 Dwight St, Holyoke 01040

Share

Agenda

Agenda Packet

Minutes

Video

Contact Information

Posted January 31, 2025, 12:23 p.m.

[vídeo en español \(https://youtu.be/xiwSbjKt23E?feature=shared\)](https://youtu.be/xiwSbjKt23E?feature=shared)

Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall, 536 Dwight St and can also be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85914960000?pwd=QVBqSkJvd0pSZENmNFdDbnVXTnVTUT09>
(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85914960000?pwd=QVBqSkJvd0pSZENmNFdDbnVXTnVTUT09>)

Meeting ID: 859 1496 0000 Meeting Passcode: 657908 or by call in at 1 (646) 558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode.

Live Spanish interpretation will be available on local access channel 15 using the television's SAP option, through the live stream on the city website, as well as on the Zoom feed by clicking the interpretation option and choosing Spanish.

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

7:00 PM

AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT

LAIID 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.

2. 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 51276	MAYOR'S CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS	21,631.74
11211 51104	MAYOR'S PAY-CAFO	716.19
15431 51103	VETERAN'S PAY-INVESTIGATOR	6,002.88
15431 51101	VETERAN'S PAY-COMMISSIONER	2,240.00
15431 51500	VETERAN'S VACATION BUYBACK	2,000.00
15431 51510	VETERAN'S SICK LEAVE BUYBACK	5,000.00
11521 51102	PAY-PERSONNEL ASSISTANT	11,235.34
12401 51102	ASST BUILDING COMMISSIONER	3,132.93
12401 51103	CHIEF INSPECTOR OF WIRES	2,828.00
12401 51107	ZONING OFFICIAL	2,222.00
11751 51108	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PLANNING	4,560.00
11751 51102	ASST DIR OF ECONOMIC DEV	4,560.00
11751 51105	SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER	2,222.00
11751 51106	PLANNER 1	1,090.00
12441 51101	SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES	2,525.00
11711 51101	CONSRVTN & SUSTNBLTY DIRECTOR	3,030.00
14211 51108	SAFETY OFFICER	2,020.00

15411 51103 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – COA	2,222.00
15411 51101 DIRECTOR COUNCIL ON AGING	3,030.00
15431 51105 NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER	1,560.99
16301 51101 DIRECTOR PARKS/REC FORESTRY	2,899.14
15101 51101 DIRECTOR BOARD OF HEALTH	1,632.00
15101 51202 ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER	2,020.08
16911 51101 DIRECTOR WISTARIAHURST	2,828.00
16911 51103 CITY HISTORIAN	2,222.00
16301 51103 ASST DIRECTOR OF PARKS & REC	2,222.00
48,826.15	48,826.15

Recommended that the order be denied.

3. 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.

4. 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.

COMMUNICATIONS

5. From Mayor Garcia, letter appointing Mr. David P. Owen of 12 Mason Rd. to serve as a member of the Historical Commission. Mr. David Owen will serve a three year term expiring January 2028.

6. From Mayor Garcia, letter appointing Ms. Beverlyn Blanchard of 46 St. Kolbe Dr. to serve as a member of the Library Board of Directors. Ms. Blanchard will serve a three year term expiring February 2028.

7. From Mayor Garcia, letter reappointing Brenna Levitin of 48 Vernon St. to serve as a member of the Library Board of Directors. Ms. Levitin will serve a three year term, expiring February 28, 2028.

8. From Mayor Garcia and Superintendent Soto, a Joint statement affirming the rights of immigrants

9. From City Clerk Brenna Murphy Leary and Admin. Assistant Jeffery Anderson-Burgos, meeting minutes from January 21, 2025

10. From City Solicitor Lisa Ball, legal opinion on votes and transfer request

11. From Executive Director of the Holyoke Retirement Anthony Dulude, Notice of Retirement meeting to Elect to Grant Retiree COLA (no action needed by the City Council)
12. From Alicia Zoeller, CDBG Allocation Spreadsheet
13. From Sean Sheedy, Maintenance Admin for Holyoke Public Schools, 2-4-2025 SOI ARP PROJECTS HPS
14. From Sean Mangano, School Committee Finance Subcommittee 12.12.24
15. From the Office of the Governor, Public Settlements Policy – Jan. 2025
16. From Harry Montalvo, President of Board of Directors Greater Chamber of Commerce, EM 1-29-25 announcement
17. From Harry Montalvo, President of Board of Directors Geat Chamber of Commerce, Chamber letter
18. From Mary Monahan, Chair of Board of Public Works, letter to council TSS & BOD
19. From Mary Monahan, Chair of Board of Public Works, follow up to funding request for levee repairs
20. From Board of Fire Commission, meeting minutes from December 16, 2024.
21. From Holyoke Redevelopment Authority, minutes from November 13 and 20th

PETITIONS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

22. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the City create the position of a municipal hearings officer to hear appeals by offenders of the State Building Code made pursuant to MGL c. 148A, Section 2 and that a stipend be determined for said position
Recommended that the order be adopted.

23. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order That the Vacant Building fee be adjusted to take into account the size (SF), of the building. Currently, a flat fee is assessed which is not reflective of the burden to the city and it's taxpayers.

Recommended that the order be adopted.

24. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that no group homes, profit or non-profit, be allowed within the city limits of Holyoke, Ma without the approval of the Holyoke City Council.

Recommended that the order be adopted.

25. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that when the use a building is changing requiring permits from city departments but not City Council approval, a communication be sent to the City Council informing of the change. This can help councilors keep constituents informed so that concerns can be addressed.

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, 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
-------	----------

Recommended that the order be adopted.

27. 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 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
-------	-----------

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 "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.

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, 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
-------	--------------

Recommended that the order be referred back to the Council without recommendation.

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, TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY AND 00/100 Dollars (\$24,780) as follows:

FROM

0075-10400 VACANT BUILDING REVOLVING FUND	\$24,780
---	----------

TOTAL	\$24,780
-------	----------

TO:

12401-51201 PROPERTY MAINT/DEMO SUPERVISOR	\$24,780
--	----------

TOTAL	\$24,780
-------	----------

Recommended that the order be adopted.

31. The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order that the City Council consider a rule addition to to RULE 6C (DECORUM/SPEAKING) adding the following words as a second paragraph:

"No Councilor shall speak more than 4 minutes during debate. The President/and or the City

Council Administrative Assistant shall keep track of the minutes. A (1) one minute reminder shall be given at the 3 minute mark during debate.”

Recommended that the order be adopted, amending “4 minutes during debate” to “3 minutes at a time during debate.”

32. The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order 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.”

Recommended that the order be adopted.

33. The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order that rule 9P be amended to remove the reference to items being tabled if they are not taken up in 45 days. Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

34. The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order that the City Council reconsider our vote to appoint the City Treasurer rather than have it be an elected position and further take the necessary steps to combine the Treasurer and Tax Collector positions into one office.

Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS

35. Jourdain-The Superintendent of Schools discuss his recent memo on affirming the rights of immigrants with the Joint Committee on City Council and School Committee.

36. Jourdain-Ordered, that the City Clerk meet with the City Council to discuss the potential streamlining of poll locations in Wards 1, 2 and 5 as we have already done in Wards 3, 4, 6 and 7. All of these other Wards seem to function fine with one polling location and it would be a potential cost savings and less administrative burden to use the one location per ward method.

37. Jourdain, Vacon-Ordered, that the City Council adopt the following Special Act and then place the question on the November 2025 ballot.

38. Jourdain, Vacon-The Superintendent of Schools please update the Joint Committee on City Council and School Committee on any updated plans for the School Dept headquarters in light of their decision not to go forward with proposed High Street location.

39. Jourdain- Ordered, that the City Council create an ordinance that creates a settlement policy and further prohibits the use of non-disclosure agreements in the City of Holyoke consistent with what Governor Healey has done at the state level. Please see attached policy.
40. Rivera, J.-Order that Davin Pasek (Zoning Official), a representative from the Law Department, Nicole Maisonet from Vcare, and Tammie Kozuch from Holyoke Health Center to attend a city council meeting to discuss Ordinance 6.4.6#6 and explore potential changes to the ordinance.
41. Vacon-ORDER: That installation of a crosswalk near #64 County Rd be evaluated for improved safety. Refer to DPW, City Engineer & Public Safety
42. Vacon-ORDER: that the portion of Westfield Road from Doyle Drive to the traffic light at Apremont Highway be evaluated with recommendations made for safety improvements, due to a number of recent accidents in the area. Refer to DPW, city engineer and Sgt. Zurheide & the Traffic Enforcement Grant Committee
43. Bartley-The Holyoke City Council continue its now 11-year tradition by issuing proclamations to the President, its award winners and the colleens of the St. Patrick's Parade Committee and the award winners of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (Woman & Man of the Year; Christian Charity awardee). Both the Parade Committee and AOH have deep roots in Holyoke. The council President set aside the start of the city council regular meeting of March 18, 2025 to issue the proclamations and the city council suspend its rules and allow the Presidents of both organizations to address the City Council that night. Receive and Adopt. Refer to our administrative assistant to coordinate the event, copy Parade Committee and AOH, and Councilor Devine to produce the proclamations.
44. Bartley, Sullivan-The DGR committee invite the Valley (Holyoke) Blue Sox owner/president (Matt Drury) and its new manager (Endy Morales) to a future meeting to preview the Summer 2025 season. Matt's in his 3d season as owner and this will be Endy's first season as the Blue Sox' head coach. Endy wore #40 when playing for the Blue Sox and that number is retired. Receive and refer to DGR and to our Admin. Asst. to coordinate the meeting. Copy to Park Commission.
45. Bartley-The City of Holyoke and the Holyoke City Council continue its tradition (first instituted in 2019) by renewing and/or celebrating that the month of March is "Irish American Heritage Month" and promote the same for 2025 and in future years. Receive and Adopt.
46. Bartley-The Parks Commission forward the proposed lease between the City and the Blue Sox to city council for its review and approval asap (ie preferably prior to the start of the 2025 baseball season). Receive and Refer to DGR. Copy to the Parks Commission. Copy to City Forester and DPW. Copy to the Law Dept.

47. Bartley-The City of Holyoke (esp the Mayor) consider permanently funding the Municipal Hearing Officer position by way of the Vacant Building reservation fund. Refer to Ordinance, the Mayor, and Law Dept.

48. Bartley-The Law Dept. in its next ex. Session, provide to city council an update on the pending sexual harassment lawsuit in US District Court. The parties to the suit are three female students (Plaintiffs) and staff & students (Defendants) at Holyoke High School. I was unaware of any such lawsuit prior to reading a newspaper article dated 1/24/25.

49. Bartley-The City Treasurer and/or Auditor send a communication to City council on the financial status of the Community Preservation Fund by the first meeting in March. The motion is to receive and adopt.

50. Bartley-The city ordinances shall be amended to order the city Treasurer and/or Auditor to send an annual communication to City Council on the financial status of the Community Preservation Fund by the council's first meeting in March. Items to be included are: the most recent account balance; where the funds are deposited or invested; the dates and the amounts of any deposits either from the Commonwealth or the Municipality or any other source; the dates and the amounts of any withdrawals // payments in support the CPA's mission. Please also separately delineate any payroll or consultant information. Refer to Ordinance.

51. Bartley-The Parks Commission send a communication to City council by first meeting in March on the fund balance of the Scott's Tower account. I also encourage the Commission to do this annually. Receive, Adopt and Refer to Parks Commission.

52. Bartley-The City Engineer review the feasibility of a mid-block crosswalk on Homestead Ave. proximate to the secondary entrance to HCC. (This entrance is N of the main gate). If it is feasible and if there is financing to install (you would need to make it ADA compliant) then please send a report to Ordinance. If not feasible, please send a communication to City Council by its first meeting in May 2025. Receive and Adopt. Refer to Engineer. Refer to Ordinance.

53. DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, NINE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE AND 52/100 Dollars (\$9,981.52) as follows:

FROM

12201-51103 CAPTAIN	\$3,663.90
---------------------	------------

12201-51104 LIEUTENANTS	6,317.62
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TOTAL	\$9,981.52
-------	------------

TO:

12201-51180 INJURED ON DUTY (PP #15)	\$9,981.52
--------------------------------------	------------

TOTAL	\$9,981.52
-------	------------

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

FROM

12101-51107 PATROLMEN \$ 50,000

12101-51117 DISPATCH 50,000

TOTAL \$100,000

TO:

12102-53010 MAP/DATA MAINTENANCE \$100,000

55. DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, EIGHTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$80,000) as follows:

FROM

12101-51105 SERGEANTS \$40,000

12101-51107 PATROLMEN 40,000

TOTAL \$80,000

TO:

12102-53010 MAP/DATA MAINTENANCE \$80,000

56. DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, EIGHTY THREE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY SIX AND 00/100 Dollars (\$83,656) as follows:

FROM

11511-51201 PT ASSISTANT SOLICITOR \$83,656

TOTAL \$83,656

TO:

11511-51202 PT ASSOCIATE SOLICITOR \$83,656

TOTAL \$83,656

57. 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

14101-51105 SR CIVIL ENGINEER \$ 17,000

14251-51102 HOISTING EQUIPMENT OPERATOR 16,000

TOTAL \$33,000

TO:

14102-53010 PROF ENGINEERING SERVICES \$33,000

TOTAL \$33,000

58. 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

8811-10400 CAPITAL STABILIZATION	\$293,439.63
TOTAL	\$293,439.63
TO:	
14253-58002 HIGHWAY-CAPITAL OUTLAY MV	\$293,439.63
TOTAL	\$293,439.63

59. Devine-Ordered, that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the "FY2025 FIREFIGHTER SAFETY EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM, \$24,081, 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.

60. Devine- That the City of Holyoke appropriates the amount of One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a Schematic Design Study at Kelly Elementary School located at 216 West Street Holyoke MA 01040 for a potential roof replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Holyoke has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of Mayor Joshua Garcia. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, Chapter 70B, or any other enabling authority. The City of Holyoke acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Holyoke incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Holyoke; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Holyoke and the MSBA.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be

required for such purposes.

Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council

61. Devine- That the City of Holyoke appropriates the amount of One Hundred Thousand(\$100,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a Schematic Design Study at Lt Elmer J McMahon Elementary School located at 75 Kane Road Holyoke MA 01040 for a potential roof replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Holyoke has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of Mayor Joshua Garcia. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, Chapter 70B, or any other enabling authority. The City of Holyoke acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Holyoke incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Holyoke; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Holyoke and the MSBA. FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes.

Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council

62. Devine- That the City of Holyoke appropriates the amount of Seventy-Five Thousand(\$75,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a Schematic Design Study at Lt Clayre Sullivan Elementary School located at 400 Jarvis Avenue Holyoke MA 01040 for a potential partial roof replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Holyoke has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of mayor Joshua Garcia. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, Chapter 70B, or any other enabling authority. The City of Holyoke acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined

by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Holyoke incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Holyoke; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Holyoke and the MSBA.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes.

Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council

63. Devine- That the City of Holyoke appropriates the amount of One Hundred and Fifty Thousand (\$150,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a Schematic Design Study at Holyoke High School located at 500 Beech Street Holyoke MA 01040 for a potential roof replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Holyoke has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of Mayor Joshua Garcia. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, Chapter 70B, or any other enabling authority. The City of Holyoke acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Holyoke incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Holyoke; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Holyoke and the MSBA.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes.

Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council

64. Devine- That the City of Holyoke appropriates the amount of Seventy-Five Thousand(\$75,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a Schematic Design Study at Maurice A Donahue Elementary School located at 210 Whiting Farms Road Holyoke MA 01040 for a potential partial roof replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Holyoke has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of Mayor Joshua Garcia. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, Chapter 70B, or any other enabling authority. The City of Holyoke acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Holyoke incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Holyoke; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Holyoke and the MSBA.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes.

Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council.

