

Minutes October 15th 2018 Citizen's Forum

More than 20 residents attended the forum on Monday October 15th at 5PM at Dino's Pizza on Homestead Avenue,

1) Mike McManus, Head of DPW discussed options for traffic issues for Homestead Ave & 202 intersection, Clayton, Ashley & Sunset neighborhood, Apremont Hwy, & Blueberry Hill.

An update was provided following the public hearings by DPW and the City Council after many citizens filed a petition to reconfigure the roads in the neighborhood due to an increasing number of drivers cutting through at high speeds.

Following input from the public it was recommended by DPW to close Sunset and Ashley at Rt 202 on a trial basis for a minimum of two weeks to see how it affects the neighborhood. This will start on October 24th. Residents requested that "Do not block the intersection signs be put up and " Do not block the box lines be painted so people will be able to take a left on Homestead from the neighborhood. Mike stated he can complete this before the roads are closed. An order was filed by me to accomplish this. As a follow up to the meeting the boxes were painted as of 10/17/18.

2) Update on Gas lines in Holyoke (resident agenda suggestion)

Per Jim LaVelle from HG&E the line will be updated to the West Springfield Holyoke line. Only about one mile of pipe will be upgraded in Holyoke from the City line to Homestead Avenue. There is no line running through the city at this time. The two upgrades noted above have not yet been approved by DPU.

3) Update on Middle School proposal/City Council

Two middle schools have been proposed for Holyoke and the state has approved funding that will cover approximately 60% of the cost rather than the 80% anticipated. The total estimated cost to the taxpayers is 55M. On Tuesday, the City Council will vote on \$390,000 for design and analysis of the potential locations for the two schools. This is 80% reimbursed by the State. Dr Zrike indicated the total school buildings would decrease from 11 to eight if the two new schools were built and admin offices could move to one of the old schools.

On another front, a number of marijuana businesses have been approved following approval of this business by voters of Holyoke.

Please send feedback on the road closing to me and Mike McManus at DPW. We will set up a meeting to determine next steps after this pilot project.

Thanks for your interest, ideas and participation!

Submitted by,

Linda Vacon,

Your Ward 5 City Councilor

533-6498

Other requests/pending issues remaining

- 1). This was approved a few months ago. ORDER: that a sign Slow (with a wheel chair symbol) be posted near [513 Whitney Ave](#) apartments so drivers will be made aware of a person in the area using a wheelchair near the roadway.
- 5) Road requests for re-surfacing: Dale, Whitney, Timber, McClellan, Green Willow, Mason
- 7) Replace missing "no parking" signs on poles on Homestead Ave near field at McMahon School.
- 8) Add "Stop For Pedestrians" sign under the crosswalk symbol at the crosswalk on Homestead Ave
- 10) curb replacement: Ross Road, Pynchon Road near 59 and 48, O'Connell Rd (on the side of 23 Clayton Rd.
- 12) Please place car counter/speed tracker on Apremont Hwy after Mountain Road