Joint Public Hearing Minutes
City Council Ordinance Committee / Planning Board
Zone Change – Amend Section 7.8 Telecommunication Facilities
(meeting is being recorded)

On Tuesday, November 10, 2015, the Holyoke Planning Board opened the Joint Public Hearing with the Ordinance Committee of the City Council regarding a Zone Change Petition to amend Section 7.8 Telecommunication Facilities. The meeting was held in the City Council Chambers, 536 Dwight Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts at 6:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Planning Board

Christian LaChapelle.....	Vice-Chairman
John Kelley	Member
Eileen Regan	Member
Harry Montalvo	Associate

Planning Staff

Marcos Marrero.....	Director
Jeffrey Burkott	Principal Planner
Sharon Konstantinidis	Head Clerk

Ordinance Committee

Rebecca Lisi	At Large Councilor
Jennifer Chateauneuf	At Large Councilor
Linda Vacon	Ward 5 Councilor
Gordon Alexander	Ward 7 Councilor

Others Present

Councilor Mcgiverin	At Large Councilor
Atty Kara Cunha.....	2nd Assistant City Solicitor
Chief John Pond	Fire Department

MIMI PANITCH at 6:55 p.m., called for a motion to open the Public Hearing. A motion was made by JOHN KELLEY and seconded by EILEEN REGAN. The motion carried 4-0.

CHIEF POND stated that the change to the Zoning Ordinance would allow space on wireless communication facilities. Technology keeps changing and the more locations the better the coverage. The existing Ordinance has no provision for allowing public safety space (FIRE, POLICE, EMS, and DPW).

COUNCILOR LISI stated that Section 7.8.3.13 would read as follows; *At the time of application for all new wireless telecommunications facilities or any Material Modifications to existing wireless telecommunications facilities, the applicant shall, to the greatest extent possible, assist the City in the enhancement of its public safety communications systems by providing space on the telecommunications tower for City fire, police rescue and public works communications, as well as space for any associated ground equipment.*

CHRIS LACHAPELLE asked how other communities have addressed the issue. CHIEF POND stated that most communities rely on being privy to the information that a cell tower was being constructed. Facilities have been installed/removed with no prior knowledge; this will ensure that space is provided for public safety.

MIMI PANITCH asked for that wish to speak in favor or against, or to ask questions, to come forward. No one was forth coming.

At 7:03 p.m., MIMI PANITCH called for a motion to close the Public Hearing. A motion was made by JOHN KELLEY and seconded by CHRIS LACHAPELLE. The motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Regan

Eileen Regan,
Holyoke Planning Board