Joint Public Hearing Minutes
City Council Ordinance Committee / Planning Board
Zone Change – Regulate the Parking Area and Vehicle Types
(meeting is being recorded)

On Tuesday, May 12, 2015, the Holyoke Planning Board continued the Joint Public Hearing (March 31, 2015) with the Ordinance Committee of the City Council regarding parking as a principal use in the downtown. 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
Mark Joy ......................... Secretary
John Kelley ....................... Member
Eileen Regan ................. Member
Harry Montalvo .............. Associate

Planning Department
Marios Marrero ........ Director
Jeffrey Burkott ........ Principal Planner
Claire Ricker ........ Senior Planner
Sharon Konstantinidis .. Head Clerk

Ordinance Committee
Rebecca Lisi .................. At Large Councilor
Gordon Alexander .......... Ward 7 Councilor
Linda Vacon .................. Ward 5 Councilor
David Bartley .............. At Large Councilor
Jennifer Chateauneuf .... At Large Councilor

City Council
Joseph McGiverin .......... At Large Councilor

Others Present
Kara Cunha ................. 2nd Assistant City Solicitor

MIMI PANITCH, at 7:32 p.m., called for a motion to open the Public Hearing for the above mentioned Zone Change Amendment. A motion was made by MARK JOY and seconded by EILEEN REGAN. The motion carried 5-0.

COUNCILOR ALEXANDER stated that the Order was filed in response to public inquires relative to commercial parking in residential zones. Per the Planning Staff, there are currently no regulations that govern residential zones.

EILEEN REGAN asked if there was a situation that spurred this. COUNCILOR ALEXANDER stated that there was a situation where an owner of a commercial property had more cars than that which is allowed. When this was brought to his attention, he relocated his commercial vehicles to his residential zone.

COUNCILOR BARTLEY was in support of creating the regulations as he has also received complaints as the large vehicles tend to overtake the narrow streets.

COUNCILOR ALEXANDER clarified that the Legislation currently exists for commercial vehicles parking in the public way; the issue is when the vehicle is off the public way; the Planning Department was obtaining an opinion from the Law Department.

MIMI PANITCH suggested that drafting language should be available prior to the next Joint Public Hearing.

MIMI PANITCH at 7:41 p.m. called for motion to continue their Public Hearing until June 23, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. A motion was made by EILEEN REGAN and seconded by CHRIS LACHAPELLE. The motion carried 5-0. (The Ordinance Committee continued their Public Hearing until July 14, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Joy, Secretary
Holyoke Planning Board