

Council met in a **PUBLIC HEARING** on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 6:01 pm in Council Chambers with President Justin Greer presiding.

The purpose of the Public Hearing, requested by Stacy Carr, Strategic Planner for the City of Barberton, was for Zoning Map Amendment Request: A Zoning Map Amendment Request at the former Oakdale School site in Barberton.

A Zoning Map Amendment request by Ken Ruttig Jr, for property located at the former Oakdale School site, parcels 0117406, 0117407, 0117408, 0117409, 0117410, 0117411, 0117412, 0117413, 0117414, 0117415, 0117416, 0117417, 0117418, 0117419, 0117420, and 0117421 from RS50 (Residential Single Family) to RM18 (Residential Multi-Family).

The Clerk called the roll: Council Members present: President Greer, Mr. Heitic, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Angeloff, Mr. Griffin, Mr. Jaber, Mrs. Coburn, Mrs. Frey.

Ms. Carr not in attendance, Mr. Pete Wearstler presented the request and stated that the Planning Commission had met regarding this issue and recommends a No vote from City Council. Mr. Ruttig Jr. was also not in attendance.

President Greer opened the floor to Council Members for questions:

Mrs. Angeloff stated she attended the June, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting and that she stated then that she would vote against this action. Mrs. Angeloff stated her views regarding the property in question and her opinion that the neighborhood does not need apartments but needs to continue with owner-occupied single-family homes. Mr. Wearstler thanked Mrs. Angeloff in regards to her comments and agreed with her statements.

Mr. Heitic questioned what the safety forces opinions were and what problems with parking, water supply, safety for existing residents would this cause in regards to of housing units being proposed. Mr. Wearstler stated that those departments were not brought into the discussion as the Planning Commission was recommending denial of the application.

Mrs. Thompson wanted to state that she agreed with Mrs. Angeloff, Mr. Heitic, Mr. Wearstler, and the entire Planning Commission as she is also against this rezoning as this does not follow our current Development Code. There were no plans to build garages. Therefor she will be voting against this rezoning.

Mr. Jaber stated he also agrees with the Planning Commission but he wanted to thank the property owner for coming to Barberton and investing in Barberton. The location under discussion is not a good fit for the plans presented but, in the future, if the property owner would like to present different plans at this or another location it is Mr. Jaber's hope that the eight-hundred-dollar (\$800.00) fee could be waived.

President Greer asked if any other members of City Council or the City Administration had any other questions. Hearing none, President Greer opened the floor to members of the gallery but stated he would start with those individuals who had signed in wishing to speak.

President Greer called on Donald Davenport of 323 East Park Avenue, Barberton. Mr. Davenport expressed his views regarding issue. His concern is the traffic and what this change could do to the neighborhood, the safety of the children, the problems with parking, the stress on our sewer system, the internet connections and the current existing issues occurring at the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority multi-family building already in the neighborhood. Mr. Davenport stated he is against the proposed requested zoning change and would like to see it stay the same.

Jason Chariton 693 E. Huston, Barberton began to speak but stated that he was there to speak on a totally different topic, how the City was handling property condemnations. Mr. Chariton was asked to wait until the appropriate time during the City Council Committee of the Whole Meeting to express his views.

Crystal Allen, 342 E. Cassell Avenue Barberton and Larry Meadows 328 E. Cassel Avenue Barberton were both called to speak and stated that they felt that their opinions had been stated by previous speakers and no longer felt the need to speak at this time.

Becky Pfeister 369 E. Paige Barberton stated that she has lived at her current address for approximately 39 years. She stated changes in the neighborhood over the years she has lived there and that she is aware that the Hospital wanted to put a parking lot in the area being discussed. Mrs. Pfeister stated that her concerns were that with the number of units being discussed and there being no parking on either side of the street it would cause major concerns regarding the future deterioration of the neighborhood. Single family homes with off-street parking would be ok. The current cell phone tower in the neighborhood is a nucleuse.

With no other gallery attendees wishing to speak, President Greer asked if there were any further comments from Council Members.

Mr. Jaber inquired of Mr. Wearstler if the builder who had requested the Zoning Map Amendment had been informed of this hearing. Mr. Wearstler assured Mr. Jaber that he had indeed been informed of the date and time of this hearing. Mr. Javer stated this was very important and the builder should have attended.

President Greer asked three times if there were any more questions or comments. There were none.

President Greer stated that having heard no questions or comments, the public hearing is closed at 6:14 pm.

Justin Greer
President of Council

Laura J. Ries-Price
Clerk of Council