

**Chicopee Planning Board
Voting Record and Minutes**

Special Meeting

The Planning Board of the City of Chicopee public hearing for **Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 7 PM**, Department of Planning & Development and Conservation, 4th Floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013

Meeting was brought to order at 7:00 PM.

Planning Board Attendance

Member	Present	Absent	Excused
Michael Sarnelli, Chair	X		
Samuel Shumsky, Vice Chair			X
Cynthia Labrie, Clerk	X		
Tom Reniewicz			X
Eric Oulette	X		
Jay Paul			X
Nathan Moreau	X		

Planning Department Staff Attendance

Title	Name	Present	Absent	Excused
Director	Lee Pouliot	X		
Development Manager	James Dawson	X		
Assistant Planner	Patrick Collins	X		
Associate Planner	Nick Kiser	X		

ITEM 1: Open Meeting Law Complaint – Review and respond to Open Meeting Law complaints received on February 6 and 7, 2023 regarding the Planning Board’s February 2, 2023 meeting. Complaints Received From: Councilor Derek Dobosz, Ward 6, 70 Post Rd., Chicopee, MA 01020, and Glenn LaPlante 71 Angela Dr., Chicopee, MA 01020

Notes: Board Chair Michael Sarnelli read both complaints into the meeting record. Associate City Solicitor Kevin Corridan entertained questions from the Board. He also noted that neither complainant was in attendance. It was noted that both complainants were in attendance at the February 2, 2023 Planning Board meeting and that none of the members of the public that were reported to have not attended the meeting because of a locked door filed any complaints. The Board also noted complainant Mr. Laplante expressed hostility toward the Board and Planning Director at the February 2, 2023 meeting.

The Board deliberated on a response as to how they would like the Associate City Solicitor to respond to both complainants as well as the Massachusetts Attorney General. The Board ultimately decided to proceed with their favorable recommendation to the City Council with regard to applying the Mill Conversion and Commercial Center Overlay District to 480 and 510 Burnett Road. It was the Board’s opinion that since they are only a recommending body for the application of the overlay district, a Zoom login link for the meeting was available upon request, and the City Council is the granting authority, and would hold its own hearing on the matter, there was adequate additional avenues for the public to express its concerns. Therefore, it was the Board’s opinion no further hearings with the Planning Board were warranted.

The Board also was willing to work with the City Law Department and Human Resources Department to arrive at a solution to the door monitoring issue for the good of all future public hearings of any City Board or Commission.

It was noted that Associate City Solicitor Kevin Corridan would send a draft of his response letter to the Director of Planning & Development and Board Chair Michael Sarnelli for his review and approval prior to sending to both complainants and the Massachusetts Attorney General.

Motion to delegate Associate City Solicitor Kevin Corridan of the City Law Department to draft a letter of response on behalf of the Planning Board to the Massachusetts Attorney General, Councilor Derek Dobosz, and Glenn LaPlante was made by Cynthia Labrie and seconded by Eric Oulette. Vote was 4-0 to approve.

Member	Approve	Deny	Table	Abstain
Michael Sarnelli, Chair	X			
Cynthia Labrie, Clerk	X			
Eric Oulette	X			
Nathan Moreau	X			

ITEM 2: Adjournment next regularly scheduled meeting is March 2, 2023.

Motion to adjourn was made by Nathan Moreau and seconded by Eric Oulette. Vote was 4-0 to adjourn.

Member	Approve	Deny	Table	Abstain
Michael Sarnelli, Chair	X			
Cynthia Labrie, Clerk	X			
Eric Oulette	X			
Nathan Moreau	X			

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.