



Committee on Legislative Matters and the Northampton City Council

Members

Councilor William H. Dwight, Chair

Councilor Maureen Carney

Councilor Alisa F. Klein

Councilor David A. Murphy

MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 10, 2019, Time: 5 p.m.

Location: City Council Chambers, 212 Main St., Northampton, Massachusetts

1. **Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call:** At 5:01 p.m., Councilor William H. Dwight called the meeting to order. On a roll call, the following councilors were present: William H. Dwight, Maureen T. Carney, Alisa F. Klein (5:03 p.m.) and David Murphy. Also present were: Senior Planner Carolyn Misch and City Councilor Jim Nash.
2. **Announcement of Audio and Video Recording**
Councilor Dwight announced that the meeting was being audio and video recorded.
3. **Public Comment**
Since no members of the public were present, there was no public comment.
4. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**
Councilor Carney moved to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2019 Legislative Matters Committee meeting and May 23, 2019 Joint Planning Board/Legislative Matters Committee meeting as a group. Councilor Murphy seconded. The motion passed 2:0 with one absent (Councilor Klein) and one abstention (Councilor Dwight).
5. **Continuation of Public hearing (from May 13, 2019)**
Public Hearing Notice published April 29, 2019 and May 6, 2019 per M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5.
 - A. **19.025 An Ordinance to Rezone Five Parcels from URC to CB and to Include Parcels in CBAD - referred to CR, LM and PB on 3/21/2019**

Councilor Dwight opened the continuation of a public hearing on a proposed zoning change to rezone five parcels from URC to CB and to include the parcels in the Central Business Architecture District (CBAD).

Councilor Dwight noted that he wasn't present for the initial meeting. The zoning change has received positive recommendations from both the Planning Board and Community Resources Committee, he

reported. He asked if anyone wished to speak on the subject. There being no members of the public present, nobody was there to comment.

Councilor Nash said he'd been doing a lot of outreach around this. He spoke to Rich Madowicz and partner (Steve Jopson) Saturday, property managers for Coolidge Village Condominiums. They were going to let complex residents know because this parcel abuts their property. There was a woman on Graves Avenue who was concerned but through discussions with Carolyn Misch she has no further concerns.

Mr. Jopson's initial reaction was that it seemed like it made sense. The most questions he'd gotten were from Susan Krieger, one of three sisters who were heirs of Augie Wojzikoski, former owner of one of the five parcels. In the long run this probably is better for them.

The change was initiated by Historic Northampton because they wanted to have more flexibility in the use of their buildings, Ms. Misch explained. She reached out to property owners several months ago and had feedback from the owner of Joe's Café – Meghan Sullivan – the only feedback received. Planners feel like it makes sense to bring some of those commercial properties into the CBAD and to allow a little more flexibility in development.

Councilor Dwight remembered that eight or nine years ago there was a proposal to change the setback for Historic Northampton and there was some concern from residents of Graves Avenue. He also recalled another project proposing a back entrance to Bridge Street Elementary School that received public interest.

Ms. Misch reminded members that zoning contains a requirement for a buffer between a commercial property and adjacent residential properties.

Councilor Klein said she was at the Community Resources Committee meeting where this was discussed and the question of the change on Market Street was brought up in terms of abutters because there are a number of rental units adjacent to the parking lot across from Joe's Pizza. She had some question about whether there would be concern from abutters to having a use other than a parking lot but her concerns were quelled.

Councilor Carney moved to close the public hearing. Councilor Murphy seconded. The motion passed 4:0.

Councilor Murphy moved to forward the ordinance with a positive recommendation to the full City Council. Councilor Klein seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0.

6. **New Business**

None.

7. **Adjourn**

Councilor Carney moved to adjourn. Councilor Murphy seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Prepared By:

*L. Krutzler, Administrative Assistant to the City Council
413.587.1210; krutzler@northamptonma.gov*