

Over 30 residents attended the forum on Thursday at 6PM at Mrs. Mitchell's.

1) Gary Rome proposed project:

Gary Rome and Tim Ferrera, Operations/website/parts Manager, attended the meeting. They stated now that the zone change to BH (Business Highway) was approved they have applied for two special permits in order to move forward with the new car dealer project. It was clarified that no boats or used vehicles will be sold at the site.

2) HCC Road Update

The HCC road, Doyle Drive, is open and feedback was sought as to how traffic is flowing with the new light. A suggestion that the light be changed to blinking red and yellow when school is out was made as there are unneeded delays when only one care exits and takes a left. There were no other major concerns raised at the meeting. As the Ward 5 Councilor, residents can contact me if they have issues or communicate directly to HCC to Erica Broman or Jeff Hayden.

3) Holyoke Hotel

All homeless sheltered people have been relocated out of the Holyoke Hotel and the new project is underway. There is demolition of the old portion of the hotel taking place and an Applebees Restaurant has been approved for the site. The other tenants are not known at this time, but the plan includes two more restaurants and two hotels on the site. It was noted at the previous meeting that along with the homeless in hotels there is also a program called Community Congregate Sheltering that is going on in apartments. This allows for three families to live in one apartment and share living room and kitchen space. The location of the people from the Holyoke Hotel is unknown at this time.

4) Budget 2016

A budget review was provided and the group was informed of the 4.1M deficit and the 1.3M errors in the first presented budget. Many questions and much discussion occurred regarding various budget issues. Residents at the meeting were opposed to the fees and high tax increases over the last few years. Different options to express concerns to the City Council were reviewed and some in attendance indicated they plan to attend the budget hearing on June 24th.

Other:

The contact information for Officer Manuel Rivera our Code Enforcement Officer is: 575-5123 E-mail: off.rivera.265@holyokepd.org and our head of traffic, Sgt. Loftus: Sgt.Loftus@holyokepd.org

Thanks to everyone for your interest, ideas and participation.

Submitted by,
Linda Vacon
Your Ward 5 City Councilor