

Joint Public Hearing Minutes
City Council Ordinance Committee / Planning Board
Zone Change – Limited Business (BL) to General Business (BG) and/or General Industry(IG)
79 & 83 Lower Westfield Road / Dennis Croteau
(meeting is being recorded)

On Tuesday, February 9, 2016, the Holyoke Planning Board held a Joint Public Hearing with the Ordinance Committee of the City Council to hear a Zone Change Petition from BL (Limited Business) to BG (General Business) and/or IG (General Industry) for the land in Holyoke, Massachusetts identified by the City’s Assessors as Map 117, Block 00, Parcel 003/004 also known as 79 and 83 Lower Westfield Road, submitted by Dennis Croteau. The meeting was held in the City Council Chambers, 536 Dwight Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts at 6:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Planning Board

Mimi Panitch Chairman
Christian LaChapelle..... Vice-Chairman
Eileen Regan Secretary
John Kelley Member

Planning Staff

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

City Council

Joseph McGiverin..... At Large Councilor

Ordinance Committee

Rebecca Lisi At Large Councilor
Kevin Jourdain Ward 6 Councilor
Linda Vacon..... Ward 5 Councilor
Jennifer Chateaufneuf..... At Large Councilor
David Bartley At Large Councilor

Others Present

Kara Cunha..... 2nd Assistant City Solicitor
John Radner 18 Forest Ridge Road, Agawam

MIMI PANITCH at 6:34 p.m., called for a motion to reopen the Public Hearing continued from 12-8-2015. A motion was made by CHRIS LACHAPELLE and seconded by JOHN KELLEY. The motion carried 4-0.

COUNCILOR VACON explained the status from the last Public Hearing date noting that the applicant had not yet provided documentation identifying which zone he preferred. JOHN RADNER responded that he was waiting to learn the outcome of the pending SC zoning petition(s) before choosing his preferred zone.

JOHN RADNER stated that he has since learned that there may be another zone of interest that would best suit their needs. He stated that once the proposed new language was presented, he would amend his application to reflect the chosen zone. He felt that continuing the Public Hearing would be best.

COUNCILOR VACON explained that choosing a new zone would require beginning a new public hearing process; continuing the public hearing would require determining a date weeks out as the new zone has not even been created. KARA CUNHA responded that if it was the applicant’s intent to consider the zone not yet created, the current Public Hearing should be closed as any other zone preferred would require a new application and public hearing process.

COUNCILOR LISI reiterated the applicant’s options in going forward. JOHN RADNER, in clarifying what he understood his options to be, continued to imply that he could amend the current application to a different zone. COUNCILOR JOURDAIN suggested that the applicant should hire a lawyer to better understand the process and procedures going forward.

At 6:49 p.m., a motion was made by EILEEN REGAN and seconded by CHRIS LACHAPELLE to continue the Public Hearing until April 12, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. The motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,


Eileen Regan,
Holyoke Planning Board