

Jul 08 2022 3:27 pm

City Property Subcommittee Meeting

Legislative Building, 700 Main St., Fitchburg

Wednesday, June 29, 6 pm

In attendance: Councilor Beauchemin, Councilor Cragin, Councilor Squailia, Councilor Zarrella,

Absent: Councilor Van Hazinga

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm

TOPIC: Moving 0 Sawmill Road to top of agenda as residents are in attendance.

ACTION TAKEN: motion made by Councilor Zarrella; second by Councilor Squailia; vote is unanimous. Unison.

TOPIC: 034-22, 0 Sawmill Road – declared surplus property (supporting documents were included)

DISCUSSION: Community Development Director Tom Skwierawski with Department has created an RFP for this property. Concerns were referenced re: Sawmill Pond restrictions which were addressed in the current RFP as regards any entity “tying into Sawmill Pond pump station or having vehicular access.” RFP also states that “if construction were to exceed 6400 SF additional permission would be required from zoning/planning.” Councilor Zarrella asked residents to speak on the matter: Resident Pat Doyle, president of the Trustees spoke, “residents were very pleased because this relieves us of any liability of the pump system. We can’t support any additional use.”

ACTION TAKEN: Motion to accept, Councilor Beauchemin; second, Councilor Squailia second, vote is unanimous.

Note: Several properties were discussed separately from agenda item 164-22 which comprises: 0 Clarendon, 12 Martel, 233 Mechanic, 46 Mt. Vernon, 12 Northman Passway, 70 Clarendon, 110 Fairmount, 137 Blossom; these are referenced below.

TOPIC: 0 Clarendon Street

DISCUSSION: Councilor Squailia and Beauchemin were contacted by a resident living across the road who wishes to purchase 0 Clarendon St. for the purpose of providing parking to her residents.

Councilor Beauchemin inquired: “Is it better to go an RFP vs. auction?” Director Skwierawski: “It’s difficult to put out an RFP according to Mass. General Law for one person who would be the willing buyer.” Councilor Zarrella points out that “an auction could lead to speculation. It seems to be a use case that the side yard process doesn’t address. I wouldn’t oppose putting it out to auction but I have concerns.”

ACTION TAKEN: Motion to deny the designation to sideyard sales and put 0 Clarendon St. out to auction by Councilor Zarrella; Second, Councilor Beauchemin. Motion passed unanimously.

TOPIC: 110 Fairmount St. and 137 Blossom St.

DISCUSSION: 110 Fairmount St. is more than 9000 SF when included with adjacent city properties and 137 Blossom Street is adjacent to two city properties (13,000 SF). Director Skwierawski recommends creation of an RFP “for the benefit of the neighborhood”

ACTION TAKEN: Motion to recommend an RFP for both Blossom and Fairmount St. made by Councilor Squailia; second, Councilor Zarrella. Motion passed unanimously.

TOPIC: 12 Martel St., 223 Mechanic St. 46 Mt. Vernon St., 10 Northman Passway, 70 Clarendon St.

DISCUSSION: Treasurer Anne Cervantes explained that all parcels fit the designation for side yard sales.

ACTION TAKEN: Motion to send aforementioned properties to sideyard sales by Councilor Zarrella; second by Councilor Beauchemin, Motion passed unanimously.

TOPIC 200-22, 80 Lunenburg St.(supporting documents were included)

DISCUSSION: Director Skwierawski explained that this frontage is a large vacant lot we had out for RFP this spring. Only one bid came in, from Worcester Community Housing Resources. Their proposal is to create affordable housing for residents meeting 100 percent median income in this area. They are supported by a new program for Mass Housing called Commonwealth Building Association, designed to assist homeownership. "We've been trying to find a good project and we haven't seen resources like that for some time. The area needs \$400K worth of brownfields remediation."

ACTION TAKEN: Motion to accept by Councilor Zarrella; second, Councilor Squailia: vote is unanimous.

Meeting adjourned, 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Cragin
Chair, City Property Subcommittee