

Major accomplishments during Water Commission Chairman

Kevin A. Jourdain's tenure 2019-2021

1. Authored the request for funding of a \$6.54 million bond to replace over 16,000 feet of water mains throughout the City's water distribution system to address capacity and fire protection limitations. The request to fund the project was received and approved by the Holyoke City Council in December 2019.
2. Authorized emergency mitigation work on Northampton Street at Morgan Street and Fairfield Avenue by installing two (2) additional fire hydrants at the intersections to augment fire protection to the area until such time the Phase 2A Water Main Replacement Project is completed to improve fire protection, system reliability and water quality to the immediate area. The cost for the work not including materials supplied by the Holyoke Water Works was \$20,000.
3. Developed and authorized a Water Service Protection Program in 2019 that provides coverage for any repairs and/or replacement of the water service from the public water main up to and including the controlling valve for all residential customers. The Protection Program includes pipe breaks, leaking pipe, leaks due to corrosion, normal wear and tear, excavation, labor, materials, road/lawn repair, permits and traffic control. The replacement of the water meter under the Protection Program is also included. The program has been success in saving residential homeowners thousands of dollars in replacement costs. The quarterly fee of \$4 covers all expenses associated with the repair, maintenance and replacement of the water service for residential homeowners who qualify under the program.
4. Authorized the design of the Phase 1 Water Main Replacement Project to develop plans and specifications for the replacement of 4 and 6-inch water mains in North Bridge Street, Ely Street, North East Street and East Dwight Street with new 8 and 12-inch water mains. The construction contract was awarded to Geeleher Enterprises, the low bidder for the project. Estimated construction cost and traffic control not including design, bidding, and administrative oversight was estimated at \$1,352,210. The project is designed to significantly improve fire protection, system reliability and water quality to the streets identified in the project and adjacent side streets in the area. The project is anticipated to be completed and fully operational by Summer 2021.
5. Authorized the design of the MassWorks South Holyoke Water Main Replacement Project to develop plans and specifications for the replacement of 4 and 6-inch water mains in South East Street, South Summer Street, and South Bridge Street. The construction contract was awarded to Ludlow Construction Company, the low bidder for the project. Estimated construction cost not including design, bidding, and administrative oversight was estimated at \$695,020.00. The project is designed to significantly improve fire protection, system reliability and water quality to the streets identified in the project and adjacent side streets in the area. The project is anticipated to be completed and operational by Fall 2021

6. Authorized the design of a Water Storage Tank Painting Project to develop plans and specifications for the exterior repair and repainting of the two 3.0 MG High Service water storage tanks, two 2MG Low Service water storage tanks and the 2MG West Height water storage tank. The construction contract was awarded to Champion Painting and Specialty Services, the low bidder for the project. Estimated construction cost not including design, bidding, and administrative oversight was estimated at \$975,017.76. The project is designed to rehabilitate the exterior tank surfaces of the five steel water storage tanks to maintain tank wall integrity. The project is anticipated to be completed by Summer 2021.
7. Authored a Request for Qualifications for legal services from a qualified licensed attorney or firm to provide general counsel for the Holyoke Water knowledgeable in municipal law. In 2020, the Commission unanimously voted to select Allyn & Ball Law Offices to formally represent the Holyoke Water Works for all legal services associated with the operation of a municipal water system.
8. Authorized the reinstatement of the Annual Water System Flushing Program in 2020 to improve water quality to consumers and minimize water quality complaints. The program also provides for the inspection of the fire hydrants servicing the community's fire protection needs. Over 1,000 fire hydrants were inspected and operated by Water Works personnel with a total of 35 immediately repaired under the direction of the Commission.
9. Authorized the replacement of the 6-inch water main in Chestnut Street from Appleton Street to Hampshire Street with new 8-inch water main to address fire protection deficiencies observed during the 2020 flushing program. The work included the authorization of a change order with Geeleher Enterprises to replace the existing 6-inch water main in Chestnut Street from Essex Street to Cabot Street at an estimated cost of \$190,200. The work was completed in the Fall of 2020 in conjunction with the replacement of a section of 6-inch water main from Appleton Street to Essex Street with new 8-inch water main performed and funded by the Library Commons Project. The replacement of the section of 6-inch water main from Cabot Street to Hampshire Street is scheduled for replacement in August of 2021 by Water Works personnel as the last step to complete the improvements to the Chestnut Street area.
10. Championed the oversight to maintain Holyoke's current water rate of \$.4709/100 gallons with a minimum charge of \$47.09 per 10,000 gallons for the last three years in light of escalating operational/maintenance costs and salary increases. The last rate increase was instituted in July 2018 for \$.02/100 gallons or 4.4% which was necessary to fund the new Ultraviolet Secondary Disinfection Facility constructed in 2016 and the decline in annual water consumption. Water rate increase prior to 2018 were instituted in January 2016 in the amount of \$.02/100 gallons or 4.6% and in July 2009 in the amount of \$.01/100 gallons or 2.4%. Holyoke's current water rate is regarded as one of the lowest in Massachusetts.