LATE FILED ORDERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

65. From Assistant Solicitor Jane Mantolesky, letter regarding St. Vincent Lots

*Added February 3, 2025, 12:33 p.m.

66. DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWENTY ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND 22/100 Dollars (\$21,600.22) as

follows:

	FROM	TO
11211 51276 MAYOR'S CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS	21,600.22	
15411 51103 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – COA		2,222.00
15411 51101 DIRECTOR COUNCIL ON AGING		3,030.00
11711 51101 CONSRVTN & SUSTNBLTY DIRECTOR		3,030.00
12441 51101 SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES		2,525.00
16301 51101 DIRECTOR PARKS/REC FORESTRY		2,899.14
16301 51103 ASST DIRECTOR OF PARKS & REC		2,222.00

15431 51105 NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER

1,560.99

1,560.99

1,560.99

*Added February 4, 2025, 5:03 p.m.



SUBSCRIPTIONS

([HTTPS://HOLYOKEMA.PORTAL.CIVIC
CLERK.COM/SUBSCRIPTIONS](https://holyokema.portal.civicclerk.com/subscriptions))



Past Events

LATE FILES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

SULLIVAN – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025 TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY AND 00/100 Dollars (\$24,780) as follows:

FROM

0075-10400 VACANT BUILDING REVOLVING FUND \$24,780

TOTAL \$24,780

TO:

12401-51201 PROPERTY MAINT/DEMO SUPERVISOR \$24,780

TOTAL \$24,780

Greaney – Ordered that the handicap entrance to Holyoke City Hall be made completely serviceable for those people who need to use it

I. Rivera – Ordered that the speed hump/raised crosswalk ordinance be amended to provide for a exemption in areas where there are no residential homeowners or registered voters to file a petition.

♥ Helpful

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A Size

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City of Holyoke

536 Dwight Street

Holyoke, MA 01040

Phone: (413) 322-5510

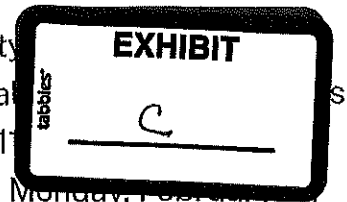
Hours: 8:30am – 4:30pm

Monday – Friday

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Attention Holyoke residents, the current parking ban will conclude on Monday, February 17, 2025, at 6am. Please be advised that starting at 8:00am on Monday, February 17, 2025, a reverse parking ban will be enforced, prohibiting parking on the EVEN side of the street and on cul-de-sacs until further notice. Thank you for your cooperation.

Atención residentes de Holyoke, la actual prohibición de estacionamiento concluirá el lunes 17 de febrero de 2025, a las 6am. Les informamos que a partir de las 8am del 17 de febrero, comenzará una prohibición de estacionamiento inversa, prohibiendo estacionarse en el lado PAR de la calle y en las calles sin salida hasta nuevo aviso. Gracias por su cooperación.

Holyoke City Council Meeting February 18, 2025

Feb
18
2025

7:00 pm ▶ City Hall Holyoke

536 Dwight St, Holyoke 01040

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Posted February 13, 2025, 2:19 p.m.

[vídeo en español \(https://youtu.be/ThbMUgJgnm4?feature=shared\)](https://youtu.be/ThbMUgJgnm4?feature=shared)

Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall, 536 Dwight St
and can also be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83675284572?pwd=eUowdmxXVUJlMGJTaHJ3L0VfQ2IzUT09>
(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83675284572?pwd=eUowdmxXVUJlMGJTaHJ3L0VfQ2IzUT09>)

Meeting ID: 836 7528 4572 Meeting Passcode: 845022 or by call in at 1 (646) 558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode.

Live Spanish interpretation will be available on local access channel 15 using the television's SAP option, through the live stream on the city website, as well as on the Zoom feed by clicking the interpretation option and choosing Spanish.

AGENDA FOR THE CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

7:00 PM

PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC COMMENT

LAIID 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.

2. DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWENTY ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND 22/100 Dollars (\$21,600.22) as follows:

FROM TO

11211	51276	MAYOR'S CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS	21,600.22
15411	51103	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – COA	2,222.00
15411	51101	DIRECTOR COUNCIL ON AGING	3,030.00
11711	51101	CONSRVTN & SUSTNBLTY DIRECTOR	3,030.00
12441	51101	SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES	2,525.00
16301	51101	DIRECTOR PARKS/REC FORESTRY	2,899.14
16301	51103	ASST DIRECTOR OF PARKS & REC	2,222.00
14211	51108	SAFETY OFFICER	2,020.00
15101	51101	DIRECTOR BOARD OF HEALTH	1,632.00
15101	51202	ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER	2,020.08
21,600.22	21,600.22		

3. DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, EIGHT THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO AND 93/100 Dollars (\$8,182.93) as follows:

FROM TO

12401	51101	LOCAL INSPECTOR	8,182.93
12401	51102	ASST BUILDING COMMISSIONER	3,132.93
12401	51103	CHIEF INSPECTOR OF WIRES	2,828.00
12401	51107	ZONING OFFICIAL	2,222.00
8,182.93	8,182.93		

4. DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, ELEVEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY TWO AND 00/100 Dollars (\$11,342.00) as follows:

FROM	TO		
11751 51106	PLANNER I	11,342.00	
11751 51108	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PLANNING		4,560.00
11751 51102	ASST DIR OF ECONOMIC DEV		4,560.00
11751 51105	SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER		2,222.00
11,342.00	11,342.00		

5. DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, FIVE THOUSAND FIFTY AND 00/100 Dollars (\$5,050.00) as follows:

FROM	TO		
16911 51104	ENTERPRISE COORDINATOR	5,050.00	
16911 51101	DIRECTOR WISTARIAHURST		2,828.00
16911 51103	CITY HISTORIAN		2,222.00
5,050.00	5,050.00		

6. DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY AND 99/100 Dollars (\$1,560.99) as follows:

FROM	TO		
15431 51104	INVESTIGATOR	1,560.99	
15431 51105	NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER		1,560.99
1,560.99	1,560.99		

7. From Assistant Solicitor Jane Mantolesky, letter regarding St. Vincent Lots

COMMUNICATIONS

8. From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter appointing Ms. Patricia Normand of 36 Pleasant St to serve as a member of the Conservation Commission. Ms. Normand will serve a three year term expiring February 1, 2028.

9. From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter appointing Mr. Denis Luzuriaga of 6 Pinehurst Rd., to serve as a Commissioner of the Holyoke Housing Authority. Mr. Luzuriaga will replace Mr. Jose Maldonado-Velez and will serve the remainder of his term expiring April 1, 2029.

10. From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter reappointing Ms. Lyn Horan of 100 Southampton Rd., to serve as a member of the Commission on Disabilities. Ms. Horan will serve a three year term

expiring in March 2028.

11. From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter reappointing Ms. Jessica Lebron-Martinez of 102 Brown Avenue., to serve as a member of the Commission on Disabilities. Ms. Lebron-Martinez will serve a three year term expiring in March 2028.

12. From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter reappointing Mr. Jeffrey Horan of 100 Southampton Rd. to serve as a member of the Conservation Commission. Mr. Horan will serve a three year term expiring February 1, 2028

13. From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter reappointing Ms. Rosemary Arnold of 30 Mountain Rd. to serve as a member of the Conservation Commission. Ms. Arnold will serve a three year term expiring February 1, 2028.

14. From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter reappointing Ms. Sarah Wedaman of 28 Howard St., to serve as a member of the Commission on Disabilities. Ms. Wedaman will serve a three year term expiring in March 2028.

15. From City Solicitor: Lisa Ball-Case of Fuller v. Haines 224 Mass. 176 which addresses the first reading of an order

16. From City Solicitor: Opinion from KP Law

17. From Assistant City Solicitor Jane Mantolesky-Notice of Sale -285 Main

18. From Councilor Givner-Boston Globe article on Impact fees

19. From DOR-Guideline on appropriation transfers

20. From Frank Demarinis, Shermerhorns site plan review

21. Cultural Humility Workshop Curriculum

22. From City Clerk Brenna Murphy Leary and Amin. Assistant Jeffery Andreson-Burgos, minutes from February 4, 2025 meeting.

PETITIONS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

23. The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Mayor Garcia, letter appointing Ms. Beverlyn Blanchard of 46 St. Kolbe Dr. to serve as a member of the Library Board of Directors. Ms. Blanchard will serve a three year term expiring February 2028.

Recommended that the appointment be confirmed.

24. The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order 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.

Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

25. The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From 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.

Recommended that the appointment be confirmed.

26. The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter appointing Mr. Joseph Black of 1015 Maple St. to serve as a member of the Recycling Advisory Committee. Mr. Black's will serve a three year term, expiring on August 1, 2027.

Recommended that the appointment be confirmed.

27. The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order 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.

Recommended that the appointment be confirmed.

28. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order 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.

Recommended that the order has been complied with.

29. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order Special Permit Application of Salmar Realty LLC c/o Peter Martins for a special permit for a Proposed Coffee shop/Drive Thru Restaurant at South Street Plaza, A Portion of 209 South St. Recommended that the special permit be granted with the 32 conditions described in the Planning Board Site Plan Review Notice of Decision letter dated January 16, 2025

30. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order Special permit application of F & M Hideway, Inc to reconstruct and renovate Schermerhorn's Restaurant and retail store per sec 4.7.3 at 224 Westfield Road (157-00-072).

Recommended that the special permit be granted.

31. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order City Council explore with the Mayor a residential redevelopment plan for city owned vacant parcels has homes built then sold. City funds coupled with any available grant funding will be used for seed funding with the proceeds of the sales used to build more homes. The long term play for the city is the generation of all of the property tax revenue from these home sales, the new availability of great new housing, the reduction in city owned buildable lots and the growth of population.

Recommended that the order has been complied with.

32. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order The Law Dept., Building Commissioner and the city's property group provide its annual update on the City's Receivership program. Please send communication to the Clerk for the second city

council meeting in January 2023.

Recommended that the order has been complied with.

33. 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 FIREFIGHTER SAFETY EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM, \$24,081, 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.

34. 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

14101-51105 SR CIVIL ENGINEER \$ 17,000

14251-51102 HOISTING EQUIPMENT OPERATOR 16,000

TOTAL \$33,000

TO:

14102-53010 PROF ENGINEERING SERVICES \$33,000

TOTAL \$33,000

Recommended that the order be adopted.

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

FROM

12101-51107 PATROLMEN \$ 50,000

12101-51117 DISPATCH 50,000

TOTAL \$100,000

TO:

12102-53010 MAP/DATA MAINTENANCE \$100,000

Recommended that the order be adopted.

36. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, EIGHTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$80,000) as follows:

FROM

12101-51105 SERGEANTS \$40,000

12101-51107 PATROLMEN 40,000

TOTAL \$80,000

TO:

12102-53010 MAP/DATA MAINTENANCE \$80,000

Recommended that the order be adopted.

37. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, EIGHTY THREE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY SIX AND 00/100 Dollars (\$83,656) as follows:

FROM

11511-51201 PT ASSISTANT SOLICITOR \$83,656

TOTAL \$83,656

TO:

11511-51202 PT ASSOCIATE SOLICITOR \$83,656

TOTAL \$83,656

Recommended that the order be adopted.

38. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order From Sean Sheedy, Maintenance Admin for Holyoke Public Schools, 2-4-2025 SOI ARP PROJECTS HPS

Recommended that the order be adopted.

39. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the City of Holyoke appropriates the amount of One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a Schematic Design Study at Kelly Elementary School located at 216 West Street Holyoke MA 01040 for a potential roof replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Holyoke has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of Mayor Joshua Garcia. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, Chapter 70B, or any other enabling authority. The City of Holyoke acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Holyoke incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Holyoke; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of

Holyoke and the MSBA.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes.

Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council

Recommended that the order be adopted.

40. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That the City of Holyoke appropriates the amount of One Hundred Thousand(\$100,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a Schematic Design Study at Lt Elmer J McMahon Elementary School located at 75 Kane Road Holyoke MA 01040 for a potential roof replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Holyoke has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of Mayor Joshua Garcia. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, Chapter 70B, or any other enabling authority. The City of Holyoke acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Holyoke incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Holyoke; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Holyoke and the MSBA.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes.

Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council

Recommended that the order be adopted.

41. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That the City of Holyoke appropriates the amount of Seventy-Five Thousand(\$75,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a Schematic Design Study at Lt Clayre Sullivan Elementary School located at 400 Jarvis Avenue Holyoke MA 01040 for a potential partial roof replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project

would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Holyoke has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of mayor Joshua Garcia. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, Chapter 70B, or any other enabling authority. The City of Holyoke acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Holyoke incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Holyoke; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Holyoke and the MSBA.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes.

Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council

Recommended that the order be adopted.

42. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That the City of Holyoke appropriates the amount of One Hundred and Fifty Thousand (\$150,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a Schematic Design Study at Holyoke High School located at 500 Beech Street Holyoke MA 01040 for a potential roof replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Holyoke has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of Mayor Joshua Garcia. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, Chapter 70B, or any other enabling authority. The City of Holyoke acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Holyoke incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Holyoke; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Holyoke and the MSBA.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes.

Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council

Recommended that the order be adopted.

43. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That the City of Holyoke appropriates the amount of Seventy-Five Thousand(\$75,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a Schematic Design Study at Maurice A Donahue Elementary School located at 210 Whiting Farms Road Holyoke MA 01040 for a potential partial roof replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Holyoke has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of Mayor Joshua Garcia. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, Chapter 70B, or any other enabling authority. The City of Holyoke acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Holyoke incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Holyoke; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Holyoke and the MSBA.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes.

Further Ordered: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council

Recommended that the order be adopted.

44. The Committee on Joint Committee of City Council and School to whom was referred an order the School Department, the School Committee, the Receiver and Mayor present a plan for the future of Metcalf School. I'd like to hear long-terms plans as well as temporary ones. I would like the district to consider the City continue using the school in its current purpose: as a learning institution. If not in the plan, then let's consider it as the headquarters of the School Department. Should a committee be formed? What plans are being discussed? The building, erected 1911, is

iconic and should be preserved and, if needed, rehabilitated and repurposed for City uses. Refer to HPS, Receiver, Mayor and Joint Committee.

Recommended that the order has been complied with.

45. The Committee on Joint Committee of City Council and School to whom was referred an order From Mayor Garcia and Superintendent Soto, a Joint statement affirming the rights of immigrants

Recommended that the order has been complied with.

46. The Committee on Joint Committee of City Council and School to whom was referred an order The Superintendent of Schools discuss his recent memo on affirming the rights of immigrants with the Joint Committee on City Council and School Committee.

Recommended that the order has been complied with.

47. The Committee on Joint Committee of City Council and School to whom was referred an order From Sean Mangano, School Committee Finance Subcommittee 12.12.24

Recommended that the order has been complied with.

48. The Committee on Joint Committee of City Council and School to whom was referred an order The Superintendent of Schools please update the Joint Committee on City Council and School Committee on any updated plans for the School Dept headquarters in light of their decision not to go forward with proposed High Street location.

Recommended that the order has been complied with.

MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS

49. Magrath-Smith, ordered that City Council review CPA Committee recommendations and approve funding for FY25 CPA projects.

50. Murphy-Romboletti-With community support, the City Council issue a proclamation to Gina Nelson, Executive Director of Community Roots Neighborhood Services, Inc. and the Veterans Lunch Program in recognition of the invaluable work they do for our community's veterans.

51. Vacon-ORDER: That the American flag protocol is followed for flags at public schools such as McMahon & on other city property, including; either lighting the flag or bringing the flag in each night and putting it up in the morning.

