

AGENDA FOR THE CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 3, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC COMMENT

REGULAR AND PENDING EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

1. -- November 1, 2022, December 5, 2023, February 6, 2024, and June 11, 2024
Executive Session Minutes - Reviewed and partially released as of April 15, 2025
2. -- January 22, 2024, September, 4, 2024 Executive Session and December 9, 2024
Finance Committee Executive Session Minutes - Reviewed and withheld in entirety as
of April 15, 2025
3. From City Clerk Brenna Murphy Leary and Admin. Assistant Jeffery Anderson-Burgos-
meeting minutes from May 20, 2025.

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4. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that Hampden Street
Streetscape Improvements from Waldo St to Nonotuck St block are made based on the
recommendations of the city engineer, with necessary changes made in Ordinance to
support necessary upgrades.
Recommended that the order be adopted.
5. From City Clerk Brenna Murphy Leary and Admin. Assistant Jeffery Anderson-Burgos,
minutes of February 18, 2025 meeting.
6. 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)
Recommended that the order be adopted.
7. -- 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.

8. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the City accept Lynn Ann Drive and Richard Eger Drive as public ways.
Recommended that Richard Eger be accepted as a public way and Lynn Ann Drive be accepted as a public way, pending recommendation of the Board of Public Works.
9. Proposed FY2026 City Budget

COMMUNICATIONS

10. From Mayor Joshua Garcia, letter appointing several members to serve on the Recycling Advisory Committee. Members will serve a three-year term expiring August 2026.
11. Letter from David Conti, FY2026 Water Rates and Maintenance Charge
12. From Board of Fire Commissioners, meeting minutes from April 16, 2025
13. From Holyoke Redvelopment Authority- Memo to Council encl Meeting Minutes 2.19.2025, 3.19.2025, 3.27.2025 and 4.2.2025

PETITIONS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

14. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that Vcare on High Street be allocated an additional parking spot. This request is necessitated by the increase in participants and the operation of two vans for transportation. Many of these participants are elderly individuals who rely on wheelchairs, electric scooters, and walkers. This action is essential to ensure their safety and accessibility.
Recommended that the order be adopted.
15. -- The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order With community support, Order that temporary speed humps be placed on Taylor Street to be followed by permanent speed humps for resident safety. This is a densely populated and highly trafficked through street due to its proximity to a grocery store and its one way direction.
Petition attached
Recommended that the order be referred to the mayor to request funding for study.
16. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that flashing stop signs be placed at the intersection of Jackson and Commercial Streets.
Recommended that the order be received.
17. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order The City determine a more efficient manner to remove Handicap/Disability signs. Perhaps a database should be maintained by the Clerk. City addresses with Handicap/Disability signs in front of a parcel's address should maintained and made public. Further, for example, on an annual basis, each addressee with such a sign should be notified and must affirm whether or not the sign should remain. Refer to Ordinance for a follow-up.
Recommended that the order be adopted.

18. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the Zoning Ordinance be amended to add a section for Short Term Rentals, in addition to amending Section 2 DEFINITIONS, and any other sections that may apply to this use.
Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.
19. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the Zoning Ordinance be amended to add a Section for Tiny Houses, in addition to amending Section 2 DEFINITIONS, and any other Sections that may apply to this use.
Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.
20. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order As per the property manager's request from Lyman Terrace Apartments, we are requesting three parking spots for the staff in front of 17 Hampden Street, along with signs indicating "Parking for Lyman Terrace Staff."
Recommended that the order has been complied with.
21. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order 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.
Recommended that the order has been complied with.
22. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred a communication From MacMillan Law Offices, Refund of Community Impact Fees Paid Pursuant to HCA with Holyoke 420 LLC
Recommended that the order be received and referred to the Law Department.
23. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order
 1. That the Mayor is authorized to sign Donation Certificates for the following temporary easements on City-owned property to facilitate the construction and maintenance of roadway and related improvements for the "Resurfacing and Related Work on Cabot Street and Race Street (City Center Connector) State Project #609065" Project, understanding that said easements will be for a duration of five (5) years and recorded on land records such that said easements will remain in effect in the event the City chooses to sell any of these properties before the termination of the five (5) year period:

Deed Reference (Book-Page)	Parcel Address	Map/Block/Parcel	Title Holder
16564-387	Cabot St	030-03-007	City of Holyoke
Easement ID	Type		Size (S.F. ±)
TE-24	Temporary (5 years)		482
Combined Value of Easements			Donated \$0.00

Deed Reference (Book-Page)	Parcel Address	Map/Block/Parcel	Title Holder
16826-128	61 Cabot St	030-03-008	City of Holyoke
Easement ID	Type		Size (S.F. ±)
TE-25	Temporary (5 years)		684
Combined Value of Easements			Donated \$0.00
Recommended that the order be adopted.			

24. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order

1. That the Holyoke City Council introduce and read into record a proposed Order of Taking, to be acted upon at the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting to be held on June 3, 2025, authorizing the eminent domain takings of seven (7) permanent easements and fifty (50) temporary easements for purposes of obtaining the necessary access and rights of way for the construction and maintenance of roadway and related improvements for the "Resurfacing and Related Work on Cabot Street and Race Street (City Center Connector) State Project #609065" Project (the "Project"), from certain owners of record of land abutting the Project in the City of Holyoke, Massachusetts;
2. That proposed payment for damages, totaling \$58,200 for all easements, be made using Chapter 90 funds;
3. That this item be referred to the Finance Committee for review and hearing on May 27, 2025 at 6:30 PM, in accordance with Section 78-83 of the City of Holyoke Code of Ordinances, such that the Finance Committee may recommend final action be taken to approve said Order of Taking by City Council at the upcoming meeting of June 3, 2025; and
4. That City Council be informed that affected property owners have been made aware of said proposed meeting dates by means of USPS First Class mailing.

Recommended that the order be adopted.

25. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred a Special Permit Application of Alan Fini for the creation of a Fini family cemetery at 2 Fini Road (179-00-003) per 9.3.
Awaiting disposition
26. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred a Special permit application of Holyoke Retail, LCC at 1504 Northampton Street to construct a drive through facility as accessory to proposed retail bank per 7.1.6.5.
Awaiting disposition
27. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order For earmarked funding, order that the Councilors review and approve attached

updates to City Council chambers.
Awaiting disposition

28. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order That the Historical Commission be invited to the DGR Meeting on June 2nd to determine whether any demolition to be done in the future in the City Council chambers are not against historical norms.
Awaiting disposition
29. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order hat 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.
Awaiting disposition
30. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred a communication From Adam Mulcahy and Christina Guesk-Notification of Intent to sell under MGL
Awaiting disposition
31. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred a communication From Assistant Solicitor Jane Mantolesky, letter regarding St. Vincent Lots
Awaiting disposition
32. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order to declare Parcel Holyoke Assessors Map 010, Block 01, Parcel 002, Cabot Street, Holyoke, MA as surplus property. The City has been approached by an abutter looking to purchase the property to secure the same and make it more visually appealing. The property is vacant land and currently assessed at \$13,500.00.
Awaiting disposition
33. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order to declare Parcel Holyoke Assessors Map 144, Block 00, Parcel 057, Easthampton Road, Holyoke, MA as surplus property. The City has been approached by an abutter looking to purchase the property to combine the lots and build a home on the same. The property is vacant land and currently assessed at \$8,500.00.
Awaiting disposition
34. -- The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order that the council invite the DPW director of Chicopee to speak on their refuse pickup system that was developed several years ago and what the cost benefits are to their community.
Awaiting disposition
35. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order that representatives of the Water Department come in to DGR and elaborate on processing fee attached to payment when using a credit/debit card when processing

payment. Constituents have raised concerns on how much the are being charged on top of their water bill.
Awaiting disposition

MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS

36. DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, SIX THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SIX AND 64/100 Dollars (\$6,806.64) as follows:

FROM

12201-51103 CAPTAIN	\$3,663.90
12201-51104 LIEUTENANTS	3,142.74
TOTAL	\$6,806.64

TO:

12201-51180 INJURED ON DUTY	\$6,806.64
PP#24	TOTAL \$6,806.64

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

FROM

11511-51202 PT ASSOCIATE SOLICITOR	\$83,656
TOTAL	\$83,656

TO:

11511-51201 PT ASSISTANT SOLICITOR	\$83,656
TOTAL	\$83,656

38. Devine-Ordered, that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the "MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL CULTURAL DISTRICT INVESTMENT GRANT, \$15,000, NO MATCH" grant and authorizes the establishment of a Fund or other method appropriate for the accounting of the receipts and expenditures of all resources associated with the administration of said grant.

Sec 2-509 - Grant Reporting

Any city department, of which has received grant funding by approval of the city council pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, or any other authorizing criteria, shall within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 60 days from the conclusion of said grant, generate a detailed report which outlines the planned outcomes with the documented actual results. Said report shall be submitted to the city clerk for addition to the city council's next agenda.

39. DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2025, TWELVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY NINE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY AND 00/100 Dollars (\$12,759,860) as follows:

FROM

19141-51999 HEALTH INSURANCE	\$12,759,860
TOTAL	\$12,759,860

TO:

10002-59753 TR TO DENTAL INS TRUST	\$ 315,000
10002-59790 TR TO HEALTH INS TRUST	12,444,860
	TOTAL \$12,759,860

40. DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year FORTY EIGHT THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINETY SIX AND 14/100 Dollars (\$48,596.14) as follows:

FROM

14251-51104 PAY HIGHWAY HMEO	\$48,596.14
	TOTAL \$48,596.14

TO:

16502-52300 PARKS WATER & SEWER	\$48,596.14
	TOTAL \$48,596.14

41. Devine- ORDERED To Police Chief Keenan: What are the current procedures for cash seizures?
42. Magrath-Smith - Ordered, that the City Engineer provide a list of approximate costs for often-requested services around traffic calming evaluations, temporary speed humps, permanent speed humps, flashing lights, and stop sign placement. Additionally, provide an updated list of such measures voted on by Council but awaiting available appropriation. Lastly, provide clarity on which budgetary line items such appropriations would be made out of in comparison to the financial cost of current pending work that has been approved by Council.
43. Magrath-Smith- Ordered, that the City Council review the FY26 Paving Program memo and consider how best to address our most pressing roadwork.
44. Magrath-Smith- Ordered, that City Council consider the possibility of structuring a standardized relocation bonus for positions with a residency requirement.
45. Rivera, I- Order that 5% of Cannabis revenue be set aside specifically for capital improvements within and around the communities that the industry is held in.
46. Rivera, I- Order that the honorable city council amend and restructure ordinance 74-36 (Recycling advisory committee) which reads: There is established a recycling advisory committee. The committee, as requested, shall provide advice, assistance and recommendations to the board regarding the recycling program. The committee shall be appointed by the mayor, confirmed by the city council, and shall consist of at least nine persons with a demonstrated interest in recycling, at least six of whom are residents of Holyoke. At least one member chosen shall be a user of or familiar with the city's recycling drop-off center, one member shall represent the private real estate industry (apartment management), and one member shall be a designee of the Holyoke Housing Authority. One member shall represent the business community, and one member shall represent nonprofit institutions. The term shall be three years. The director of public works, or his designee, shall be an ex officio member of the committee, per request of

the Commission of the Department of Public Works, as well as the Chair of the Recycling Committee.

47. Rivera, I- Order that the Mayor along with the director of the office of Community Development present on the current amount dollars currently accumulated via the Opioid class action law suit and how the city plans to allocate/spend the funding.
48. Rivera, I- Order that DPW and the Mayor develop an overflow trash system allowing residents to purchase bags locally that would allow for overflow trash to be collected.
49. Rivera, I- Order that honorable city council amend ordinance 38-73 (8) Enumeration of prohibited noises. Drums, loud speakers, and similar devices. To read:
The use of a drum, loudspeaker or any other sound-producing instrument or device for the purpose of attracting attention to any election campaign, performance, show or sale or display of merchandise by the creation of noise, except where authorized by special permit to be issued by the city Licensing board with recommendations from the Chief, who shall make reasonable rules and regulations therefor.
50. Rivera, I- Order that the Board of Health Commission along with the director come in and elaborate as to how the cap on issuing new tobacco licenses and ban on social consumption align with the city's economic master plan.
51. Vacon- ORDER: That a list of requests for permanent speed humps, temporary speed humps and raised crosswalks be created, posted on our city website & updated periodically.
52. Vacon- ORDER: That we amend our ordinance so a request for evaluation for eligibility for speed humps or raised crosswalks can be requested without a petition.
53. Vacon, Jourdain- ORDER: that a public hearing for residents to to speak on the budget be set for 6pm on June 9, 2025, at the beginning of the regular budget hearing, in the spirit of MGL ch 44 Section 32.
54. Vacon- ORDER: That a sign "SLOW "hidden or blind driveways ahead" or similar wording be placed on Lower Westfield Rd on the hill near the Homestead Ave intersection for drivers proceeding up the hill toward the Elks.
55. Vacon- ORDER: If consolidation of voting sites to one per ward occurs, then increase the daily stipend for election workers from 150/day to 170-180/day and staff each voting location in compliance with 950 CMR 53.01.
56. Vacon, Greaney, Sullivan, Jourdain, Bartley & Ocasio ORDER: that the City Council adopts the attached resolution in support of HG&E.

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