Joint Public Hearing Minutes
City Council Ordinance Committee / Planning Board
Zone Text Change –Parking as a Principal Use by Special Permit in the Downtown Zones
(meeting is being recorded)

On Tuesday, July 28, 2015, the Holyoke Planning Board continued the Joint Public Hearing (4/14/2015; 5/12/15; 5/26/15; 6/9/15) with the Ordinance Committee of the City Council regarding parking as a principal use in the downtown zones. The meeting was held in the City Council Chambers, 536 Dwight Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts at 6:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Planning Board		**Planning Department**	
Mimi Panitch	Chairman	Marcos Marrero.....	Director
Christian LaChapelle.....	Vice-Chairman	Jeffrey Burkott	Principal Planner
John Kelley.....	Member	Claire Ricker	Senior Planner
Harry Montalvo	Associate	Sharon Konstantinidis.....	Head Clerk
Ordinance Committee		**City Council**	
Rebecca Lisi	At Large Councilor	Joseph McGiverin.....	At Large Councilor
Linda Vacon.....	Ward 5 Councilor		
David Bartley	At Large Councilor	**Others Present**	
Jennifer Chateauneuf	At Large Councilor	Kara Cunha.....	2nd Assistant City Solicitor
		Kathy Veins	YMCA

MIMI PANITCH, at 6:41 p.m., called for a motion to open the Public Hearing for the above mentioned zone text change amendment. A motion was made by JOHN KELLEY and seconded by CHRIS LACHAPELLE. The motion carried 3-0.

COUNCILOR LISI stated that the Planning Department has submitted 3 documents for review: one proposed by the Planning Department, one containing Councilor Bartley comments inserted, and a bulleted list of Councilor Bartley comments.

MIMI PANITCH stated that the Planning Department submitted their draft document based on information collected and comments from the City Councilors. She requested public input as the Planning Department anticipated closing the Public Hearing in order to render a recommendation by the next meeting.

KATHY VEINS stated that she was in favor of adopting the Special Permit process and thanked Marcos Marrero for providing her with updates. She added that she hears from members daily requesting additional parking and hoped that finalizing the Special Permit process would be expedited; the YMCA hoped to have additional parking in place this year.

COUNCILOR LISI asked if MS VEINS had any feedback relative to the document from a prospective applicant's point of view. KATHY VEINS stated that the document appeared to be fair and clearly lays out the steps an applicant has to take. The $500 fee appeared to be steep, but the YMCA will have to comply.

COUNCILOR BARTLEY asked for the timeline of the process going forward. It was determined that the Planning Board would render a recommendation during their August 11, 2015 Planning Board meeting.

There being no further issues to come before the Board, MIMI PANITCH at 7:55 p.m. called for motion to close the Public Hearing. A motion was made by JOHN KELLEY and seconded by CHRIS LACHAPELLE. The motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

John Kelley, Secretary Pro Tempore
Holyoke Planning Board