52. Vacon, Jourdain-ORDER: The Treasurer & Auditor provide the City Council with an update & timeline for the certification of free cash. Refer to Finance Committee

53. Bartley- Ordered that Schedule B, Compensation for Elected Officials of Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances be amended as follows:

City Clerk: \$90,000

54. Devine, Givner –ORDERED: that the Directors of the Board of Health, Zoning, Planning, and the Animal Control Officer and Law Department meet with the Ordinance Committee to discuss Ordinance Sec. 14-12 as it relates to #2 Hens, specifically the keeping of hens DEFINITIONS, SPECIAL PERMIT PROCESS, SPECIFICATIONS AND DIMENSIONS, GENERAL REGULATIONS, VIOLATIONS and any and all regulations whether State or Federal that may be pertinent.

55. Devine –ORDERED: that the City Engineer determine if a BLOCK THE BOX is warranted at Columbus Avenue and Northampton Street. Refer to City Engineer ,

56. Devine-ORDERED that the Law Department determine and render an opinion as to whether DPW supervisors/employees can ticket those automobiles/trucks that are impeding snow removal and plowing during a legal parking ban.

57. Devine-Ordered, that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the "BYRNE STATE CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM, \$84,458.79, 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.

58. DEVINE –Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, NINE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE AND 52/100 Dollars (\$9,981.52) as follows:

FROM

12201-51103 CAPTAIN \$3,663.90

12201-51104 LIEUTENANTS 6,317.62

TOTAL \$9,981.52

TO:

12201-51180 INJURED ON DUTY \$9,981.52

PP#16 TOTAL \$9,981.52

59. DEVINE –Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$25,000) as follows:

FROM

8811-10400 CAPITAL STABILIZATION \$25,000

TOTAL \$25,000

TO:

12103-58003 HPD CAP OUTLAY-BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS \$25,000

TOTAL \$25,000

60. DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, ONE HUNDRED EIGHT THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED NINETY FIVE AND 56/100 Dollars (\$108,695.56) as follows:

FROM

8815-10400 CANNABIS STABILIZATION \$108,695.56

TOTAL \$108,695.56

TO:

19412-57630 SOLICITOR CLAIMS & DAMAGES \$108,695.56

TOTAL \$108,695.56

61. DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, FIVE THOUSAND Dollars AND 00/100 Dollars (\$5,000) as follows:

FROM TO

12101 5119 POLICE RESERVE 5,000

0010 57200 OUT OF STATE TRAVEL 5,000

5,000 5,000

62. DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, FIVE THOUSAND Dollars AND 00/100 Dollars (\$5,000) as follows:

FROM TO

1421 51102 DPW HOISTING EQUIP OPERATOR 5,000

01010 57200 OUT OF STATE TRAVEL 5,000

5,000 5,000

63. DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, FIVE THOUSAND Dollars AND 00/100 Dollars (\$5,000) as follows:

FROM TO

12101 5119 FIRE FIGHTER LINE 5,000

0010 57200 OUT OF STATE TRAVEL 5,000

5,000 5,000

64. Givner- In the interest of transparency, order that the Collins Center for Public Management present its findings, working with Holyoke's Government Restructure Advisory Council, on Payments In Lieu of Taxes, PILOTs. Some cities and towns (Boston, Brookline) developed formal PILOT policies where the municipality asks the nonprofit to pay a portion of the taxes their tax-exempt property would have paid if it wasn't tax-exempt. Springfield and Concord are exploring

the need for PILOT policies. Holyoke has hundreds of tax-exempt properties including group homes, charities, drug recovery agencies, hospitals, health centers, churches, schools, colleges, and more that were included in the study. ~Send to DGR

65. Givner- In an effort to promote efficiency while upholding quality of life standards, Order that the City Council invite department heads involved with permitting in to review special permit processes. Incomplete applications regularly come before DGR. The current process is incredibly inefficient wasting 8-10 hours, per applicant, in efforts from the Clerk's office, the Planning department, the Planning Board, building department, as well as City council and subcommittees. Our permitting Ordinance should be reviewed and updated if needed. ~Send to DGR for discussion / copy to ordinance for updates

LATE FILED ORDERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

66. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order Law Dept and Mayor be invited to the City Council to discuss an update on the city's use of the receivership program including current properties being targeted and others that are excellent prospects for required repairs. I also would like to see if we can use this for larger scale problem rental properties with the right receiver as has been done in larger metropolitan cities. I also would like to start an initiative as has been used in large urban settings where we have required landlord training programs when appropriate as well as a model like Kansas City Bad Apple Program for repeat offenders. Law dept. and Mayor will be encouraged to look at what resources we need to go bold on problem properties and develop a plan with us.

Recommended that the order has been complied with.

*Added February 18, 2025, 4:56 p.m.



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CLERK.COM/SUBSCRIPTIONS](https://holyokema.portal.civicclerk.com/subscriptions))

Past Events

Today

Monday Feb 24, 2025 at 6:00 PM EST

One Time Event

(<https://holyokema.portal.civicclerk.com/event/157/files>)

City Council

Coming Up

Tuesday Mar 4, 2025 at 7:00 PM EST

One Time Event

(<https://holyokema.portal.civicclerk.com/event/155/files>)

City Council

Load more upcoming events

LATE FILES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

From Assistant Solicitor Jane Mantolesky, letter regarding St. Vincent Lots

DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWENTY ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND 22/100 Dollars (\$21,600.22) as follows: FROM TC

11211 51276 MAYOR'S CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS 21,600.22

15411 51103 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – COA 2,222.00

15411 51101 DIRECTOR COUNCIL ON AGING 3,030.00

11711 51101 CONSRVTN & SUSTNBLTY DIRECTOR 3,030.00

12441 51101 SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES 2,525.00

16301 51101 DIRECTOR PARKS/REC FORESTRY 2,899.14

16301 51103 ASST DIRECTOR OF PARKS & REC 2,222.00

14211 51108 SAFETY OFFICER 2,020.00

15101 51101 DIRECTOR BOARD OF HEALTH 1,632.00

15101 51202 ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER 2,020.08

21,600.22 21,600.22

DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, EIGHT THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO AND 93/100 Dollars (\$8,182.93) as follows:

FROM TO

12401 51101 LOCAL INSPECTOR 8,182.93

12401 51102 ASST BUILDING COMMISSIONER 3,132.93

12401 51103 CHIEF INSPECTOR OF WIRES 2,828.00

12401 51107 ZONING OFFICIAL 2,222.00

8,182.93 8,182.93

DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, ELEVEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY TWO AND 00/100 Dollars (\$11,342.00) as follows:

FROM TO

11751 51106 PLANNER I 11,342.00

11751 51108 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PLANNING 4,560.00

11751 51102 ASST DIR OF ECONOMIC DEV 4,560.00

11751 51105 SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER 2,222.00 11,342.00 11,342.00

DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, FIVE THOUSAND FIFTY AND 00/100 Dollars (\$5,050.00) as follows:

FROM TO

16911 51104 ENTERPRISE COORDINATOR 5,050.00

16911 51101 DIRECTOR WISTARIAHURST 2,828.00

16911 51103 CITY HISTORIAN 2,222.00 5,050.00 5,050.00

DEVINE – Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY AND 99/100 Dollars (\$1,560.99) as follows:

FROM TO

15431 51104 INVESTIGATOR 1,560.99

15431 51105 NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER 1,560.99 1,560.99 1,560.99

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City of Holyoke

536 Dwight Street

Holyoke, MA 01040

Phone: (413) 322-5510

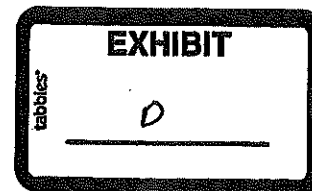
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AGENDA FOR THE CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 4, 2025



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.

2. DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, EIGHT THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO AND 93/100 Dollars (\$8,182.93) as follows:

			FROM	TO
12401	51101	LOCAL INSPECTOR	8,182.93	
12401	51102	ASST BUILDING COMMISSIONER		3,132.93
12401	51103	CHIEF INSPECTOR OF WIRES		2,828.00
12401	51107	ZONING OFFICIAL		2,222.00
			8,182.93	8,182.93

3. DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, FIVE THOUSAND FIFTY AND 00/100 Dollars (\$5,050.00) as follows:

			FROM	TO
16911	51104	ENTERPRISE COORDINATOR	5,050.00	
16911	51101	DIRECTOR WISTARIAHURST		2,828.00
16911	51103	CITY HISTORIAN		2,222.00
			5,050.00	5,050.00

4. DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY AND 99/100 Dollars (\$1,560.99) as follows:

			FROM	TO
15431	51104	INVESTIGATOR	1,560.99	

15431 51105 NATIONAL SERVICE
OFFICER

1,560.99

1,560.99 1,560.99

5. From Assistant Solicitor Jane Mantolesky, letter regarding St. Vincent Lots
6. From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter appointing Ms. Patricia Normand of 36 Pleasant St to serve as a member of the Conservation Commission. Ms. Normand will serve a three year term expiring February 1, 2028.
7. From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter appointing Mr. Denis Luzuriaga of 6 Pinehurst Rd., to serve as a Commissioner of the Holyoke Housing Authority. Mr. Luzuriaga will replace Mr. Jose Maldonado-Velez and will serve the remainder of his term expiring April 1, 2029.
8. From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter reappointing Ms. Lyn Horan of 100 Southampton Rd., to serve as a member of the Commission on Disabilities. Ms. Horan will serve a three year term expiring in March 2028.
9. From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter reappointing Ms. Jessica Lebron-Martinez of 102 Brown Avenue., to serve as a member of the Commission on Disabilities. Ms. Lebron-Martinez will serve a three year term expiring in March 2028.
10. From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter reappointing Mr. Jeffrey Horan of 100 Southampton Rd. to serve as a member of the Conservation Commission. Mr. Horan will serve a three year term expiring February 1, 202.
11. From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter reappointing Ms. Rosemary Arnold of 30 Mountain Rd. to serve as a member of the Conservation Commission. Ms. Arnold will serve a three year term expiring February 1, 2028.
12. From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter reappointing Ms. Sarah Wedaman of 28 Howard St., to serve as a member of the Commission on Disabilities. Ms. Wedaman will serve a three year term expiring in March 2028.
13. From City Solicitor: Lisa Ball- Case of Fuller v. Haines 224 Mass. 176 which addresses the first reading of an order
14. From City Solicitor Lisa Ball Opinion from KP Law
15. From Assistant City Solicitor Jane Mantolesky- Notice of Sale - 285 Main
16. From Councilor Givner- Boston Globe article on Impact fees
17. From DOR- Guideline on appropriation transfers
18. From Frank Demarinis, Shermerhorns site plan review
19. Cultural Humility Workshop Curriculum

20. From City Clerk Brenna Murphy Leary and Amin. Assistant Jeffery Andreson-Burgos, minutes from February 4, 2025 meeting.
21. The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Mayor Garcia, letter appointing Ms. Beverlyn Blanchard of 46 St. Kolbe Dr. to serve as a member of the Library Board of Directors. Ms. Blanchard will serve a three year term expiring February 2028.
Recommended that the appointment be confirmed.
22. The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order 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.
Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.
23. The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From 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.
Recommended that the appointment be confirmed.
24. The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter appointing Mr. Joseph Black of 1015 Maple St. to serve as a member of the Recycling Advisory Committee. Mr. Black's will serve a three year term, expiring on August 1, 2027.
Recommended that the appointment be confirmed.
25. The Committee on Public Service to whom was referred an order 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.
Recommended that the appointment be confirmed.
26. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order 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.
Recommended that the order has been complied with.
27. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order Special Permit Application of Salmar Realty LLC c/o Peter Martins for a special permit for a Proposed Coffee shop/Drive Thru Restaurant at South Street Plaza, A Portion of 209 South St.
Recommended that the special permit be granted with the 32 conditions described in the Planning Board Site Plan Review Notice of Decision letter dated January 16, 2025
28. -- The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order The Law Dept., Building Commissioner and the city's property group provide its annual update on the City's Receivership program. Please send communication to

the Clerk for the second city council meeting in January 2023.
Recommended that the order has been complied with.

29. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order Law Dept and Mayor be invited to the City Council to discuss an update on the city's use of the receivership program including current properties being targeted and others that are excellent prospects for required repairs. I also would like to see if we can use this for larger scale problem rental properties with the right receiver as has been done in larger metropolitan cities. I also would like to start an initiative as has been used in large urban settings where we have required landlord training programs when appropriate as well as a model like Kansas City Bad Apple Program for repeat offenders. Law dept. and Mayor will be encouraged to look at what resources we need to go bold on problem properties and develop a plan with us.
Recommended that the order has been complied with.

30. 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 FIREFIGHTER SAFETY EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM, \$24,081, 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.

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

FROM

12101-51107	\$ 50,000
PATROLMEN	
12101-51117 DISPATCH	50,000
TOTAL	\$100,000

TO:

12102-53010 MAP/DATA	\$100,000
MAINTENANCE	

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, EIGHTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$80,000) as follows:

FROM

12101-51105	\$40,000
SERGEANTS	

12101-51107	40,000
PATROLMEN	
	TOTAL \$80,000

TO:

12102-53010 MAP/DATA	\$80,000
MAINTENANCE	

Recommended that the order be adopted.

33. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, EIGHTY THREE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY SIX AND 00/100 Dollars (\$83,656) as follows:

FROM

11511-51201 PT ASSISTANT	\$83,656
SOLICITOR	
	TOTAL \$83,656
	L

TO:

11511-51202 PT ASSOCIATE	\$83,656
SOLICITOR	
	TOTAL \$83,656

Recommended that the order be adopted.

34. The Committee on Joint Committee of City Council and School to whom was referred an order the School Department, the School Committee, the Receiver and Mayor present a plan for the future of Metcalf School. I'd like to hear long-term plans as well as temporary ones. I would like the district to consider the City continue using the school in its current purpose: as a learning institution. If not in the plan, then let's consider it as the headquarters of the School Department. Should a committee be formed? What plans are being discussed? The building, erected 1911, is iconic and should be preserved and, if needed, rehabilitated and repurposed for City uses. Refer to HPS, Receiver, Mayor and Joint Committee.
Recommended that the order has been complied with.
35. The Committee on Joint Committee of City Council and School to whom was referred an order From Mayor Garcia and Superintendent Soto, a Joint statement affirming the rights of immigrants
Recommended that the order has been complied with.
36. The Committee on Joint Committee of City Council and School to whom was referred an order The Superintendent of Schools discuss his recent memo on affirming the rights of immigrants with the Joint Committee on City Council and School Committee.
Recommended that the order has been complied with.
37. The Committee on Joint Committee of City Council and School to whom was referred an order from Sean Mangano, School Committee Finance Subcommittee 12.12.24
Recommended that the order has been complied with.

38. The Committee on Joint Committee of City Council and School to whom was referred an order The Superintendent of Schools please update the Joint Committee on City Council and School Committee on any updated plans for the School Dept headquarters in light of their decision not to go forward with proposed High Street location. Recommended that the order has been complied with.
39. Magrath-Smith, ordered that City Council review CPA Committee recommendations and approve funding for FY25 CPA projects.
40. Murphy-Romboletti- With community support, the City Council issue a proclamation to Gina Nelson, Executive Director of Community Roots Neighborhood Services, Inc. and the Veterans Lunch Program in recognition of the invaluable work they do for our community's veterans.
41. Vacon- ORDER: That the American flag protocol is followed for flags at public schools such as McMahon & on other city property, including; either lighting the flag or bringing the flag in each night and putting it up in the morning.
42. Vacon, Jourdain- ORDER: The Treasurer & Auditor provide the City Council with an update & timeline for the certification of free cash. Refer to Finance Committee
43. Bartley- Ordered that Schedule B, Compensation for Elected Officials of Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances be amended as follows:

City Clerk: \$90,000
44. Devine, Givner - ORDERED: that the Directors of the Board of Health, Zoning, Planning, and the Animal Control Officer and Law Department meet with the Ordinance Committee to discuss Ordinance Sec. 14-12 as it relates to #2 Hens, specifically the keeping of hens DEFINITIONS, SPECIAL PERMIT PROCESS, SPECIFICATIONS AND DIMENSIONS, GENERAL REGULATIONS, VIOLATIONS and any and all regulations whether State or Federal that may be pertinent.
45. Devine - ORDERED: that the City Engineer determine if a BLOCK THE BOX is warranted at Columbus Avenue and Northampton Street. Refer to City Engineer
46. Devine- ORDERED that the Law Department determine and render an opinion as to whether DPW supervisors/employees can ticket those automobiles/trucks that are impeding snow removal and plowing during a legal parking ban.
47. Devine-Ordered, that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the "BYRNE STATE CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM, \$84,458.79, 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.

48. DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, NINE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE AND 52/100 Dollars (\$9,981.52) as follows:

FROM

12201-51103 CAPTAIN	\$3,663.90
12201-51104	6,317.62
LIEUTENANTS	
TOTAL	\$9,981.52

TO:

12201-51180 INJURED ON	\$9,981.52
DUTY	
PP#16	
TOTAL	\$9,981.52

49.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$25,000) as follows:

FROM

8811-10400 CAPITAL	\$25,000
STABILIZATION	
TOTA	\$25,000
L	

TO:

12103-58003 HPD CAP OUTLAY- BUILDING	\$25,000
IMPROVEMENTS	
TOTAL	\$25,000

50.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, ONE HUNDRED EIGHT THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED NINETY FIVE AND 56/100 Dollars (\$108,695.56) as follows:

FROM

8815-10400 CANNABIS	\$108,695.56
STABILIZATION	
TOTA	\$108,695.56
L	

TO:

19412-57630 SOLICITOR CLAIMS &	\$108,695.56
DAMAGES	

	TOTA \$108,695.56
	L

51. DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, FIVE THOUSAND Dollars AND 00/100 Dollars (\$5,000) as follows:

	FROM	TO
12101 5119POLICE RESERVE	5,000	
0010 57200 OUT OF STATE TRAVEL		5,000
	5,000	5,000

52. DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, FIVE THOUSAND Dollars AND 00/100 Dollars (\$5,000) as follows:

	FROM	TO
1421 51102DPW HOISTING EQUIP	5,000	
01010 57200 OUT OF STATE TRAVEL		5,000
	5,000	5,000

53. DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, FIVE THOUSAND Dollars AND 00/100 Dollars (\$5,000) as follows:

	FROM	TO
12101 5119FIRE FIGHTER LINE	5,000	
0010 57200 OUT OF STATE TRAVEL		5,000
	5,000	5,000

54. Givner- In the interest of transparency, order that the Collins Center for Public Management present its findings, working with Holyoke's Government Restructure Advisory Council, on Payments In Lieu of Taxes, PILOTs. Some cities and towns (Boston, Brookline) developed formal PILOT policies where the municipality asks the nonprofit to pay a portion of the taxes their tax-exempt property would have paid if it wasn't tax-exempt. Springfield and Concord are exploring the need for PILOT policies. Holyoke has hundreds of tax-exempt properties including group homes, charities, drug recovery agencies, hospitals, health centers, churches, schools, colleges, and more that were included in the study. ~Send to DGR

55. Givner- In an effort to promote efficiency while upholding quality of life standards, Order that the City Council invite department heads involved with permitting in to review special permit processes. Incomplete applications regularly come before DGR. The current process is incredibly inefficient wasting 8-10 hours, per applicant, in efforts from

the Clerk's office, the Planning department, the Planning Board, building department, as well as City council and subcommittees. Our permitting Ordinance should be reviewed and updated if needed. ~Send to DGR for discussion / copy to ordinance for updates

56.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, ELEVEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY TWO AND 00/100 Dollars (\$11,342.00) as follows:

		FROM	TO
11751	51106PLANNER I	11,342.00	
11751	51108 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PLANNING		4,560.00
11751	51102 ASST DIR OF ECONOMIC DEV		4,560.00
11751	51105 SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER		2,222.00
		11,342.00	11,342.00

COMMUNICATIONS

57. From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter appointing Mr. Samuel Mateo, Jr. of 26 Orchard St to serve as a Commissioner of the License Board. Mr. Mateo will replace Mr. Michael Moriarty. His term will expire on October 1, 2026.
58. From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter reappointing Mr. Willie Spradley of 8 Ross Rd. to serve on the Citizens Advisory Committee.
59. From City Clerk Brenna Murphy Leary and Admin. Assistant Jeffery Anderson-Burgos, minutes of February 18, 2025 meeting.
60. From City Auditor Tanya Wdowiak: FY2025 Sewer Enterprise year-to-date budget versus actual report as of 02-28-2025.
61. From City Auditor, Tanya Wdowiak, Community Preservation Fund financial status: EOY2024 Department of Revenue CP2 form and FY2025 YTD fund report to 2-28-2025
62. From City Auditor Tanya Wdowiak: FY2025 General Fund year-to-date budget versus actual report as of 02-28-2025.
63. From Alicia Zoller, CDBG Funding Recommendations from Citizen Advisory Committee and OCD
64. From President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti-email communication with Councilor Jourdain

65. From City Councilor Kevin Jourdain-email communication to City Clerk Brenna Murphy Leary and City Auditor Tanya Wdowjak
66. From City Councilor Kevin Jourdain- email communication with City Auditor Tanya Wdowjak
67. From City Councilor Linda Vacon, OML Complaint
68. From Parks and Rec-02.28.25-Elms College Contract 2025
69. From Parks and Rec Commission-02.28.25 Blue Sox Contract 2025 season
70. Holyoke Draft PILOT Report
71. From Local Historic District Commission, meeting minutes from October 24, 2025 and November 21, 2025
72. From Board of Fire Commission, meeting minutes from January 15, 2025.

PETITIONS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

73. 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.
Recommended that the order has been complied with.
74. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that a handicap sign be placed at 15 Davis St. The sign is requested by Teresa Lewis and the placard number is PL6980631.
Recommended that the order be adopted.
75. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order From Alicia Zoeller, CDBG Allocation Spreadsheet
Recommended that the allocation recommendations and the resolution accepting the home funds be adopted.
76. The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order that the city council amend its rules to identify which committees certain licenses should be sent to, in an effort to ensure consistency and clarity.
Awaiting disposition
77. The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order t With community support, order that all ordinances and charter rules reflecting city council and city council subcommittee meeting notices be updated to reflect acceptance of email as sufficient method of notice, and city website posting as sufficient method of public

notice.

Awaiting disposition

78. The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order tWith community support, order that the following section of our Codes of Ordinances and charter be updated to reflect use of email as sufficient for special meeting notice:
Sec. 12. – Special meetings of city council.
The mayor may at any time call a special meeting of the city council by public posting through the city website along with written notifications thereof, together with a statement of the subjects to be considered thereat, to be deposited in the post office, postpaid and addressed to the persons to be notified, at least forty-eight hours before the time appointed for such meeting, or to be left at the usual place of residence of each member of the council, by email at least forty-eight hours before the time appointed for such meeting. (Acts 1965, c. 187; Acts 1992, c. 189)
Awaiting disposition
79. The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order that the City Council consider a rule addition to to RULE 6C (DECORUM/SPEAKING) adding the following words as a second paragraph:
"No Councilor shall speak more than 4 minutes during debate. The President/and or the City Council Administrative Assistant shall keep track of the minutes. A (1) one minute reminder shall be given at the 3 minute mark during debate."
*Amended to "3 minutes at a time,"
Awaiting disposition
80. The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an 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.
Awaiting disposition
81. The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order From Atty Jane Mantolesky, Asst City Solicitor, City Council Voting Specifics
Awaiting disposition
82. The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order That we amend our charter and ordinances to change from an elected Mayor to a City Manager/Chief Administrative Financial Officer, appointed by the City Council.
Awaiting disposition
83. The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order That Charter Sections 19 and 34 be amended and elsewhere as appropriate to allow for all appointments to the Fire Commission and DPW Commission to be appointed by the Mayor subject to confirmation by the City Council.
Awaiting disposition

MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS

84. Rivera, Rivera, Magrath-Smith, Vacon, and Bartley- Ordered, that V-Care and the City Engineer be invited into DG&R in order to discuss the companion order in Ordinance Committee concerning the issue of V-Care's request of an additional parking spot. The Ordinance Committee respectfully requests information from DG&R to best understand what may be needed to do in Ordinance; are there suitable alternatives to a second designated parking lot through the use of existing bus lanes, vehicle staging procedures, or alleyway use, or is a second designated short-term parking space at set hours recommended.
85. Sullivan- The Holyoke City Council on behalf of the voters and taxpayers of our city urge the Mayor to use the remaining 1.5 million dollars of ARPA funds for use by the DPW/Sewer system projects.
86. Vacon- ORDER: that the law department please provide the annual report that was due in January per ordinance 2-154.
87. Vacon- ORDER: that the city solicitor please immediately assign an assistant solicitor to the city council to comply with our ordinance 2-156.1
88. Devine- ORDERED: That the Law Department issue an opinion as to whether there are any repercussions for an elected City Councilor who may "Use their position to impede any government operation in carrying out their duties.
89. Devine- ORDERED: That the City Engineer study the possibility of having a raised crosswalk at the corner of Dwight and Main Streets.
90. DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, ELEVEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY FIVE AND 00/100 Dollars (\$11,235) as follows:

FROM

11521-51102 PERSONNEL ASSISTANT	\$11,235
TOTAL	\$11,235

TO:

11522-53009 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$11,235
PERSONNEL DEPT	
TOTAL	\$11,235

91. 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

11451-51125 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	\$11,000
11451-51132 PAYROLL SPECIALIST	9,000
TOTAL	\$20,000

TO:

11452-53010 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$20,000
TOTAL	\$20,000
CITY TREASURER'S OFFICE	

92.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED THIRTY SEVEN AND 50/100 Dollars (\$2,337.50) as follows:

FROM

15101-51203 SUBSTITUTE NURSE	\$1,500.00
15101-51850 AUTO ALLOWANCE	837.50
TOTAL	\$2,337.50

TO:

15101-51201 BOARD MEMBERS – BOARD OF HEALTH	\$2,337.50
TOTAL	\$2,337.50

93.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars (\$25,000) as follows:

FROM

11381-51102 ASSISTANT CPO	\$25,000
TOTAL	\$25,000

TO:

11382-53010 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$25,000
TOTAL	\$25,000
PURCHASING DEPT	

94.

DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, NINE THOUSAND SEVENTY FOUR AND 41/100 Dollars (\$9,074.41) as follows:

FROM:

12201-51103	CAPTAIN	\$3,663.90
12201-51104	LIEUTENANTS	5,410.51
	TOTAL:	\$9,074.41

TO:

12201-51180	INJURED ON DUTY	\$9,074.41
	TOTAL:	\$9,074.41

95. Devine- ORDERED: That the Law Department render an opinion as to whether a City Councilor can be censured for disruption of any City Council proceeding whether at regular meetings of the City Council or any sub-committee of the City Council.
96. Devine- ORDERED: That the Law Department check with surrounding cities and towns as to how they might censure an elected official due to lack of decorum or other offenses.
97. Givner- Handicap application from Yolanda Velazquez for a handicap sign at 120 Oak St. #1.
98. Jourdain, Vacon- Ordered that the City Council Charter & Rules committee discuss the Council's long history of interpretation relative to Section 22 of the Charter that a vote to pass the first and then a vote to pass the second reading are required before final passage may occur under the provisions of that Section. That the Council also continue to follow our current procedure if and until the Council votes to change that procedure and understanding of Section 22 through a lawful method to be determined up to and including a possible Charter Change.
Section 22 of the Charter

Sec. 22. - Power as to laying out, etc., of streets; damages; ordinances, etc., involving expenditures in excess of two hundred dollars.

The city council shall, with the approval of the mayor, have exclusive authority and power to order the laying out, locating anew or discontinuing of all streets and ways and highways within the limits of the city, and to assess the damage sustained by any person thereby, and further, except as herein otherwise provided, to act in all matters relating to such laying out, locating anew, altering or discontinuing. Any person aggrieved by the assessment of his damages, or other action of the city council under this section, shall have all the rights and privileges now allowed by law in such cases in appeals from decisions of the selectmen of towns. Any ordinance, order, resolution or vote involving the appropriation or expenditure of money to an amount which may exceed two hundred dollars, shall require for its passage the affirmative votes of a majority of all the members of the city council. Every such ordinance, order, resolution or vote shall be read twice, with an interval of at least three days between the two readings, before being finally passed; and the vote at its final passage shall be taken by roll call; provided, however, that upon and after the written recommendation of the

mayor the city council may pass such ordinance, order, resolution or vote on the same day by a two-thirds yea and nay vote.

99. Jourdain, Vacon- Ordered, that the Treasurer, Auditor and Mayor please come to the Finance Committee to discuss why the Schedule A year end reconciliation for Fiscal Year 2024 has not yet been filed with the State. Failure to make this end of year filing timely potentially jeopardizes our future state aid payments, cash flow and the certification of our free cash. This filing was due on November 30 and is still unfiled. It should be noted that it was filed many months late last year and appears to be late again. Let's discuss please how we can get this back on track.
100. Jourdain, Vacon- Ordered, amend Rule 6E by adding the following: that no member of the City Council shall make references to or about another member but in respectful terms whether inside or outside the City Council Chambers including on social media. That the City Council also taken into consideration this time how the City's social media policy should help guide our final rule.

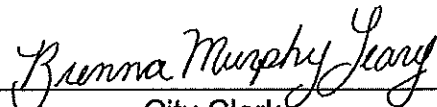
LATE FILED ORDERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

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



HOLYOKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
JUNTOS PODEMOS | TOGETHER WE CAN

57 Suffolk Street – Holyoke,
Massachusetts 01040
(413) 626-5931 Cell | (413) 534-2000 ext-1670
ssheedy@hps.holyoke.ma.us

Sean P. Sheedy Maintenance Administrator

March 13th, 2025

Dear Mayor Garcia and City Council Members,

The MSBA has reached out to me and made me aware that all 2025 requests for a Statement of Interest submission to the MSBA for a review into the accelerated Repair Program (ARP) must be voted on individually in their new Form of Vote. I have filled out the new documents and included them below. The open invitation has begun, and I have fully submitted the previous permission vote that I acquired from the Council back in February, unfortunately, we have to resubmit the correct vote language that the MSBA requires. With the deadline being March 21st, 2025. The School Department is seeking on behalf of the City to resubmit Statements of Interest for a revised two separate projects. This non-appropriation referendum indicates the Council's awareness that the City is attempting to engage the MSBA by subsequent invitation into the ARP program. The projects we would like to bring forward are as follows:

- Donahue School Exterior Windows and Doors in the New Wing
- McMahon School Exterior Windows and Doors in the Courtyard

The City of Holyoke, in collaboration with the School Department, would like to continue participating in the ongoing MSBA's ARP program (Accelerated Repair Program) which qualifies for an 80% reimbursement. The current open ARP-SOI application process has started and we would like to participate in this year's application based on the outcome of the City Council's approval to move forward with the open 2025 ARP-SOI. As of the date of this letter, all of these Schools have a critical need for the requested projects to come to fruition. This process is time sensitive and the MSBA has established a deadline for a certified vote by the City Council and must be returned no later than March 21st, 2025. We ask you to place us on the March 18th, 2025 Council agenda to comply with this deadline.

We look forward to facilitating this collaboration between the City and the MSBA. I am always available to discuss the project in greater detail should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sean P. Sheedy,

Maintenance Administrator,
Holyoke Public Schools.