11. Authorized the design of the McLean Gate House Improvements Project to develop plans and specifications for the replacement of the existing screening system as well as interior renovations and added safety equipment. The construction contract was awarded to Delray, the low bidder for the project. Estimated construction cost not including design, bidding construction and administrative oversight was estimated at \$442,160.00. The improvements to the gate house will allow for the full utilization of the McLean Reservoir supply in meeting the City's demands on an emergency basis and continued routine blending with the Tighe-Carmody Reservoir's water source.
12. Authorized the design of the Phase 2A Water Main Replacement Project to develop plans and specifications for the replacement of the 4 and 6-inch water mains in Fairfield Avenue, Morgan Street, Pearl Street and Loomis Avenue. The project also includes minor improvements to the water system in Nonotuck Street, Highland Avenue and Pleasant Street. Holyoke Water Works received approval from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and secured funding under the State Revolving Fund Program for the project. The construction contract was awarded to Caracas Construction Corporation, the low bidder for the project. Estimated project cost including design, bidding, construction and administrative oversight was estimated at \$2,091,503.00. The project is designed to significantly improve fire protection, system reliability and water quality to the streets identified in the project and the adjacent side streets in the area. The project is anticipated to be completed and operational by Spring 2022.
13. Authorized the design of a 500,000 gallon West Holyoke Water Storage Tank project that will add a redundant water storage tank to the system, increase fire protection and supply capacity to the West Holyoke area. The new storage tank will also allow for needed repairs and maintenance to the existing 500,000 gallon tank located on Old Apremont Road. The construction contract was awarded to DN Tanks, LLC, the low bidder for the project. Estimated construction cost not including design, bidding, and administrative oversight was estimated at \$2,578,634.00. The project is anticipated to be completed and operational by early Spring 2022.
14. Authorized the use of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for the patrolling of Holyoke's reservoirs in 2020 to control illegal activity at both the in-town and out-of-town water supplies. Over the course of the year a total of 85 citations were issued along with 1 arrest, 5 summons to court and 5 verbal warnings. Efforts to enforce activities in the water supplies will continue on an annual basis to ensure compliance with State and Federal regulations governing water quality practices to maintain the highest level of protection to the City's water sources.
15. Authorized the design of the Phase 2B Water Main Replacement Project to develop plans and specifications for the replacement of the 4 and 6-inch water mains in Hamden Street, Dwight Street and Portland Street with new 8 and 12-inch water mains. Preliminary plans and specifications are in the development stages with the project anticipated to be competitively bid and awarded in the Spring of 2022. The estimated construction cost for the project including engineering services totaled \$4,570,700. The project is designed to

significantly improve fire protection, system reliability and water quality to the streets identified in the project and adjacent side streets in the area.

16. Authorized the design of the replacement and expansion of the Whiting Street Reservoir Spillway and Discharge Channel for compliance with Massachusetts Dam Safety Regulations for maximum storm events due to the dam's high hazard classification. Preliminary plans and specifications are in the development stages with the project anticipated to be competitively bid and awarded in the Spring of 2022. This project will replace the existing spillway with a new, larger capacity spillway and downstream discharge channel capable of meeting maximum storm event regulations and reduce the risk of damage to property and possible loss of life.
17. Negotiated an Amendment to the Cell Tower Lease Agreement which extended the current Lease for six additional five (5) year renewal terms which included a one-time renewal payment to the Holyoke Water Works of \$100,000 and a 3% annual increase in the base monthly rent along with an additional 10% of the net monthly income of all subtenants. Language was also included in the Amendment to provide a termination clause for the Holyoke Water Works that was not included in the original Lease Agreement.
18. Authorized the development of a Hydraulic Model of the municipal water system in 2021 to identify any capacity deficiencies that may be present throughout the City. The program is designed to take into account the current fire protection improvements conducted under the \$13.39 and \$6.54 million bond authorizations and to identify sections of the distribution system where deficiencies exist that are unknown to the Holyoke Water Works and Holyoke Fire Department. This information will be used to develop replacement programs in the future when funding can be made available to the department.
19. Authorized the Risk and Resilience Assessment Study in 2021 to assess the risks associated with the worst malevolent and natural threats and to evaluate resilience of the physical infrastructure, automated/computer systems, monitoring practices, chemical handling and operation and maintenance of the municipal water system. The Study includes evaluating physical security and cybersecurity attacks, plans and procedures for responding to these threats or any acts that threaten the safety of the drinking water for Holyoke's consumers. The study is being conducted in accordance with the America's Infrastructure Act of 2018 and was submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency along with updates to the department's Emergency Response Plans for Holyoke water supplies.