

CITY OF SALEM
CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
MARCH 9, 2016

Continuation of Public Hearings of the Salem City Council was held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. for the purpose of discussing a discontinuance of a public way known as Beckford Way, convey a portion of 297 Bridge St. for the sum of \$10,001.00 and land disposition agreement and conveyance of land to Sun King LLC. Notice of this hearing was posted on February 24, 2016 at 2:46 P.M.

Councillors McCarthy and Ryan were recorded as absent.

Councillor Gerard arrived at 6:10 P.M.

Councillor Josh H. Turiel presided.

In attendance were the following: Mayor Kimberley Driscoll and City Solicitor Elizabeth Rennard and Attorney Joseph Correnti for F.W. Webb

#6 - DISCONTINUANCE OF A PUBLIC WAY KNOWN AS BECKFORD WAY (A.K.A. BECKFORD ST. EXTENSION)

Mayor Driscoll – stated that people are familiar with this. You have a site plan.

Attorney Joseph Correnti, 63 Federal Street – representing F.W. Webb stated we have presented you with a double sided proposed building – project overview. He gave an explanation of the parking lot and the access for pedestrians. There will be a sidewalk within the site.

Councillor Turiel – in the proposed configuration what would prevent people from walking across the parking lot.

Attorney Correnti – nothing

Councillor Turiel – what about the easement is it buildable

Attorney Correnti – there are no plans to build

Councillor Milo – what about storage, how often will it be accessed.

Bob Matkachuk, manager F.W. Webb – The white pvc pipe is stored outside, bulk storage will be relocated there

Councillor Milo – Someone walking the path will there be a safety issue

Bob Matkachuk – stated it's a gated area

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Councillor Milo – accessing the storage facility won't be a problem?

Bob Matkachuk – stated it will be fenced off

Councillor Famico – There is stone steps to walking, is this something you will improve

Bob Matkachuk – It can be discussed

Councillor Dibble – Easement define utility easement

Solicitor Rennard – stated sewer lines are there, in addition is the Beckford Way, this should be discontinued as a public way. It wasn't accepted correctly

Councillor Dibble – do you have a diagram of the utilities

Bob Matkachuk – we can bring it to you

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENT 6:15 PM

IN FAVOR:

There was no one who appeared in favor.

OPPOSED:

Jan Schlectner, 15 ½ River Street – opposed, feels like public right is being asked to be given up. Beckford Way opens to a green space. Other towns protect historical paths, ways and footpaths. Very disappointed that Salem does not. River Street has been beautified and it has been extended to Beckford Way. Please vote no.

(Mayor left at 6:30 PM)

Jane Stauffer, 28 Beckford Street – we should preserve Beckford Way, it has been used for 350 years.

Jane Arlander, Federal Street – the proposed easement will be 380 feet vs 110 feet currently. Commuters will continue to use a straight route. There are 3 entrances accessing in and out to Bridge Street.

Fred Biebesheimer, 17 ½ River Street – he stated he uses the public way every day he is opposed to the sale

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Tim Doggett, 9 Lynn Street – there was a debate in this chamber 40 years ago regarding development. This is happening today. This is the last one that hasn't been hot topped or done away with.

Lou Serriani, Botts Court – Museums own houses of historic nature., Our houses are as old. The PEM brought a Chinese house to Salem, why, it is the same age as the houses on Essex Street. Salem has not embraced historic places and ways. Let us preserve this well used piece of history.

Meg Twohey, 122 Federal Street – opposed to selling it. Chapter 91 protects public access to water. This public way absorbs water. It protects from hazards and loss.

Ann Whittier, 10 River Street – She stated that she appreciates the opportunity to speak. This parcel is under-valued. the Mayor calls it a goat path.

Carol Carr, Federal Street – Is opposed to discontinuance, this is an old town way. Her handouts showed old public ways of Marblehead.

Jennifer Firth, 9 North Street – the discontinuance will destroy a historical endangered resource of Salem

Justin (resident) – stated he is opposed

Alex Marks, 7 Botts Court – opposed, please consider these changes, it's important for flooding

Constance Arlander, 91 Federal Street – There are safety concerns. Other communities celebrate public ways, why can't Salem

David Hart, 104 Federal Street – (Historical Commission) address the contamination, no one can be on the site more than 16 hours.

Jeremiah Jennings, 18 River Street – stated he is opposed

Barbara Cleary, 104 Federal Street – stated she is opposed

John Carr, 7 River Street – don't change something that's 400 years old. No compelling reason to change.

Darrow Lebovici, 122 Federal Street – heavy traffic over utility pipes this will cause destruction. He stated he is opposed

Male Resident, 170 Federal Street – stated he is opposed

Steve Whittier, 10 River Street – pipelines explosion due to deterioration

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Elizabeth Biebeshiemer, 17 ½ River Street – is opposed, this is a well-used path. Improve the path, please preserve it.

Susan Weldon, 106 Federal Street – is concerned that the City's lack of preservation of this way. Honor the past.

Jennifer Lock, 103 Federal Street – stated she is opposed

Councillor Sargent asked the City doesn't have a deed to this land, who owns it?

Councillor Famico moved that the hearing be closed. It was so voted.

Councillor Famico moved to refer the matter to the next Council meeting. Seconded by Councillor Eppley. It was so voted.

#7 - CONVEY A PORTION OF 297 BRIDGE STREET 1,260 SQUARE FEET KNOWN AS PARCEL B TO SUN KING LLC FOR THE SUM OF \$10,001.00 WITH A PERMANENT PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR ACCESS ON THE ENTIRE PARCEL FOR THE BENEFIT OF 30-32 BECKFORD STREET

Councillor Famico to continue to Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 6:00 PM. Seconded by Councillor Eppley. It was so voted.

#8 - LAND DISPOSITION AGREEMENT AND CONVEY A PORTION 297 BRIDGE STREET 52,491 SQUARE FEET (FORMER UNIVERSAL STEEL) AND 311 BRIDGE STREET, 2,015 SQUARE FEET TO SUN KING LLC AFFILIATE OF F.W. WEBB CO. FOR THE SUM OF \$990,000.00

Councillor Famico to continue to Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 6:00 PM. Seconded by Councillor Eppley. It was so voted.

On the motion of Councillor Furey the meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

ATTEST:

CHERYL A. LAPOINTE
CITY CLERK