Mayor Joshua A. Garcia
City of Holyoke

Alicia M. Zoeller, Administrator
Office for Community Development

March 5, 2025

Honorable City Council
City Hall
536 Dwight Street
Holyoke MA 01040

Re: American Rescue Plan Act Grant Update

Dear Councilors:

I viewed the March 4, 2025 City Council meeting (at 2:25 on video) and noted your questions regarding the recent ARPA Grant solicitation.

Attached please find an accounting of the ARPA Grant (\$37,686,568.45). Awards for the individual activities are shown in columns labeled *Tranche 1*, *Tranche 2*, and *Mayoral Increases*.

The City reports all expenditures in the US Treasury portal; the US Treasury uses the term "obligation" rather than "award". For activities completed below budget, the obligation amount is slightly different than the award amount. That difference, if any, is shown in the column labeled *Difference b/t Awards and Obligations*. Those funds were reinvested in other ARPA activities. The Mayor may increase awards by up to 15% of the original award as needed (same process as CDBG awards).

US Treasury quarterly reports are available on the Office for Community Development's webpage (<https://www.holyoke.org/american-rescue-plan-act-us-treasury-reporting/>). Reports for all jurisdictions are available on the US Treasury's website (<https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds/public-data>).

The City of Holyoke did not execute an ARPA Agreement with MIFA because the Applicant was unable to fulfill the ARPA programmatic requirements. The City of Holyoke did not provide any ARPA funds to MIFA. The allocation letter issued on June 14, 2023 was rescinded in writing on August 21, 2024.

The most recent ARPA solicitation is open and accepting applications until April 7, 2025. On page 2 of the RFP under Schedule, please note that the City Council and DGR Committee will make recommendations to Mayor Garcia in late April. This RFP follows the same process used during Tranche 1 and Tranche 2. This process will fund activities with interest revenue earned on the ARPA deposits. The US Treasury guidance on ARPA funds will be applied to these awards and expenditures.

Finally, the ARPA Program is scheduled to end on June 30, 2026 (local requirement) and in the US Treasury portal by December 31, 2026.

Sincerely


Alicia M. Zoeller
Administrator

Cc: Mayor Garcia

City of Holyoke MA American Rescue Plan Act Obligations and Awards

Use Code	Project Name	Awards			Obligations		Difference b/t Awards and Obligation	Notes
		Tranche 1 Award	Tranche 2 Award	Mayoral Increase	US Treasury Portal as of 12/31/2024			
B	Grow Holyoke- Chamber of Commerce	\$0.00	\$75,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		-\$75,000.00	Agreement cancelled.
B	Small Business Code Compliance Grant Program- City	\$0.00	\$800,000.00	\$0.00	\$500,000.00		-\$300,000.00	Program reduced.
B	Business Accelerator Program- EforAll SPARK	\$80,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$80,000.00		\$0.00	
B	Small Business Hospitality, Travel, and Tourism Grant Program- City	\$800,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$800,000.00		\$0.00	
	Business Support				\$1,380,000.00			
BB	Holyoke Broadband Network Upgrades- Holyoke Gas & Electric	\$0.00	\$124,000.00	\$0.00	\$124,000.00		\$0.00	Project completed.
	Broadband Improvements				\$124,000.00			
CR	Holyoke's Sesquicentennial Celebration- Chamber of Commerce	\$0.00	\$150,000.00	\$0.00	\$67,331.40		-\$82,668.60	Project completed.
CR	Mercado Renovations- Main Street- Nueva Esperanza	\$0.00	\$150,000.00	\$0.00	\$150,000.00		\$0.00	
CR	Holyoke Elks Parking Lot Paving for Ashley Reservoir Visitors	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$99,366.90		-\$633.10	Project completed.
CR	Update Bathroom Facilities- Holyoke Merry Go Round	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00		\$0.00	Project completed.
CR	Childcare Center Renovation- Holyoke Boys and Girls Club	\$300,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300,000.00		\$0.00	Project completed.
	Community Resources				\$646,698.30			
D	510 South Bridge Street Demo	\$155,000.00	\$170,000.00	\$0.00	\$325,000.00		\$0.00	
D	160 Pine Street Demo	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,460.00		-\$90,540.00	Project scope reduced.
D	115 Newton Street Demolition	\$0.00	\$9,925.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00		\$2,075.00	
	Demolition				\$346,460.00			
FR	Personal Protective and Safety Equipment- Fire Dept.	\$0.00	\$109,472.00	\$5,000.00	\$114,472.00		\$0.00	
FR	Shot Spotters Tasers- Police Dept.	\$138,000.00	\$322,550.00	\$34,150.00	\$494,700.00		\$0.00	
FR	Public Health Resource Trailers- Emerg Management	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00		\$0.00	
FR	Turnout Gear for Firefighters	\$338,519.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$338,518.80		-\$0.20	Project completed.
	First Responder Investments				\$1,047,690.80			
H	Appleton Mills Rental Housing Rehabilitation Project	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00		\$0.00	
H	Rent and Mortgage Assistance- Valley Oppty Council	\$195,607.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$195,607.00		\$0.00	
H	South Holyoke Homes - Holyoke Housing Authority	\$1,300,000.00	\$2,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,300,000.00		\$0.00	
H	Home modifications for Covid-19 impacted residents- RevitalizeCDC	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$215,000.00		\$0.00	
H	New Owner Occupied Housing-OneHolyoke	\$355,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$355,000.00		\$0.00	
H	Staffing Capacity for Habitat for Humanity Holyoke Projects	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$39,733.00		-\$267.00	Project completed.
H	New Owner-Occupied Housing- Habitat for Humanity	\$355,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$359,974.28		-\$25.72	Project completed.
	Housing- Rehab, Rental Rehab, Owner Occupied				\$4,565,314.28			
M	New Comprehensive Plan for City	\$0.00	\$150,000.00	\$0.00	\$150,000.00		\$0.00	
M	Municipal Technology Upgrades and Improvements	\$0.00	\$1,185,688.00	\$4,918.00	\$1,190,606.00		\$0.00	
M	Civics Plus Meeting Management Solutions	\$0.00	\$26,580.00	\$0.00	\$24,126.60		-\$2,453.40	Project completed.

M	Vacant Property Receivership Conference	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$3,251.70	-\$248.30	Project completed.
M	Overtime pay for Covid 19 Coverage - Holyoke Police Department	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,268.57	-\$86,731.43	Project completed.
M	Employee Retention Incentive Stipend	\$850,000.00	\$1,052,664.02	\$0.00	\$1,902,664.02	\$0.00	Project completed.
M	Overtime pay for Covid 19 Coverage - Holyoke Fire Department	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$41,896.00	-\$58,104.00	Project completed.
M	Records Management Digitization	\$45,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$31,542.00	-\$13,458.00	Project completed.
Additional municipal loss revenue identified by Auditor: Project completed.							
M	City of Holyoke Lost Revenue Replacement	\$1,700,000.00	\$3,180,000.00	\$2,017,526.96	\$6,897,526.96	\$0.00	Budget reduced.
M	ARPA Administrative Expenses	\$450,000.00	\$800,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,105,000.00	-\$145,000.00	Project completed.
M	Phase 1 Solid Waste Improvements Trash Cans	\$525,000.00	\$0.00	\$78,750.00	\$603,453.33	-\$296.67	Project completed.
M	Public Health Improvements to Essential Municipal Facilities	\$4,000,000.00	\$4,000,000.00	\$1,200,000.00	\$9,200,000.00	\$0.00	
Municipal Investments					\$21,163,335.18		
N	Outside Legal Services for Improved Housing Conditions- City Solicitor	\$35,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$5,250.00	\$60,250.00	\$0.00	
N	Flex Squad- City	\$35,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35,000.00	\$0.00	Project completed.
N	Graffiti Removal- DPW	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	
N	Flex Squad Phase II- City	\$0.00	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	
N	Ash Borer Tree Treatment and Replacement Project- Conservation	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	
Neighborhood Improvements					\$350,250.00		
P	Robert's Field, Playing Field Reconstruction	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	Project completed.
P	Parks Rejuvenation Project	\$0.00	\$33,000.00	\$0.00	\$33,000.00	\$0.00	
P	New Lawrence School Playground	\$0.00	\$220,000.00	\$0.00	\$220,000.00	\$0.00	Project completed.
P	SEP River Access Center Boat Ramp Improvements & Programs	\$324,398.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$324,398.00	\$0.00	
Parks Improvements					\$777,398.00		
PS	Native Language Literacy- Comm Education Project	\$0.00	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	
PS	Veterans Lunch Program- Community Roots	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$81.81	-\$14,918.19	Project completed.
PS	Remote Classes and Wellness Checks for Seniors- COA	\$41,700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$39,489.39	-\$2,210.61	Project completed.
PS	Behavioral Health Interventions- ROCA	\$250,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$69,145.09	-\$180,854.91	Project completed.
PS	Housing Advocate - Domestic Violence Aid- Alianza	\$55,040.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$55,040.00	\$0.00	
PS	Mental Health Support for Youth- Greater Holyoke YMCA	\$110,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$110,000.00	\$0.00	
PS	Together We Rise- Girls Inc.	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	
PS	Rise to Resiliency- River Valley	\$135,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$135,000.00	\$0.00	
PS	Laptop Lending Public WiFi- Holyoke Public Library	\$43,689.00	\$0.00	\$6,553.00	\$48,501.60	-\$1,740.40	Project completed.
PS	After School Academic Enrichment Programs- Homework House	\$70,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$70,000.00	\$0.00	
PS	To and Through College- Care Center	\$80,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$80,000.00	\$0.00	
PS	Emergency Stabilization for Domestic Violence- Valley Oppry Council	\$164,062.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$164,062.00	\$0.00	
PS	Job Training and Placement- Valley Oppry Council	\$30,049.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,049.00	\$0.00	
Public Services					\$1,041,368.89		
WS	Water Street, Water Main Extension Project	\$0.00	\$1,350,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,350,000.00	\$0.00	Project completed.
WS	Water Line Replacement - Hampden, East Dwight, Portland, Magnolia	\$2,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000,000.00	\$0.00	Project completed.
WS	Sewer System Rehab	\$2,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000,000.00	\$0.00	
WS	Springdale Pond Sewer Separation	\$675,000.00	\$0.00	\$101,250.00	\$776,250.00	\$0.00	

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March 13, 2025

RE: Municipal Finance Reform Update

Dear City Councilors:

I'm writing to provide a brief update regarding our collective work related to the modernization of our municipal finance departments. As you are all very well aware, with the recent Special Election behind us and the transition from an elected Treasurer to an appointed position that is set to take effect in February 2026, we are now tasked with implementing a variety of changes on a structured timeline that is undoubtedly tight.

In an effort to keep you all in the loop, here are some updates on work that is ongoing and upcoming:

- To facilitate this process, a working group was formed that included myself, the Mayor, Treasurer, Chairs of Ordinance and Charter and Rules, and members of the Personnel and Law departments. We are also leveraging the expertise of the City's contracted financial consultant, TJ Plante, who brings significant experience in municipal finance reform from his tenure with the City of Springfield.
- Our working group has been meeting bi-weekly to assess necessary ordinance changes, job descriptions, and potential charter revisions. With budget season approaching, our priority is to implement these changes in alignment with the upcoming fiscal year.
- To streamline our work and ensure critical discussions occur before the Mayor's budget presentation in May, I am coordinating joint meetings of the Ordinance and Charter & Rules committees with Chairs I. Rivera and Magrath-Smith.
 - Key meeting dates:
 - April 7 – Initial discussion on necessary municipal finance changes
 - April 16 – Follow-up discussions and refinement of proposals



- Calendar invites have already been sent. I encourage all councilors to prioritize attendance to ensure productive discussions.
- There are already a few orders that were previously filed related to municipal finance changes that need to be discussed. As a reminder these include:
 - MCGEE - order to adopt MGL Chapter 43C "Optional forms of Municipal Administration" (currently in Ordinance)
 - MCGEE - Order that CAFO be created and added to Schedule A (Currently in Ordinance)
 - MCGIVERIN - order that pursuant to MGL Chapter 43C the City of Holyoke establish a Municipal Finance Dept by December 31, 2025 (Currently in Ordinance)
 - VACON, JOURDAIN - Order to create minimum requirements for appointed Treasurer position (currently in Ordinance)
 - BARTLEY, JOURDAIN, VACON - order to combine Treasurer/Tax Collector (Currently in Charter & Rules)
- Additionally, we have identified several other necessary ordinance changes, some of which are time-sensitive. To streamline this process and avoid a fragmented, piecemeal approach, we intend to introduce the Holyoke Municipal Finance Modernization Act—a comprehensive legislative package.
 - This Act will include an updated organizational chart, budgetary impacts looking at least three years ahead, new job descriptions and salary ranges for the combined positions, as well as a list of changes that will need to be made in both ordinances and our city's Charter.
- Our goal is to file the Holyoke Municipal Finance Modernization Act for the April 1st meeting so that we can have the bulk of our discussions during the months of April and May. You are all invited to co-sign onto this effort; please know that we are aware that it is likely that many aspects included in the Act will evolve as our discussions occur. Ideally, our goal would be to vote on these changes at the May 6 City Council meeting so that the Mayor's budget presentation and budget hearings can follow shortly afterward.



Tessa Murphy-Romboletti, President

- I encourage everyone to get their questions or concerns ready ahead of time. In an effort to adhere to open meeting law requirements, you can send questions that you'd like us to research or discuss during our joint meeting directly to either myself, Councilor Rivera or Councilor Magrath-Smith.
 - It may help to review MGL Chapter 43C (for your convenience [here is a link](#))
 - The 2016 Municipal Modernization Act of the Baker Administration also has helpful guidance that may be relevant to this conversation (for your convenience [here is a link](#))

I recognize that this is an ambitious timeline requiring significant commitment from all of us. While our perspectives may differ, we share a common goal—enhancing the financial health and governance of Holyoke. As we move forward, let us demonstrate how municipal leaders can engage in productive dialogue, find common ground, and enact meaningful reforms for our community.

Sincerely,

Tessa Murphy-Romboletti
City Council President

FY 2026 Budget Development Budget Advisory Group

Sean Mangano, Chief of Finance & Operations

March 11, 2025



HOLYOKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
JUNTOS PODEMOS | TOGETHER WE CAN

Budget Advisory Group

Superintendent's Budget Advisory Group Purpose:

Budget Definition

Jacob Lew, Former US Secretary of Treasury

“The budget is not just a collection of numbers, but an expression of our values and aspirations.”

Review HPS finances and highlight key points for consideration in the development of the FY 2026 Budget for approval by the Receiver and School Committee.

Serve as ambassadors in conveying to the community at large the struggles HPS has in balancing the budget.

Analyze operations and programs, make recommendations to balance the budget that are sustainable and instructionally driven.

Ensure that the budget funds children first.

Budget Advisory Group

Superintendent's Budget Advisory Group Goals:

1. Review FY26 Budget projections.
2. Craft recommendations that will maintain and enhance the delivery of instruction in a sustainable fashion with a balanced budget.
3. Highlight key points for consideration in the development of the FY26 Budget
4. Develop a good understanding of our budget issues and be able to articulate it to the general public and our stakeholders.

Budget Advisory Group

Superintendent's Budget Advisory Group

Rue Ratray	Principal, Sullivan
Nicholas Cream	President, Holyoke Teachers Association
Karyn McDermott	Principal, McMahon
Amanda Smith	Budget Manager
Elizabeth Montagna	President, Paraprofessionals Association
Kevin Jourdain	City Councilor, At-Large
Aaron Morris	Principal, Kelly
John Whelihan	School Committee, Ward 5
Sean Mangano	Executive Director of Finance

Governors Budget

Revenue

- Increase of \$6.3m in the Required Net-School-Spending (NSS) which is 5.5% over PY
 - Year 5 of Student Opportunity Act Phase In
 - Overall foundation enrollment is down 46 students
- City offsets to NSS are increasing \$548K as part of the funding plan for Peck Middle School.
- Charter Reimbursement decreased -\$102,118 or -3.9%
- Non NSS request increasing 10% due to transportation, details on next slide.

Governors Budget

Expenses

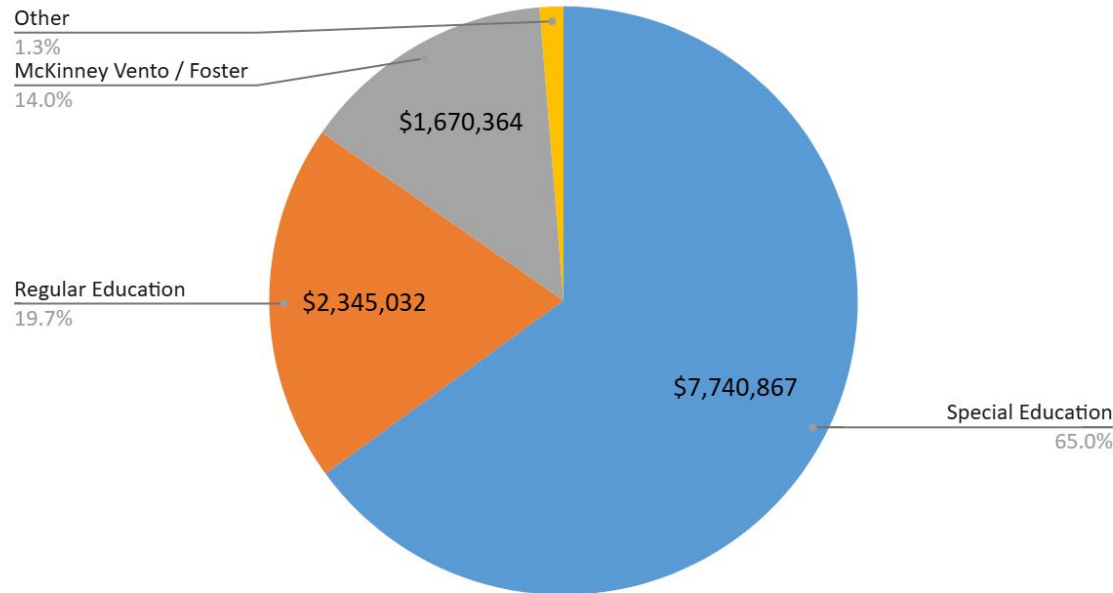
- Increase of \$3.2m in salaries or 4.9%
- Health Insurance is expected to increase 5.0% or \$440K
- Increase of \$422K in the Retired Teachers Health Insurance that is part of the Cherry Sheet
- Increase of \$946K in charter tuition/school choice expenditures or 5.7%
- Increase of \$2.4m in Out of District tuition or 42.8% - actual increase is projected to be 5% with enrollment remaining relatively flat. Increase is due to \$3m of carryover funding supporting the FY25 budget.
- Projected increase in Utilities of \$250K for new Peck
- Transportation increasing 10% due to the following:
 - contractual rate increases of appx. 5%;
 - large increase in McKinney Vento transportation rates for other communities that we cost share with (primarily Springfield which increased 100%); and
 - an increase in special education van routes.

Transportation Costs

Outside of Net School Spending

- HPS Transportation - 10.3% increase
- Charter Transportation - 9.9% increase
- City receives partial reimbursement for McKinney Vento Costs, Special Education (Medicaid), and Foster Transportation.

FY26 Transportation Breakdown



	Budget FY2025	Projected FY2026	Governor's Budget FY2026	\$ change	% change
REVENUES					
Chapter 70 State Aid	101,191,130	104,174,414	106,764,120	5,572,990	5.5%
Holyoke Required Local Contribution	13,183,748	13,842,936	13,957,634	773,886	5.9%
Required Net School Spending	114,374,878	118,017,350	120,721,754	6,346,876	5.5%
City Admin NSS (Admin and Parks)	-148,400	-697,202	-696,186	-547,786	369.1%
Charter Tuition reimbursement	2,617,459	2,456,734	2,515,341	-102,118	-3.9%
Adjusted Net School Spending	116,843,937	119,776,882	122,540,909	5,696,972	4.9%
Transportation - other than Charter	10,795,086	11,911,756	11,911,756	1,116,670	10.3%
Charter Tuition Transportation (Assessment)	792,900	871,780	871,780	78,880	9.9%
Crossing guards	141,831	141,831	141,831	0	0.0%
Medicaid	75,000	75,000	75,000	0	0.0%
Leases	222,349	222,349	222,349	0	0.0%
Non-NSS Revenue	12,027,166	13,222,716	13,222,716	1,195,550	9.9%
Total General Fund Budget	128,871,103	132,999,598	135,763,625	6,892,522	5.3%
SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE					
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	128,871,103	132,999,598	135,763,625	6,892,522	5.3%

EXPENSES	Budget FY2025	Projected FY2026	Governor's Budget FY2026	\$ change	% change
Salaries	65,141,503	68,320,084	68,320,084	3,178,581	4.9%
Supplies & Services	11,103,241	11,103,241	11,103,241	0	0.0%
Total Discretionary Expenses	76,244,744	79,423,324	79,423,324	3,178,580	4.2%
<i>Health & Life Insurance</i>	<i>8,808,980</i>	<i>8,808,980</i>	<i>9,249,429</i>	<i>440,449</i>	<i>5.0%</i>
<i>Retirement non teachers</i>	<i>2,605,150</i>	<i>2,605,150</i>	<i>2,605,150</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.0%</i>
Retired Teachers Health assessment	4,019,583	4,220,562	4,442,229	422,646	10.5%
Charter Tuition/School Choice/SPED assess.	16,498,042	17,322,912	17,444,219	946,177	5.7%
Other Benefits	477,307	477,307	477,307	0	0.0%
Unemployment	200,000	200,000	200,000	0	0.0%
Utilities	2,436,067	2,686,067	2,686,067	250,000	10.3%
Out of District Tuition	5,629,064	8,039,442	8,039,442	2,410,378	42.8%
Total Non-Discretionary Expenses*	40,674,193	44,360,420	45,143,843	4,469,650	11.0%
Transportation - other than Charter	10,795,086	11,911,756	11,911,756	1,116,670	10.3%
Charter Tuition Transportation (Assessment)	792,900	871,780	871,780	78,880	9.9%
Crossing guards	141,831	141,831	141,831	0	0.0%
Leases	222,349	222,349	222,349	0	0.0%
Total Non-NSS Expenses	11,952,166	13,147,716	13,147,716	1,195,550	10.0%
TOTAL EXPENSES PROJECTED	128,871,103	136,931,461	137,714,884	8,843,780	6.9%
Total FY26 Anticipated Budget Gap/Surplus	(0)	(3,931,862)	(1,951,258)		

2026 Strategy and Approach

- We recognize that the scope of this challenge may require reductions and contingency plans in light of funding uncertainty
- We are challenged to be creative in service options and delivery models
- We recognize that all members of our school community must partner with us in order to be successful: schools, families, external partners, and our unions

2026 Budget Development Process

- Chiefs were asked to submit budget reductions of 10%
- Individual Budget Hearings with Superintendent and Chiefs
- Business office will continue to analyze budget requests
- Business office will continue to analyze major accounts (Fringe, utilities, OOD Tuition)
- All Funds approach
- Establishment of Superintendents Budget Advisory Group
- Finalize staff allocations for schools
 - Maintaining per pupil amounts
 - Potentially adjusting staff allocation wherever possible

Potential Solutions to Address the Gap

- Vet all level service budgets to ensure they are level service and review new initiatives and cuts separately
- Review for “Double Counts” and any other omissions and possible inefficiencies will be reviewed, analyzed, and addressed
- Review salary projection for better accuracy
- Analyze impact of Health Insurance
- Identify and eliminate one time, non recurring expenditures
- Evaluate existing initiatives and assess the merit of continuing
- Identify non-critical positions which may be vacant from attrition

Potential Solutions to Address the Gap

- Identify and eliminate position for which the funding streams have expired or have been reduced
- Review all services to determine if outsourcing or insourcing saves money

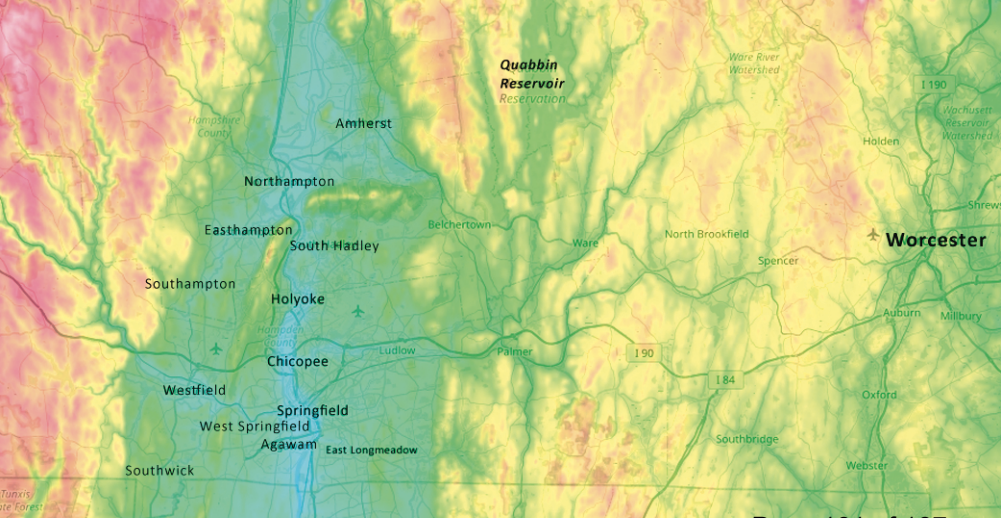
Planned Timeline

- Initial Meeting 3/11
 - Provide overview and initial projection
 - Identify key points in the budget
- 2nd meeting late April
 - Provide update on level service budget
 - Review any cost saving measures brainstormed
- 3rd meeting late May
 - Potentially have a balanced budget to review or update on projected deficit
 - Explain closing of gap and discuss messaging of budget

FY26 Key Points

- Preliminary budget gap of \$2m driven by anticipated increases in Salaries, Tuitions, Health Insurance, and Utilities.
- High level of uncertainty around grant funding, unsettled contracts, and availability of carryover funding.
- 10.3% increase in transportation, will need to have difficult conversations on options to manage rising costs.
- Projections will be refined as we proceed through the budget process:
 - identifying efficiencies and/or possible cost saving measures
 - evaluating other revenue sources that may provide transition support
- Goal is to maintain positive momentum on strategic initiatives while ensuring the budget is structurally sound and sustainable over time.
- Critical to work collaboratively with City officials in the crafting of the budget, especially those components that fall outside of net school spending.

Q & A



Lithium battery facility fire in Westfield poses risk for Connecticut River Valley basin.

Jupiter Power of Texas plans to install 219 lithium battery storage units off Southampton Road in Westfield, near the boundary of the Barnes Aquifer. “The company” is seeking exemptions of local zoning ordinances and the Water Resource Protection District, from the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities.

These facilities are a new technology, with a history of fires that cannot be extinguished. In 2023, 4 out of 8 battery energy storage systems (BESS) in New York experienced fires. The fire in January 2025 at the Moss Plant in California burned for 5 days, releasing toxic smoke containing heavy metals. Local officials described the fire as a worse case scenario that no one predicted. Local residents have reported a range of health issues. Scientists from San Jose State University found toxic heavy metals in the soil, hundreds to thousands of times higher than before the fire, despite the Environmental Protection Agency’s initial claim the fire did not release toxins. The fire forced evacuations, shelter in place orders and road closures. Orange County Supervisors passed a moratorium on BESS facilities to give them more time to consider the risks posed.

Westfield and surrounding cities are connected in the Connecticut Valley River basin by low elevations, ranging from 54 to 248 feet above sea level. Mountains on three sides surround the region. The Holyoke Mountain Range average height is 900 feet, the Worcester hills average 600 feet and the Berkshires average 1200 feet, with the highest elevation of 1724 feet. These low-lying areas, bordered by mountains, trap air in the valley and contribute to weather inversions, which can worsen air quality. This effect is a contributing factor to the Springfield area’s ranking among the highest in the nation for asthma and other respiratory conditions. A thermal runaway event in a lithium battery unit could result in a fire lasting 2 to 5 days. The resulting toxic smoke, poisonous gases and heavy metals would not be confined to the proposed site. Fumes from a lithium plant fire can travel 35 to 50 miles.

Impact of the Ice Age in forming the Connecticut River Valley

Westfield is the pre-glacial route of the Connecticut River. Some areas are less than 100 feet above sea level. Much of the city would be covered by water, except during the Ice Age, 10,000 feet of ice pushed the earth to form the Holyoke Mountain range to the north. The Connecticut River was cut off, and diverted to the other side of Holyoke. The Oxbow in Northampton formed later after the river diverted further east. Due to the valley's topography, pollution from such an event could spread across surrounding areas. These areas include Southampton, Easthampton, Northampton, Amherst, West Springfield, Springfield, Holyoke, Chicopee, South Hadley, Agawam, and Southwick. This area also includes the Barnes Aquifer, Tighe-Carmody Reservoir, Quabbin Reservoir, Boston’s drinking water supply, along with many rivers, streams, ponds and wetlands. Portions of UMASS – Amherst are only 54 feet above sea level.

Following the lithium battery fires in California and New York, the governors called for investigations into the safety of these facilities, and local officials introduced legislation to:

- Pausing the siting lithium battery storage sites
- Requiring buffer zones between battery storage sites and communities or ecologically fragile areas.
- Mandating local engagement in permitting, rather than allowing state agencies to approve on their own.

The Clean Energy Act was just signed into law in November. Massachusetts should be proactive and learn valuable lessons from other states. We all want safe, reliable, efficient and affordable energy and have a right to clean air, water and soil. “Clean energy” technology should not pose a risk to our first responders, surrounding communities, the environment and certainly not our drinking water. With a history of fires, we simply cannot take the risk that nothing ever bad will happen.

- Dan Allie, Westfield City Council
- d.allie@cityofwestfield.org 413 455 6186

BREAKING NEWS

JANUARY 17, 2025



**MOSS LANDING FIRE FORCES EVACUATIONS, ROAD CLOSURES
BURNS FOR 5 DAYS.**



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Brenna Leary <learyb@holyokey.org>

Fw: [EXTERNAL]Lithium Fire Poses Risk to CT Valley

Kaitlyn Bruce <k.bruce@cityofwestfield.org>
To: "learyb@holyokey.org" <learyb@holyokey.org>

Mon, Mar 10, 2025 at 11:18 AM

Good morning,

I initially sent this to your former email address.

On behalf of the Westfield City Councilor Dan Allie, please see the attached documents and email below. Please share these with your City Council or Board of Selectman. If anyone has any follow up questions for him, please contact him directly:

Dan Allie, Westfield City Council
d.allie@cityofwestfield.org 413 455 6186

Thank you,
Kait

Kaitlyn Bruce, City Clerk

Clerk of the Council
Chair of the Board of Registrars
City Clerk's Office, Room 210 | 413.572.6259



Follow the City of Westfield on [FACEBOOK!](#)

Verify your voter status: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema/>

From: Daniel Allie <d.allie@cityofwestfield.org>
Sent: Friday, March 7, 2025 12:29 PM
To: Dan Allie <d.allie@cityofwestfield.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Lithium Fire Poses Risk to CT Valley

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize and verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Lithium battery facility fire in Westfield poses risk for Connecticut River Valley basin.

Jupiter Power of Texas plans to install 219 lithium battery storage units off Southampton Road in Westfield, near the boundary of the Barnes Aquifer. "The company" is seeking exemptions of local zoning ordinances and the Water Resource Protection District, from the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities.

These facilities are a new technology, with a history of fires that cannot be extinguished. In 2023, 4 out of 8 battery energy storage systems (BESS) in New York experienced fires. The fire in January 2025 at the Moss Plant in California burned for 5 days, releasing toxic smoke containing heavy metals. Local officials described the fire as a worse case scenario that no one predicted. Local residents have reported a range of health issues. Scientists from

San Jose State University found toxic heavy metals in the soil, hundreds to thousands of times higher than before the fire, despite the Environmental Protection Agency's initial claim the fire did not release toxins. The fire forced evacuations, shelter in place orders and road closures. Orange County Supervisors passed a moratorium on BESS facilities to give them more time to consider the risks posed.

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- Dan Allie, Westfield City Council
- d.allie@cityofwestfield.org 413 455 6186



Mayor Joshua A. Garcia

City of Holyoke

Holyoke Redevelopment Authority

Aaron M. Vega, Executive Director

March 5, 2025

Holyoke City Council
City of Holyoke
Holyoke, MA 01040

Dear Councilors:

Attached please find copies of Meeting Minutes for the Holyoke Redevelopment Authority (HRA) for January 22, 2025 for your review.

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

Sincerely,

Aaron M. Vega

Holyoke Redevelopment Authority (HRA)
Meeting Minutes - Wednesday January 22nd, 2025, at 5:30 pm

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89661957020>

Meeting ID: 896 6195 7020

Or call-in at 1 (929) 205-6099 (with same Meeting ID)

Members Present:

Patrick Beaudry, Chair
Thomas Creed, Treasurer
Daphne Board, Assistant Treasurer

Staff Present:

Aaron Vega, Executive Director
John Dyjach, Assistant Director
Jennifer Keitt, Senior Project Manager
Kimberly Casiano, Head Economic Development Clerk

Others Present: Tiffany Espinosa, Daniel McKellick, Frank Stefano, Tom Griffin

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Patrick Beaudry called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and announced that the meeting is being recorded and is being held virtually. The Chair stated that the meeting is being held remotely according to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, extending the remote meeting provisions of Governor Healey's March 29, 2023, executive order. The meeting notice contained a link to "GoToMeeting" providing the public with remote access." Matters listed on this agenda are those anticipated by the chair, which may be discussed in the meeting, not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion. A roll call followed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Daphne Board	X	
Thomas Creed	X	
Carl Eger		X
Patrick Beaudry	X	

2. HRA Board Business

a. HRA meeting minutes of November 13, 2024 and November 20, 2024

A Motion was made by Daphne Board to approve the meeting minutes and seconded by Thomas Creed. Roll call followed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Patrick Beaudry	X	
Thomas Creed	X	
Daphne Board	X	

Move to Item #4, taken out of order

4. Request from 160 Middle Water Street for release of reverter by HRA

The Chair invites attendees to introduce themselves. In attendance, Tom Griffin representing the Seller, Daniel McKellick representing the Buyer, and Frank Stefano, the Buyers Representative. Attorney McKellick explains that during the buyers' obligatory title work prior to purchase, they encountered the outstanding reversionary deed. He explains that all the itemized conditions have been met. The proposed Buyer is currently the tenant of the property and using it as a parking lot for a trucking company to store and mobilize trucks. They are looking to add fencing once

property transfers hands. The buyer is requesting release of the reverter. Attorney Griffin adds that because a previous proposal for a marijuana cultivation operation (which included a right of first refusal and a purchase option) fell through and was mutually terminated, the Seller had not approached the Board regarding the reverter prior to this current buyer. John Dyjach confirms that the commitments that were in the deed as part of the reverter were met. There are additional restrictions (workforce commitments, property taxpaying, no transfer station activity) that will continue with the deed and the buyer is agreeable to them. The HRA will receive 2% (\$900.00) of the total sale price (\$45,000.00).

A Motion was made by Daphne Board to approve the release of the reverter and keep additional restrictions as outlined in the document approved by the city's legal department and discussed this evening. The motion was seconded by Thomas Creed. A roll call followed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Daphne Board	X	
Thomas Creed	X	
Patrick Beaudry	X	

3. Property / Project Updates and Next Steps

a. 216 / 191 Appleton Street (Appleton Mills Apartments / WinnDevelopment)

Aaron Vega provided an update. The ancillary building and 1 show apartment will be completed late spring/early summer with tenancy in early fall. There has been an extension from the railroad in order to finish the project. The parking lot is fully built out. A tour is scheduled with Representative Patricia Duffy, Mayor Garcia, and representative staff from John Velis' office, for February 10, 2025, to showcase the project and discuss Phase 2. The project is on track. Some historic tax credits have been garnered for Phase 2. Winn is still working on Phase 2 at the federal level regarding Buildings 1 and 2. Conversations are starting regarding what phase 2 is going to look like and the potential demolition of Buildings 1 and 2. Both buildings are becoming safety hazards. Staff has been looking to see if there's a possibility of funds for demolition. A CDBG application for demolition funds was submitted. John Dyjach adds that we're trying to expedite phase 2 while the construction team is on site. The HRA was recently awarded \$1M in tax credits for phase 2. Total tax credits up to \$1.5M. Should the City assist in obtaining funding for a portion of the demolition, that would represent the city share of this project and no additional funding will be considered.

Daphne Board asks for an update regarding the orange barriers on the bridge near the project. It's staffs understanding that MassDOT put them there to shut down the sidewalk due to safety concerns. Once the Appleton Street project is completed and the parking lot is in full use, this bridge will be much busier. Aaron Vega will follow up with MassDOT to obtain a status update. John Dyjach will share/forward prior communications regarding discussions had previously.

5. Other Business

Aaron Vega provides updates regarding additional ongoing projects.

Staff has met with Mass Development and Stantec to discuss the Site Readiness grant project moving forward. Staff is waiting to hear back after the initial meeting. Should no communication be received, staff will reach out to obtain an update.

There has been a request for Phase 1 testing of the Haberman property submitted to MassDEP. Attorneys for the family and the city are working on an access agreement. The Haberman family is awaiting appointment of a personal representative to Albert Haberman's estate. Once that happens, the access agreement should be finalized.

The Vacant Building Registry (VBR) hearing for 123 Pine Street is scheduled for a next week. Staff are slated to attend the Hearing. Arthur and Carrie Naatz will be invited to the February HRA meeting to provide a 6-month update.

The 37 Appleton Street project (American Environmental) will appear before the Planning Board on February 11th. American Environmental is looking to develop the northern side of the property where the facility will be for truck repair and storage. There is no plan for the entire parcel at this time.

Aaron Vega acknowledges the newest appointee, Tiffany Espinosa, is in attendance. City Council confirmation meeting is scheduled for the near future.

Lastly, the Beyond Walls Use Agreement has been signed after numerous discussions and emails back and forth. They are working with Tony Whitman for maintenance. They've already priced out some of the additional site work they want to do and may visit the site at the end of the month or early February. Beyond Walls is working with Holyoke's Department of Parks & Recreation and Nueva Esperanza on a Use Agreement partnership to help maintain and activate the space.

6. Executive Session

None

7. Adjournment

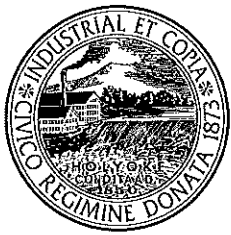
With no further business, a motion was made at 6:16 p.m. by Daphne Board and seconded by Thomas Creed to adjourn the Regular meeting. A roll call followed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Daphne Board	X	
Thomas Creed	X	
Patrick Beaudry	X	

Respectfully Submitted,



Patrick Beaudry, Chairperson



Mayor Joshua Garcia

Office of Planning and Economic Development

City of Holyoke

Historical Commission

March 5, 2025

Holyoke City Council
City of Holyoke
Holyoke, MA 01040

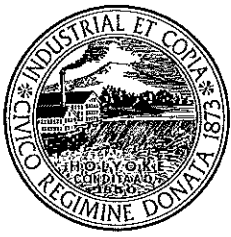
Dear Councilors:

Attached please find copies of Meeting Minutes for the Holyoke Historical Commission (HHC) for January 13, 2025, for your review.

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

Sincerely,

Aaron M. Vega



HOLYOKE HISTORICAL COMMISSION (HHC)

Monday, January 13th, 2025, at 5:30pm

City Hall Annex, 20 Korean Veterans Plaza, Conference Room 403

Or via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87563523807>

Meeting ID: 875 6352 3807

Or by call-in @ 929-205-6099 with same Meeting ID

Present: Zaisha Robert, Olivia Mausel, Joseph Mazzola

Absent: Lizabeth Rodriguez, Chris Gauthier

Municipal Staff: Jennifer Keitt

1. Call to Order

Time: 5:30 PM

2. Public Comment

Status: No public comments were presented.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes Approved: Yes, with correction of a typo.

Motion by: Zaisha Robert

Seconded by: Olivia Mausel

4. Letters of Support

- **Wright's Block and Crafts Block**

Discussion postponed due to the absence of the Chair.

- **Open Square**

Motion: Write a letter of support.

Motion by: Zaisha Robert

Seconded by: Olivia Mausel

- **Victory Theater Presentation**

Presenter: Erika Tarlin

- Updates on revised plans, cost increases, and the restart of the application process.
- **Action:** Add to the February 10 agenda. Consult the building department regarding progress and delays.

- **Farr Alpaca, 216 Appleton**
 - Construction update: Buildings 6, 5, and NE of 4 nearly complete. Gap year before phase 2 begins.
 - **Motion 1:** Write a letter of support for the project.
 - **Motion 2:** Write a letter of support for building 3 and SE of 4.
 - **Motion by:** Zaisha Robert
 - **Seconded by:** Olivia Mausel
- **245 High St**
 - Ongoing work with no significant changes.
 - **Motion:** Write a letter of support.
 - **Motion by:** Olivia Mausel
 - **Seconded by:** Joseph Mazzola

5. Compliance Form Implementation

- **Discussion:** Create a standardized compliance form to ensure projects adhere to ordinances, health board regulations, and tax requirements.
- **Outcome:** The form will be used across departments for consistent processing.

6. CPA Announcements

- Received a thank-you letter from CPA Chair Jay.
- CPA plaque reinstated at City Hall.
- Eight boxes of school records delivered to Wistariahurst for archiving.

7. Other Announcements

- A GoFundMe campaign was created by the church at 377 Appleton. The Commission cannot endorse the campaign and has requested to be removed from it.
- Commissioner Elizabeth Rodriguez has been absent for 13 consecutive meetings.
- A new commissioner, Mary, has been appointed, with an upcoming meeting scheduled with David and the Mayor.
- Pioneer Valley Planning Commission is creating a survey participant list and guidelines for historical and local districts.

8. Next Meeting

Date: February 10, 2025

9. Adjournment

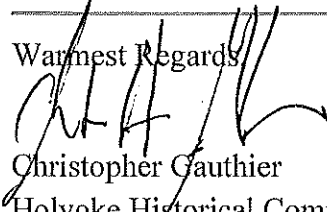
Time: 6:45 PM

Motion by: Zaisha Robert

Seconded by: Olivia Mausel

Respectfully Submitted,
Zaisha Robert

Warmest Regards

 3-4-25
Christopher Gauthier

Holyoke Historical Commission Chairperson

Board of Fire Commission Meeting Minutes		Date: February 12, 2025 Time: 5:00 p.m. Location: Fire Department Headquarters	
Meeting called by:	Chairman Mettey	Note taker: D. Glenn	
Type of meeting:	Regular Monthly	Timekeeper: D. Glenn	
Facilitator:	Chief Kadlewicz		APPROVED
Attendees:	George Mettey, Nelson Lopez Via Zoom, Jeffrey Trask Via Zoom		
Absent::			
Staff in Attendance:	Chief John Kadlewicz and Dale Glenn		
Also: Nicholas Callahan, Raul Maldonado, Travis Wells, Kevin McDonnell, Michael Rohan, William Alicea, David Rex			
A. Opening of Meeting		Chairman Mettey	Time: 5:00 p.m.
Discussion: #1 on the agenda Commissioner Mettey opened the meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners with a verbal roll call of those present along with the pledge of allegiance and a prayer. #2 agenda item – Minutes: The Board of Fire Commissioners reviewed the minutes from January 15, 2025. #3 Old Business – Commissioner Mettey decided to move out of order on the agenda and after the consideration of the minutes to have the interviews for (1) Fire Lieutenant Position – all candidates were asked the same questions and afforded the opportunity to ask questions of their own. There was a brief intermission due to technical difficulties. 1. Continuation after the return to the agenda under Old Business • Coverage map of each fire station within the City of Holyoke – Chief Kadlewicz will email it out to the Board • Station #3 there are still repairs within the fire station that are ongoing #4 on the agenda – Fire Chief's Report: • Injured on Duty/Light Duty Personnel • Overtime Expenditures #5 New Business – To make a Temporary Fire Captain: Chief Kadlewicz informed the Board of Fire Commissioners of the need to make a temporary fire captain. The Board has decided to hold another meeting on Monday, February 24, 2025 to hold interviews for this temporary position. Chief Kadlewicz requested from the Board to interview for a temporary fire lieutenant position at their March 2025 meeting. #6 Executive session – not needed for this meeting #7 Close Meeting RECEIVED MAR 04 2025 Holyoke City Clerk's Holyoke, MA			



Mayor Joshua A. Garcia

HEDIC

City of Holyoke

Aaron M. Vega, Executive Director

March 14, 2025

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
January 23rd, 2025

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

Sincerely,

Kimberly Casiano

RECEIVED

MAR 14 2025

Holyoke City Clerk's
Holyoke, MA

HOLYOKE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION

Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2025
via Zoom Meeting ID 844 9636 8038

Members Present:

Antonio Quinones
Joseph McGiverin
Catherine Pratt
Callie Flanagan
Mark Cutting
Michael Sullivan

Staff Present:

Aaron Vega, Executive Director
John Dyjach, Assistant Director
Kim Casiano, Admin Assistant

Other Attendees: Jane Mantolesky, Assistant City Solicitor

1. Call to Order

Chairperson McGiverin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and stated that the meeting was being recorded and being held in person and remotely. A roll-call followed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Present</u>
Mark Cutting	Y
Joseph McGiverin	Y
Catherine Pratt	Y
Michael Sullivan	Y
Antonio Quinones	Y
Callie Flanagan	Y

2. HEDIC Board Business

- a. **Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2024:** A motion was made to approve the minutes of December 12, 2024 was made by Mike Sullivan and seconded by Callie Flanagan. A roll-call followed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Michael Sullivan	Y
Joseph McGivern	Y
Antonio Quinones	Y
Catherine Pratt	Y
Callie Flanagan	Y
Mark Cutting	Y

3. HEDIC Loan Program Updates

John Dyjach reported that Raw Beauty Brand has not paid the last two monthly payments, and that staff is attempting to resolve. Assistance from the City Law Department was requested to monitor the loan terms as well as to prepare notices. Other HEDIC loans are performing according to the terms.

4. Real Estate Project Updates

- a. **Whiting Farms Road:** Aaron Vega explains that it is his understanding that the sports complex group is continuing in their due diligence efforts for the site while they also explore other opportunities in the City. He said that per the terms of their Purchase and Sale Agreement with HEDIC, their deposit becomes non-refundable in early April. Michael Sullivan noted that the group purchased a property on Woodland Street which abuts the HEDIC parcel. Aaron Vega said that he will ask the group to provide an update to HEDIC at the February meeting.

HEDIC Meeting
January 23, 2025
Page 1 of 2

- b. **Bobala Road:** John Dyjach reported that Agilitas is finalizing their permitting for a Battery Energy Storage System and that the sale continues to be on track for closing in the near future. He thanked the City Law Department for assisting with the legal aspects of the sale.

5. **Other Business**

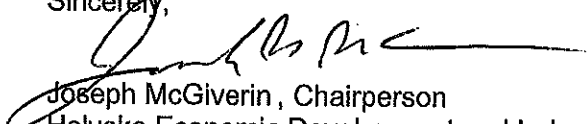
- a. Director Vega will invite Mayor Josh Garcia to the February meeting to focus on the Mt. Tom discussion.
- b. Staff is preparing the manufacturers roundtable schedule for the year and is soliciting ideas of topics.
- c. John Dyjach mentioned the Sublime project on Water Street is gaining momentum and that it would be worthwhile to invite a company representative to an upcoming meeting.
- d. Discussions continue with MassDOT to acquire former railroad properties and that HEDIC may be asked to consider involvement to help facilitate transactions to support industry.
- e. Aaron Vega said it was difficult to learn of the closing of Edaron and said that in many ways the company had a very positive presence in the City over decades. He said that staff has reached out to the local management to offer assistance in any way.

6. **Executive Meeting:** At 5:30 p.m. a motion was made by Joseph McGiverin and seconded by Catherine Pratt to enter the Executive Meeting. Chairperson McGiverin then stated that the Board will enter the Executive Meeting in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A Section 21(a) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate. He noted that the Board will return to the Regular Meeting to announce any votes taken in the Executive Meeting. A roll-call followed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Mark Cutting	Y
Michael Sullivan	Y
Joseph McGivern	Y
Antonio Quinones	Y
Catherine Pratt	Y
Callie Flanagan	Y

7. **Adjournment:** At 5:55 p.m. the meeting was reconvened and with no other business to announce from the Executive meeting, a was then made by Mark Cutting and seconded by Catherine Pratt to adjourn the meeting. All members present voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Sincerely,


Joseph McGiverin, Chairperson
Holyoke Economic Development and Industrial Corporation

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
CITY OF HOLYOKE
CITY CLERKS OFFICE
536 DWIGHT ST. HOLYOKE, MA 01040
TEL: (413) 322-5520 – FAX: (413) 322-5521**

APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF A HOME OCCUPATION:

Date 2/6/2025 Fee \$100.00

In accordance with the provisions of City Ordinances, Appendix A, Section 4, Paragraph 8.2, I hereby apply for a Special Permit for a Home Occupation for the below named premises located at the following address:

Name of petitioner Marisol Figueroa
Address 222 West Franklin St. Holyoke MA 01040
Telephone 413 510-6157 Type of Business Nail Salon
Owner of Record of Building _____
Address of Owner of Property 222 West Franklin St Telephone 413 510-6157
Business name Polished A Salon
Signature of Petitioner Marisol Figueroa Date 2/6/2025

COMMENTS:

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Make Check payable to: City of Holyoke
- 2) Return check and application to: City Clerk, 536 Dwight St. Holyoke, MA 01040
- 3) Obtain letter from Tax Collector and City Treasurer

OFFICIAL USE ONLY:
Date of renewal notice _____ Date fee paid _____ Fee paid _____
Date of Expiration _____

RECEIVED

MAR 07 2025

Holyoke City Clerk's
Holyoke, MA



Laura E. Wilson
Tax Collector

Rory Casey
Treasurer

City of Holyoke

Form A – Tax Compliance Form

DATE: 12/3/25

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
☒	Excise
☐ N/A	Payment Plan

Comments:

Applicant:

Manisol Figueroa / Polished A. Salon

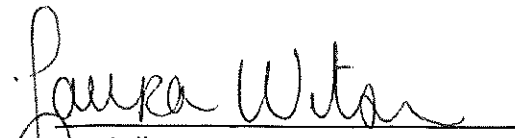
Address:

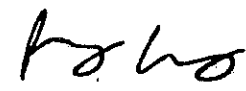
222 West Franklin St.

Property Owner:

Manisol Figueroa

Respectfully,


Tax Collector
413.322.5530


City Treasurer
413.322.5560

NEW: ☐
RENEWAL: ☒
\$50 FEE: ☒
TAX COLLECTOR LETTER: ☐
TREASURER'S LETTER: ☐

DATE:

3/11/2025



HOLYOKE CITY COUNCIL
JUNK DEALER, JUNK COLLECTOR,
SECOND HAND LICENSE APPLICATION

Please Check One:

- ☒ **Junk Dealer's License**
☐ **Second Hand License**
☐ **Junk Collector's License**

ADDRESS: 107 Appleton St, Holyoke, MA 01040

APPLICANT'S NAME: William F. Sullivan & Co Inc

APPLICANT'S ADDRESS: 107 Appleton St, Holyoke, MA 01040

APPLICANT'S TELEPHONE: 413-539-9664 EMAIL: ShannonMiller@Sullivanmetals.Com

SS#

=====

Said license runs from May 1st to April 30th of each year; regardless of application date

Sec. 66-32. - Record of purchases.

Every person dealing in junk, old metals, rags, papers, bottles or secondhand articles or keeping a shop for the purchase, sale or barter of the same shall keep a book in which he shall record in plain English language, at the time of every purchase by him of any of the aforesaid articles, a description of the article purchased, the name, age and residence of the person from whom, and the day and hour when he so purchased it. No entry made in such book shall be erased, obliterated or defaced and the form of such book shall be prepared by the chief of police. Such book shall at all times be open to the inspection of the mayor and city council or any person by them authorized to make such examination.

Sec. 66-35. - Purchases from minors or apprentices; dealers to purchase only from licensed collectors.

No dealer in or keeper of a shop for the purchase or barter of junk, old metal or secondhand articles, and no collector of the aforesaid articles, shall, directly or indirectly, purchase or receive by way of barter or exchange any of the articles aforesaid from a minor or apprentice, knowing or having reason to believe him to be such. No such dealer or keeper of a shop shall, directly or indirectly, purchase or receive as aforesaid any of such articles from a person not a duly licensed collector of junk, except, however, that he may make such purchase directly from mills or manufacturers.

Sec. 66-61. - Dealers or shopkeepers.

No person shall be a dealer in or keeper of a shop for the purchase, sale or barter of junk, old metals or secondhand articles in the city, unless he is duly licensed therefor by the city council and shall exhibit his license when requested to do so.

Sec. 66-36. - Articles purchased not to be sold for 30 days.

No article purchased or received by a dealer or keeper of a shop for the purchase, sale or barter of junk, old metal or secondhand articles shall be sold until at least 30 days from the date of its purchase or receipt has elapsed

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

536 DWIGHT STREET, ROOM 2 • HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS 01040-5086
PHONE: (413) 322-5520 • FAX: (413) 322-5521 • E-MAIL: clerks@holyoke.org
Birthplace of Volleyball



Laura E. Wilson
Tax Collector

Rory Casey
Treasurer

City of Holyoke

Form A – Tax Compliance Form

DATE: 3/12/25

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
<u>N/A</u>	Personal Property
☒	Excise
<u>N/A</u>	Payment Plan

Comments:

Applicant: William F. Sullivan & Co Inc

Address: 107 Appleton St. Holyoke, MA 01040

Property Owner: Eastwood Realty

Respectfully,

Laura Wilson
Tax Collector
413.322.5530

Rory Casey
City Treasurer
413.322.5560

536 Dwight St Rm. 13. • HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS 01040
PHONE: (413) 322-5530 • FAX: (413) 322-5531

Birthplace of Volleyball

NEW: _____
RENEWAL: ☒
\$50 FEE: ☒
TAX COLLECTOR LETTER: _____
TREASURER'S LETTER: _____

DATE: 3/11/2025



HOLYOKE CITY COUNCIL
JUNK DEALER, JUNK COLLECTOR,
SECOND HAND LICENSE APPLICATION

Please Check One:

- ☐ Junk Dealer's License
☐ Second Hand License
☐ Junk Collector's License

ADDRESS: 1-3 Jed Days Landing (Ferry Rd Parcel Attached)

APPLICANT'S NAME: William F. Sullivan & Co Inc

APPLICANT'S ADDRESS: 1-3 Jed Days Landing, Holyoke, MA 01040

APPLICANT'S TELEPHONE: 413-539-9664 EMAIL: Shannon Hiller @ Sullivan metals. Com

SS# _____

=====

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536 DWIGHT STREET, ROOM 2 • HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS 01040-5086
PHONE: (413) 322-5520 • FAX: (413) 322-5521 • E-MAIL: clerks@holyoke.org
Birthplace of Volleyball



City of Holyoke

Form A – Tax Compliance Form

DATE: 3/12/25

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(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.

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Current	Type
☒	Real Estate
<u>N/A</u>	Personal Property
☒	Excise
<u>N/A</u>	Payment Plan

Comments:

Applicant: William F. Sullivan & Co Inc

Address: 1-3 3rd Days Landing (Ferry Rd - Parcel Attached)

Property Owner: Woodcast Realty

Respectfully,

Laura Wilson
Tax Collector
413.322.5530

Rory Casey
City Treasurer
413.322.5560

NEW: _____
RENEWAL: ☒
\$50 FEE: ☒
TAX COLLECTOR LETTER: _____
TREASURER'S LETTER: _____

DATE: 3/11/2025



HOLYOKE CITY COUNCIL
JUNK DEALER, JUNK COLLECTOR,
SECOND HAND LICENSE APPLICATION

Please Check One:

- ☐ Junk Dealer's License
☐ Second Hand License
☐ Junk Collector's License

ADDRESS: 1-3 Jed Days Landing (Ferry Rd Parcel Attached)

APPLICANT'S NAME: William F. Sullivan & Co Inc

APPLICANT'S ADDRESS: 1-3 Jed Days Landing, Holyoke, MA 01040

APPLICANT'S TELEPHONE: 413-539-9444 EMAIL: Shannon Hiller @ Sullivanmetals.Com

SS# _____

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Current	Type
☒	Real Estate
<u>N/A</u>	Personal Property
☒	Excise
<u>N/A</u>	Payment Plan

Comments:

Applicant:

William F. Sullivan & Co Inc

Address:

1-3 Jet Days Landing (Ferry Rd - Parcel Attached)

Property Owner:

Woodcast Reality

Respectfully,

Laura Wilson
Tax Collector
413.322.5530

Rory Casey
City Treasurer
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536 Dwight St Rm. 13. • HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS 01040
PHONE: (413) 322-5530 • FAX: (413) 322-5531

Birthplace of Volleyball

084 00 002
MAP BLOCK PARCEL

1 of 1 INDUSTRIAL
CARD

City of Holyoke

TOTAL ASSESSED: 190,400
192461

PROPERTY LOCATION

No. Alt No. Direction/Street/City
FERRY RD. HOLYOKE

OWNERSHIP

Owner 1: WOODDEAST REALTY, LLC

Owner 2:

Owner 3:

Street 1: 68 JACKSON ST

Street 2:

Twp/City: HOLYOKE

SI/PROX: MA

Postal: 01040

PREVIOUS OWNER

Owner 1: WOODDEAST REALTY, LLC -

Owner 2:

Street 1: 68 JACKSON ST

Twp/City: HOLYOKE

SI/PROX: MA

Postal: 01040

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

This parcel contains 2.854 ACRES of land mainly classified as TRK TRM with a(n) TRUCK TERM Building Built about 1955. Having Primarily CONC BLOCK Exterior and ASPHALT Roof Cover, with 1 Units, 0 Baths, 2 HalfBaths, 0 3/4 Baths, 0 Rooms, and 0 Bdrms.

OTHER ASSESSMENTS

Code Description Amount Com. Int

IN PROCESS APPRAISAL SUMMARY

Use Code Building Value Yard Items Land Size Land Value Total Value Legal Description
314 72,600 32,300 2.854 85,500 190,400

Total Card 72,600 32,300 2.854 85,500 190,400
Total Parcel 72,600 32,300 2.854 85,500 190,400
Source: Market Adj Cost Total Value per SQ unit: Card: 41.48 Parcel: 41.48 Land Unit Type:

Entered Lot Size
Total Land: 190,400
GIS Ref
Insp Date 03/15/94

PREVIOUS ASSESSMENT

Year Use Cat Bldg Value Yrd Items Land Size Land Value Total Value Asses'd Value Notes Date
2015 314 FV 72,600 32,300 2.854 85,500 190,400 190,400 Year End Rel 3/6/2015
2014 314 FV 72,600 32,300 2.854 85,500 190,400 190,400 Year End 2/20/2014
2013 314 FV 75,300 31,700 1.93 57,200 164,200 164,200 9/25/2012
2012 314 FV 76,800 32,300 1.93 58,400 167,500 167,500 2/10/2012
2011 314 FV 76,800 32,300 1.93 58,400 167,500 167,500 Year End Rel 1/18/2011
2010 314 FV 76,800 32,300 1.93 58,400 167,500 167,500 Year End 2/23/2010
2009 314 FV 79,500 30,500 1.93 57,300 167,300 167,300 PRIOR TO 2010 CALC C-322009 08/27/13 12:53:56
2009 314 FV 79,500 30,500 1.93 57,300 167,300 167,300 2009 COMMITMENT 1/13/2009

TAX DISTRICT TAX ACT.

Grantor Legal Ref Type Date Sale Code Sale Price V Trs Verif Assoc PCL Value Notes
WOODDEAST REALTY 18914-448 OC 9/15/2011 MULTIPLE PCL 555,000 No No
NEKTPOULOS JO 17589-465 OC 12/26/2008 PORTION/ASSE 100 No No
NEKTPOULOS JO 7351-404 12/22/1989 No No

BUILDING PERMITS

Date Number Description Amount C/O Last Used Fed Code F. Description Comment

ACTIVITY INFORMATION

Date Result By Name
8/20/2013 INFO FROM PL 242 ANTHONY DULL
3/15/1994 MEASURED 107

PROPERTY FACTORS

Item Code Descp % Item Code Descp
Z IG IG 100 U 1 PUBLIC
0 1
n Census: B121.02 Exmpt
Flood Haz: NONE
D Topo 1 LEVEL
S Street 1 PAVED
t Traffic

LAND SECTION (First 7 lines only)

Use Description LUC No of Units Deqnt/ PricelUnits Unit Type Land Type LT 3 Base Unit Price Adj Neqht Neqht Int 1 % Int 2 % Int 3 % Appraised Value * Alt Spec J Facd Use Value Notes
314 TRK TRM 124336 SQUARE FESITE 0 0.86 0.800 14 85,543 85,500

Sign: 03/15/2014

03/15/2014

03/15/2014

03/15/2014

03/15/2014

03/15/2014

03/15/2014

03/15/2014

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03/15/2014

03/15/2014



SKETCH

ABS 2-460 ADDED PCL 83-5 ON 8-20-2013.

RESIDENTIAL GRID

1st Res Gnd	Desc:	# Units
Level	FY LR DR D K FR RR FB HB L O	
Other		
Upper		
LW 2		
LW 1		
Lower		
Totals	RMS:	BRS: Baths: HIB 2

REMODELING

RES BREAKDOWN

Exterior:	No Unit	RMS	BRS	FL
Interior:				
A 2-20-2000				

Accounting:			
Kitchen:			
Bath:			
Plumbing:			
Electric:			
Heating:			
General:			
Totals			

COMPARABLE SALES			
Parcel ID	Typ	Date	Sale Price
WSSC:	AVRate:		Ind Val
Juns. Factor:		Val/Su Fint:	15.82
Adcl Features: 0		Val/Su Net:	15.82
Final Total: 72600		Val/Su Szxd:	15.82

	D/S	Dep	LUC	Fact	NB Fa	Appr Value
10.50 T		50	314			6,35
1.30 T		50	314			26,00

Special Feature 1

Code	Description	Area - SQ	Rate - AV	Unitpr Value	Subd	%	Descrp	%	Qu	#
FFL	1ST FLOOR	4,590	37.550	172.365	Area	Usbl			Type	Ten
Net Sketched Area:		4,590		172.365						
Size Ad	4590	Gross Area	4590	Fin Area	4590					

IMAGE

AssessPro Patriot Properties, Inc

084-00-002	Code Fact	Juris. Value
		6,300
		26,000
	Total:	32,300

